The WA College of Agriculture-Denmark team has once again triumphed in the RAS Farm Skills competition, as they showcased their skills during the Perth Royal Show. Building on their win in 2015, the College continues to demonstrate its ability to train students to the very highest standard. Students from seven agricultural colleges around WA took part, competing in a diverse range of skills.

Congratulations to Denmark’s team of Year 12’s who placed first, over all events on the day, followed by Cunderdin with two teams placing second and third.

The “Mutt’s Challenge” was won outright by the girls team who proudly took the shield away from the dog (for the first time in many years) in the sheep dog trial event.

More on page 7
Finally the season is changing, the days are a little longer and slightly warmer. Spring although not that obvious is here and with that all of the events of 4th term start to align.

On the farm, pastures begin to grow and that has triggered our fodder conservation program and students and staff have been busy cutting raking and baling silage and it is terrific to see so much activity out in the paddocks.

This time of the year coincides with the departure of most of our Year 12’s and only the ones sitting their WACE exams remain and most will have completed them when our newsletter arrives home. I wish them luck; I know it is a particularly stressful time for them. I was impressed with the revision program put together for them by their teachers and disappointed that not all students took advantage of the opportunity to get some final pointers. I am however confident they will do well.

On the school front it is also a very busy time finalising reports and checking competency completion as well as planning for next year and with graduation as well. We will all be looking forward to the end of the year which will be here before we know it!

Graduation that very important day for our Year 12’s is scheduled for the 18th of November and all parents would have received their invitation by now. We look forward to meeting up with all parents on the day and to sending our graduates “off” in style.

Last term finished with the Royal Show and I’m sure it will be covered in the farm report in detail but I would like to congratulate the Year 12 Farm Skills team for winning that competition and all students who competed at the show. I saw some in action and the photos I saw and the feedback received highlights how well they represent the College and themselves at this important event, and it is noticed. Thanks also to the staff who put in so much extra time both in the lead up to the show and at the show to make it such a success.

On a disappointing note, absenteeism hit an all-time high at the College last week with 25% of our Year 10 and 11 students away. While many students were away legitimately because of illness many were not.

Far too many students are taking time off for reasons that we would not classify as acceptable and it does have a detrimental effect on their progress and puts unreasonable pressure on staff to “catch them up”. While most students attend and are meeting our expectations, I would urge parents to consider the consequences before applying for leave for non-essential reasons.

All leave during school time from now on will need to be approved by the Principal or Deputy Principal.

In 2017 the College will move towards the introduction of a “Good Standing Policy” which will include consequences for unauthorised absences or for absences that are viewed as unacceptable to the College.

SOME INTERESTING STATISTICS
- One school year equates to approx. 200 days (not including public holidays)
- 12 years of your student’s schooling equates to approximately 2400 days
- Missing just 4.16 days of school each term equates to missing one whole year of school over 12 years of schooling.

Based on some of our student’s absentee rates, they may have easily missed approximately 2-3 years of their school life!

This may come as quite a shock to some parents, especially when they realise the time, effort and costs which go into sending their children to school from Year One to Year Twelve.

It really is worth your while to ensure maximum attendance for your investment!

Kevin Beal
Kevin.Beal@education.wa.edu.au
From the Deputy
The College was recently selected to become an Independent Public School (IPS). The School Board Chair and I had the pleasure of accepting the plaque...

IPS Transition Program
As the College Principal Kevin Beal announced in our previous newsletter, the WA College of Agriculture was recently selected to become an Independent Public School. The official launch for all of this year’s successful school IPS took place at the Perth Convention Centre on Friday 21 October. School Board chair Steve Jones and I had the pleasure of accepting the plaque on behalf of the College. Steve Jones, our Manager of Corporate Services Craig Armstrong and I will also be involved in a number of workshops over the course of Term 4 as part of the transition program to becoming an IPS.

Graduation
Our 2016 Graduation will take place on Friday November 18 commencing at 11.00 am. The ceremony runs for approximately one hour and is followed by a luncheon. Year 12 students are required to wear their full school uniform and to arrive at the College at 10.00 am. We also require students to adhere to the College’s grooming and jewellery policy, at least for one last time!

2017 Year 12 Student Prefects
We have commenced the process of selecting our 2017 Year 12 Student Prefects. The successful students will be announced on Graduation Day. I’d like to take this opportunity to thank our 2016 Year 12 Student Prefects Robyn Adams, Sydnee Benn, Joshua Kippin, Sasha McWilliams and Patrick Swallow for their excellent work this year in their leadership roles.

