



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
COLLEGE of AGRICULTURE
Denmark

ISSUE 01

INLET VIEWS NEWSLETTER

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AGRICULTURE FOR THE FUTURE

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

One of five WA Colleges of Agriculture, Denmark consistently produces outstanding achievement of educational and training outcomes for young men and women in a diverse range of agricultural related fields.

We deliver Western Australian Curriculum courses to Year 10 students and WACE courses to Year 11 & 12 students. As a Registered Training Organisation (RTO), we deliver Certificate I-III level qualifications in a wide range of industry areas including Agriculture, Engineering Pathways, Automotive Vocational Preparation, Conservation and Ecosystem Management, Forest Operations, Horse Care, Wool Handling & a Basic Beekeeping Skill Set.

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Principal



Rebecca Kirkwood

Welcome to families new and returning. I am pleased to report that the year has begun well with staff and students hitting the ground running!

Transition

We started the year a little earlier and welcomed new residential and day students as they engaged in our transition activities. Student feedback was incredibly positive. Huge thanks to our student leaders Jesse, Phoebe, Will, Bree, Laura and Lucia who were an integral part of this process. I sent all new families a survey two weeks ago and am looking forward to receiving parent feedback about our extended transition process. The staff leadership team will reflect on the feedback and build on this years processes to make next years even better!



Year 12 celebrations

Before we get too far into 2024, I think it's timely to reflect on the hard work of our 2023 cohort. Year 12 WACE data was released at the beginning of the year and there is much to celebrate. Our OLNA achievement is not only well above the state average, but above anything achieved in recent years. This year we saw 100% of our Year 12 students achieve Writing and Reading and 98% of students achieve Numeracy. An astounding 81% of students graduated with three or more vocational courses. These fantastic figures paid great dividends for our graduating class, that saw them achieve a 98% graduation rate, our highest seen in the past six years.

Congratulations of course go to our entire 2023 Year 12 class, but a special mention must be made of our high achieving students. Ella Cameron achieved an ATAR score of 97 and received a Certificate of Distinction from SCSA. Sara Bray, Charlotte Brown, Willow Donohue and Lily Furphy all performed well in their ATAR courses and received Certificates of Merit. Last year, for the first time, we nominated five students in the state-wide VET Certificate of Excellence awards. Congratulations to Dakota Dalton for receiving an excellence in VET award in Primary Industries, and Luke McPherson for achieving excellence in Automotive / Engineering and Logistics. These results don't happen by accident and in a school such as ours, many staff, not just teachers and trainers, support our student's learning. Many of our staff go above and beyond to assist our students in and out of the classroom. Congratulations to everyone on a job well done!

I believe it's important to celebrate success but equally important that we continue to improve. We do this by reflecting on our work from the past.

Teaching and vocational trainers spent the first few weeks of the term analysing our data looking for areas of improvement. We will continue to adjust our support processes and curriculum programming to get the best outcomes for our students.

Maintenance work

Over the Christmas holidays we were fortunate to have some aesthetic work completed on our buildings. The administration building, teaching offices, D Dorm and the Dining Hall all received new carpet, paint and lighting upgrades. It was a long time coming and has really given the College a breath of fresh air. In addition to this, we commissioned a mural to be completed in the Dining Hall and the Trades workshop. This work, led by our Marketing Officer Alexis, sends a clear message to our visitors about what's important to us at the College. Strong agricultural outcomes for all students remains our core business.



School Review

This year the College will engage in two significant external reviews. The first is being directed by the Department of Education. This whole school review occurs in all schools every three to four years. It involves the Leadership Team submitting documentation to the Department outlining how we are tracking against predetermined domains. A member of the Review Team as well as a Principal Peer Reviewer will attend our College in April to meet with key staff, community members and industry to validate our commentary.

The second review is directed by Training Accreditation Council (TAC) and relates to our status

as a Registered Training Organisation. This is quite a large review given one has not been conducted for seven years. Similar to the school review, members of our Vocational Education and Training Team submit documentation to TAC, allowing an initial desktop audit to occur. I envisage this being followed up by a face-to-face audit later in the year. Dates are yet to be determined, but I suspect this will occur in the second half of 2024.

I am really excited about the reviews. In both cases there has been quite a time lapse since we were last reviewed and there is much celebration to be had. I look forward to applauding the hard work of staff, that consistently results in strong outcomes for our students.

Rebecca Kirkwood
Principal
WACOA - Denmark

Deputy Principal



Alf Mungoli

A terrific start

Seeing the new Year 10 students arrive and commence their first day was similar to seeing pre-primary students arriving for their first day of school. There was a mixture of emotions and feelings from being eager, nervous, and excited about starting a new adventure. They have started the year well and have immersed themselves into a variety of dynamic programs that we offer here at WACOA - Denmark. I am sure parents are taking the time to hear what is happening across their courses.

I am enjoying being back in the classroom! Year 10 students have a weekly 1 hour session called Career Education/Wellbeing. We will be focusing on tools and strategies to manage the various challenges they may face over the coming years. An important focus is to explore career options and enable students to investigate their values, skills and interests in order to assist them to make informed decisions about their employment and training pathways.

Year 11 and 12 students have begun the term brilliantly – there seems to be a great energy on producing quality work in and out of the classroom. Year 11's have begun experiencing more intense

theory and practical training for their Certificate II in Agriculture. Year 12's only have 27 weeks left until the graduation and awards ceremony!!! They are busy completing their required tasks with a select few working on their Certificate III Agriculture.



Timetable changes

The College is proud of the achievements of our 2023 Year 12's. As stated in the past, we believe in the mantra of continuous improvement and have looked at ways that we may make things better for our students and staff.