2016 Parent Survey
Thanks to those parents/carers who’ve completed the 2016 Parent Survey. Last look we had just 26 completed surveys. If you haven’t done so yet it would be greatly appreciated if you could find 10-15 minutes to complete the survey.

The link to the survey is: https://www.schoolsurvey.edu.au/s/ccvCx6Tc

The online survey will remain open until Friday December 2.

OLNA Results
The results of the second round of OLNA testing have been released. We will forward the results onto students and parents as soon as possible. Please remember that for those Year 11 students who are yet to achieve the “Category 3” benchmark in any of the components there will be two more opportunities next year.

Year 10 and 11 Finish
A reminder that the last school day for “non-ATAR” Year 11’s this year is Friday November 18 - Graduation Day. Week 7 will be an exam week for the Year 11 ATAR students and they will finish up on Friday November 25.

The Year 10’s will finish their program at the College on Friday December 2. The majority of Year 10’s will go on Study Tour in Week 9 and then do a week of work experience in Week 10, although some Year 10’s have requested to do 2 weeks of work experience. We also have some Year 10’s doing shearing at Rylington Park in Week 10 instead of a work experience placement.

Students re-commence classes on Wednesday 1 February 2017.

Kevin Osborne
Kevin.Osborne@education.wa.edu.au
Solar Buddy—Lighting up Lives

“Solar Buddy” an organisation committed to bringing energy to communities throughout the world that are energy poor, attracted the attention of Yr. 10 students who decided to participate in the Buddy2Buddy Schools Program. The program connects school communities who want to make a difference, with other children in areas in the world that live in energy poverty.

The students set out to raise funds for the project by running a very successful stall at the College Open Day. The funds raised enabled them to purchase a box of ‘SolarBuddy’ lights to send to a needy community. Students are sending the lights they have purchased to other children, with a personal letter, building rapport with those communities.

Shelter for Disaster Relief

Yr.11 Students raised $600 towards a “Shelter Box” which provides shelter and protection against the elements for disaster relief. The Shelter Box contains a disaster relief tent big enough to house a family and several items including basic cookware, tools, blankets and woollen hats. The project was lead by exchange student Alex Waldis, as part of his exchange program criteria which includes participating in a charitable project. Shelter Box is helping thousands of people needing disaster relief, such as those fleeing Syria. Well done team.

Pictured Right: Yr. 11 History & Social Science students show what is contained in the Shelter Box.

22 Push-up Challenge
Help Save a Life

A program to help raise awareness about veteran’s suicide, post traumatic stress disorder and suicide in general, was taken up with gusto by Staff and students at the College. They participated in the challenge that required a commitment of doing 22 push-ups every day for 22 days.

Pictured Left: Taking time out of their lunch break everyone hits the deck to do their 22 for the day.
Residential Manager Report

A Celebration - A Farewell - A Beginning - time spent at the College will be looked upon with a myriad of fond emotions...

Week 5, Term 4 We are back and well into the term, preparing for Graduation Day and saying goodbye to our Year 12’s. A Celebration....A time for looking back on lessons learned, adventures shared, and bright moments filled with special meaning. A Farewell....A time for saying goodbye to old friends, to good times you’ve known....a time for packing away memories, treasures for tomorrow. A Beginning....A time for looking forward, a time to set new goals, to dream new dreams, to try your wings and see what lies beyond. Good luck Year 12’s.

Residential Activities

Up to 30 students and 4 staff spent a weekend at the beautiful Cheynes Beach camp ground and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Cheynes Beach is such a relaxing place to go and have some down time and our students and staff look forward to this camp every year.

Fun Night

On the Wednesday of the first week back we had a ‘fun night’. Unfortunately most students avoided dressing up, so some of us that did felt initially very conspicuous, however we soon got over that and enjoyed going a little bit crazy in the gym with a game of bubble soccer where I attempted to unpile the game suitably dressed (not) in a Sumo suit and found myself surrounded by orb balls. It got a bit crazy but it was great fun.

After exhausting most of the students we moved into the dining room where College Chaplain, Leon, set a series of challenges. With teams of 6-7 students it was ‘game on’. Jess White now knows how to eat and win the challenge of downing a dry Weetbix followed by a plate of jelly being fed to her by a fellow team member, much to the very rowdy enjoyment of all onlookers. We followed that with a series of other messy challenges ending with a ‘mummy’ challenge—students armed with two toilet rolls wrapped a team member in toilet paper.

The night was a huge success and one that we will repeat. Thank you to Leon Durrant our Chaplain and the residential staff who joined in and added to the enjoyment of the evening.

Year 12 End of Year Dinner

Rustler’s Steak House in Albany was the venue for our Year 12 dinner. In the past we have had a dinner at the College however this year students chose an outside venue for the event. In future this event will be extended to teaching and farm staff who would like to attend. Residential staff member Zoe Taylor and I attended the dinner. The atmosphere was relaxed and all students enjoyed themselves.

After dinner we walked over the pedestrian footbridge to the Albany Entertainment Centre where I took the opportunity to speak to the Year 12’s about their school life, thanked them for their leadership at the College and asked each of them to speak about the highlights of being at the College and what their aspirations were.

All students spoke well and had exciting opportunities ahead of them but without exception they all spoke about the friendships that they had made over their time at the College and how important that had been to their journey. As a country kid myself I re-affirmed that the bonds of friendship made during high school years can remain with you for life; especially with social media and while eager to get on with their lives and fly the nest, time spent at the College with their mates would, I am sure, be looked back at with a myriad of fond emotions.

Leavers Jackets 2016

I still have a number of jackets waiting to be collected; can you please organise for payment and collection, check with your Year 12 child. Jackets are $98.50 and payment is required upon collection.

The Leaver’s Jacket Committee for next year has been formed and designing of next year’s jacket is well underway and the order will be placed before the end of the school year. The jackets are manufactured in Australia. We could reduce the cost by approximately $5 per jacket by going offshore however I believe it is important to support manufacturing and employment in Australia. The order will arrive at the end of Term 1 and be available for students at the commencement of Term 2, 2017. Jackets will need to be paid for prior to collection.

School Ball Committee 2017

A School Ball Committee has been formed and we are in the process of deciding on a theme and a venue. I have put forward the preference to use the Riverside Club. This venue has recently been built and is a very attractive venue and given its proximity to the College, it reduces the travel time transporting students to the event. Please find below some of the rules regarding attendance at the School Ball and requirements regarding leave. More comprehensive information will be contained in our Information Booklet and parents will receive full information prior to the event.

The Ball will be in Term 2, 2017 and the date will be advertised shortly.

The ball is an exciting event on the school calendar and forms an important part of the students’ social life on campus. To ensure that it is also a safe event, and to discourage students from attending ‘afters’ parties, it is our preference that students return to the College after the ball;
Students will only be released to Parents or Guardians on the night of the Ball from the College. No students will be allowed to self-drive from the College on the Ball night.

As this is a school initiated activity, students are required to abide by the established school rules. Where there is a breach of any of these rules, contact will be made with parents and appropriate action will be taken. This may include, parents being asked to collect their son or daughter from the College ball. Students are reminded that the College has a no tolerance policy in relation to alcohol and other drug use.

Students can leave residence after the ball according to the following guidelines:

A leave form is submitted by a parent/guardian stipulating the responsible adult collecting them. This will be approved by the College and needs to be a parent/guardian. If your child is on the Ball Committee they will be required to stay back and assist with the clean-up. Please take this into consideration re your leave forms.

College Uniforms

Can you please regularly check your child’s uniform to make sure students are not wearing clothing that is too small, ripped, or stained and check boots also. We do have some second hand uniforms and you can contact me for that information.

Reminders

Weekend Leave - Please ensure weekend leave forms are in by close of business each 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.

Blackwood Marathon

This was the Denmark Ag College’s 8th year competing at the Blackwood Marathon and we had 2 student teams and 1 staff team. Well done to the 2 student runners David McKelvie and Scott Lamont, who bravely put up their hands at the last minute to do the run leg (12km) of this event and did themselves and the College proud with their performances. They handed their bibs over to Gus Thomas and Jake Kondakov to paddle a much fuller Blackwood River for 16.5km. Last year the river was so low that you had to run lots with your kayak. The event takes a lunch break before the swimmers continue the race.

Casey Perkins improved his time by nearly 40 seconds and Bernie Wong had to fill in for a student who pulled out at the last minute with ongoing illness. There was only one horse rider for the student teams, the new equine teacher, Tracy Cooper. Ms Cooper rode the third fastest time of the event at a stunning 31:41. The cyclists, Shannon Hull and Ben Hegney finished off the event with solid times into a stiff headwind.

A big thanks to the following students for their help: Casey Perkins who did the cooking, Ben Hegney who looked after the kayaks, and Jake Kondakov, Scott Lamont and Lily Bunton-King for kindly helping out with the horses. In reality, all the students were helpful which made this excursion extremely pleasant and fun.

Next year we will hopefully have more student teams with a very strong contingent of horse riders amongst them under the guidance of a very keen Ms Cooper.

Travel Arrangements for Home Weekends and End/Start of Term

The College organises travel arrangements to meet the above TRANSWA requirements. All other travel arrangements throughout the term are to be arranged by Parents/Carers. A cost of $100.00 will be incurred for the College to drop off and pick up students.

Please note: Parents/Carers are requested not to book return tickets to arrive in Albany at 9.05pm on a Sunday evening as this causes disruption to the College residential program. Thank you.

Kelli Gillies
Kelli.Gillies@education.wa.edu.au

Left: Jess White enjoys Bubble Soccer in the gym and Above: Casey Perkins (centre) did very well in the swim leg in the Blackwood Marathon.
From the Farm Supervisor

We completed an enjoyable Perth Royal Show with students actively involved in preparation and judging...

We completed an enjoyable Perth Royal Show with students being actively involved in preparation and judging stock, showing stock, competing in Farm Skills and the “Kick Mutt” Competition.

Many awards were achieved with special highlights being:

- 1st overall in the Farm Skills competition – Well done team.
- Reserve Champion Heavyweight steer in the Hoof & Hook.
- Kick Mutt Competition - Beating the dog in the sheep trial in the main arena on the 1st Saturday evening – well done girls.

The students that attended the show were great ambassadors for the College and really did look smart in their College show tops that were supported by Harvey Fresh, Harvey Beef, Roving Vet, Mt Hallowell Stud and De Laval.

Preparation is now underway for the Wagin Woolorama with cattle being prepared and broken in by students.

Shearing tuition is also taking place this month with Kevin Glatley and Amanda carrying out the tuition. All those students that have not had previous access to shearing in Yr11 and Yr 10 will be put through this tuition.

It is hoped to get all the sheep shorn and cleaned up by mid-November with the Merino lambs being shorn later by professional shearers as these will be on sold after shearing.

Fodder conservation is also taking place with the College only making silage this year for cattle and a little for sheep feed. We are in the process of building a new hay shed, so until that has been erected we will be using the extra hay we have on site for 2017 fodder use.

Fred Knight
Fred.Knight@education.wa.edu.au
Royal Show Snapshot...

www.facebook.com/DenmarkAgCollege
As part of its commitment to recognise excellence in agricultural education, the WA Colleges of Agriculture this year offered two inaugural Agriculture Endeavour Awards.

Year 11 students at any of the WA Colleges of Agriculture campuses were eligible to apply for the $1000 award.

Both the 2016 winners came from Denmark, Angus Thomas and Shannon Hull. These students impressed the selection panel with their applications, demonstrating both high performance in most aspects of the education and positive attitudes towards learning.

Whilst not a criteria of the scholarship, these students indicated an intention to continue further study in agriculture at the tertiary level and will be great ambassadors for the agricultural industry.

Congratulations!

Excellence in Agricultural Education—Denmark

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Whilst not a criteria of the scholarship, these students indicated an intention to continue further study in agriculture at the tertiary level and will be great ambassadors for the agricultural industry.

Congratulations!

Left: Shannon Hull and Angus Thomas pictured with Principal, Kevin Beal and Mr. Geoff Moyle, (recently retired) Director Agricultural Education.
From the Head of Studies
I was impressed with the majority of our Year 12 students who worked hard to complete assessment tasks...

The final term is always a busy one, with staff and students working diligently towards deadlines. I was impressed with the majority of our Year 12 students who worked hard to complete assessment tasks and units of competency before leaving the College earlier this term. We look forward to their return for the Graduation Ceremony on Friday 18 November.

A reminder to Year 10 and 11 students to aim to complete all Term 4 assessment tasks by the due date. Your education program becomes much more difficult if you fall behind in your work. I urge all parents to encourage your child to complete set tasks as early as possible. Term 4 is a short term with a number of interruptions and lost teaching time.

Year 12 ATAR Exams

Over the past week, thirteen College students have completed WACE (ATAR) exams in Animal Production Systems, English, Plant Production Systems and Mathematics Applications.

These students still have to complete the Biology ATAR exam which is programmed for Thursday 10/11/16. The Biology exam will begin at 2pm and finish at 5.10pm. The exam time indicates the start of the reading time. Candidates must plan to arrive 30 minutes prior to the stated time to allow for seating and instructions.ATAR students staying in the College residence will have free time during the days leading up to the exam including the option of going into Denmark, studying for the exam, or relaxing in the College residence.

2017 Learning Programme

College staff have reviewed the 2016 College programme and made changes for next year. Course selection forms were sent out to parents/guardians at the end of last term. I understand some current Year 10 and 11 students are still undecided on subject selections for 2017. We will continue to counsel students over the coming weeks. If parents/guardians require further information for course options, pathways, University entry or VET programmes, please contact me by email or telephone.

Computer Network

As most of the College community is aware, the WA College of Agriculture – Denmark will once again have a very high student enrolment in 2017. As a result the computer network will come under pressure. It is highly recommended that all College students have access to their own computer next year. Students using a computer at the school will be able to use the College network to access the internet via the Department of Education filtered proxy server.

Desktop computers and laptops are useable in residential rooms and will be connected with a cable that must be supplied by the students i.e. CAT5e and CAT6 cabled 2 or 3 metres in length are suitable. We also suggest using a mouse with laptops if students are using them for long periods of time.

All operating systems are able to connect to the wired network system. The College is currently using Windows 7 machines in classrooms, with Office 2010 software. If you require additional information, please contact Mr. Mark Boynton on 9848 0200. I can also be contacted on 9848 0207.

Year 10 Study Tour

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 and Harvey including Pemberton Tramway, White Rocks Dairy Farm, Manjimup Timber Museum, Harvey Beef and Boyanup Cattle Sale.

We are also planning to stay at Camp Morninhgan near Harvey where students will also have the opportunity to be involved in various team building / leadership activities like abseiling, raft building, archery, bush biking and mid ropes.

Students and parents need to liaise with me on arrangements for leaving Study Tour for the Work Experience week. Options include being picked up from the tour accommodation (119 Martin Road, Wokalup) on the evening of the 7th Dec. or the morning of the 8th Dec.; being dropped off at the Bunbury Bus / Train Station or travelling with the Study Tour bus and meeting parents at a pre-determined location on South Coast Highway.

Teaching staff feel this tour will be of significant educational 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 soon 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.

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

Notice Board

Enrolment Day for New Students
Enrolment Day for all new students commencing in Year 10, 11 and 12 in 2017 will be held at the College on:

Thursday 8 December &
Friday 9 December
Please contact Admin to make your appointment time on:
(08) 9848 0200
Enrolment packs will be sent out in due course.

Celebrating 120 Years of Education in Denmark
Denmark Primary School and the Denmark Historical Society will be hosting an event to celebrate 120 years of education in Denmark.

If you were a student or staff member of the Denmark District High School, the Group Settlement Schools or Denmark Agricultural School, you are invited to view the students’ displays on each school and join us for morning tea on
Tuesday November 15th at 10am
We would appreciate any photos or memorabilia from these schools that we could copy and use in the displays. If you would like to attend please RSVP the Denmark Primary School on:
98480800 or email Cathy.Brooker@education.wa.edu.au.

Business & Finance
Boarding Away from Home Allowance (BAHA) applications close on the 25 November 2016...

Payment of Residential Boarding Fees
By this stage of the year, most Residential Accommodation Fees should just about be paid in full prior to the end of the year.

It is a Department of Education requirement that all Residential Accommodation Fees be paid in full prior to the new year in order for a student to continue in residence.

All outstanding accounts are currently under review with appropriate action to be taken following this review. Some accounts may be referred to debt collection agencies.

A big thank you to those parents and carers who are up-to-date with their accounts.

Student Allowances and Subsidies 2016
Most allowances and subsidies for 2016 have closed with the exception of the following. If this allowance applies to you, I would encourage you to put your application in.

Boarding Away from Home Allowance (BAHA) AIC Recipients $2,105
The Department of Education and Royalties for Regions 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.
This allowance for 2016 for the full year is $2,105 subject to confirmation that you have received AIC for the whole year.

BAHA AIC Applications close on 25 November 2016.

2017 Contributions, Fees and Charges
The College is currently in the process of reviewing contributions, fees and charges for 2017. This document will soon go through the approval process and will be out to parents and carers as soon as possible to facilitate planning for next year.

2017 Residential Accommodation Fees
The Department of Education has advised the College of new Residential Accommodation Fees that will apply from 2017:

Term 1 Due: 02-02-2017 $2,790.00
Term 2 Due: 24-04-2017 $2,790.00
Term 3 Due: 17-07-2017 $2,789.00
Total $8,369.00 p.a.

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 9848 0200 or denmark.wacoa.finance@education.wa.edu.au.

Convenient Payment Options Available

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<td>Electronic Transfer</td>
<td>BSB: 306 009 Account: 0110895 Bank: Bankwest Denmark Please use student name as reference</td>
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## Term 4 Calendar

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- **Albany Show**
- **Graduation & Last Day Non Yr 11 ATAR Yr 11**
- **Closed Weekend**
- **Year 11 ATAR Exam Week**
- **Ag Advisory Meeting**
- **Enrolment Day**
- **Travel Day Students**
- **Year 10 Work Experience 12-16 Inclusive**
- **Term 4 Holidays commence**