The College continued to transition into a restructured timetable to be a more effective educational tool for 2024 and the future. All feedback throughout 2023 regarding timetabling adjustments was considered when planning for 2024.

Student well-being and success were central in the decisions made. A few of the continued and newer adjustments include;

- Class sizes across Year 10-12 being more supportive for student success,

- ATAR students have small class sizes and have supervised and structured study time,
- Flexibility for students when selecting courses in Year 10-12,
- More double periods for all classes,
- Prioritising the importance of Farm Skills and extra support for students training in Certificate II and Certificate III in Agriculture. Students now have increased focus time on developing specific skills in groups on Farm via practical activities, observations and demonstrations.

Attendance

We can understand that at times family commitments and personal health issues can impact student attendance.

Late last year we had noticed a number of students whose attendance was seen as a concern and we encouraged parents to continue to support their child and the College with them maintaining regular attendance. For example, in some instances students had been leaving site early on a Friday and/or returning a day late after a weekend. This had a detrimental effect on their course work.

Absences add up. Missing just 2 days a month means a child misses 10% of the school year. We are training students to cope with workplace expectations and when students have high attendance rates, they improve their employment prospects and chances of graduating. We will conduct attendance reviews every 5 weeks.

2024 Year 11 & 12 ATAR University Tour Camp

WACOA – Denmark has invited all Year 11 and Year 12 students studying ATAR subjects, or considering an alternative pathway to university, to attend a two night camp to visit the Murdoch University and Curtin University Open Days on March 23 and March 24.

Students and staff will visit both university Open Days and participate in the presentations and activities. Students will have the opportunity to view and get information about accommodation facilities at each of the universities.

The Year 11 & 12 ATAR University Tour Camp will depart WACOA Denmark at 1.30pm Friday 22nd March and will return at approx. 7.30pm Sunday 24th March. Residential students and local Day students will be transported by a College vehicle. Day students will need to make their own way to and from the College before and after the event.

As we only have 25 seats available, preferences will be given to ATAR students and students who did not attend this event last year.

Alf Mungoli
Deputy Principal
WACOA – Denmark

Trades & Training



Mark Boynton

Welcome back to all students and families. The first few weeks of the Term have been very busy getting organised for our Year 12 large projects course requirements, planning excursions and welcoming new students.

I would like to thank all the students who are observing the expectations on hi viz uniforms. As I'm sure you know we are not allowing any jewellery while in this uniform. It's in line with many workplace expectations and keeps things simple.

I would also like to remind our new students about behaviour and expectations. I'm determined to ensure the safety of all members of this school community, and we cannot allow poor attitudes and behaviour here, especially in our potentially hazardous environments. Students who do not follow simple instructions may be removed from practical activities if it is deemed unsafe for them to be there.

Industry Adventure Tour '24

From March 25 - 28, we will head towards Perth with Year 10 Students for the 2024 edition of the Industry Adventure Tour. This year we are visiting the Muresk Institute and staying on their site for the week. (Returning Thursday PM).

Visits and Activities have been planned and all Year 10 families should now have all the information they need. If you do not have the information, or have any further questions, please get in touch and we will help you out. We already have some visits planned to Agricultural and Industrial Sites as well as fun activities in between.

The Tour is a great opportunity for interacting with others and finding out more about industry and employment opportunities. If any families have ideas about other locations we could visit in years to come, please let us know. It's important to note that students on the Tour will be under supervision of school staff and representing the school at all times. Any behaviour deemed unsuitable or unsafe may result in the family of the student being required to collect them from site.

Trades Club

Tuesday Trades Club is back for 2024 (4pm-5pm). It is great to see many different students getting involved for many reasons. Some students are taking extra time to perfect their projects whilst others are getting hands on skills with new equipment including TIG and CNC Equipment. All of these great skills will help in the development of confidence and employment skills. We are open every Tuesday until 5PM for any student to drop in for a chat, practice or get some help on their projects.



Metals

Year 12 Certificate II in Engineering Pathways students are busy planning and getting into their new projects, some are quite ambitious, and we will be watching these projects grow by the week! Our new Engineering course has quite a focus on planning and design and students are already benefiting from taking that extra bit of time to get themselves prepared.

New steel and aluminium arrives most days at the moment and this has really enthused the students into getting their projects started. I am very impressed to see more aluminium based projects, and this is made possible by the investment in TIG welding technology.

Year 11 students are working hard towards the completion of the minor projects many of which will be displayed on Open Day later in the year. Set projects including folding BBQ plates and rocket stoves in the early part of the year enable students to learn the foundation skills that will go on to help make them capable independent young people.

Materials, Design and Technology

Projects in Materials, Design and Technology are based around using fabrication equipment, technology and CNC plasma cutting. Students in Year 11 are creating some fantastic bespoke gates and Year 12s are into the coffee tables with personalised steel legs cut on the CNC plasma cutter.

Forestry

Forestry courses are seeing a change in that they have moved base from up on the farm near the horticulture area. A new base and learning area is in progress on the main campus. This enables huge time savings during the day with reduced travel and has enabled Mr Adams and Mr Spencer to set up a fantastic learning area where they can maintain equipment and train students.



As the forestry industry changes over time, it is likely we will change too, we already deliver Units of Competency and a Skillset in Conservation and Ecosystem Management, we are considering the delivery of the whole Certificate II course and would welcome feedback from families and people in related industries. The Conservation and Ecosystem Management units are closely linked to the Forestry Units with an additional focus on growth, development and management of native species, properties and ecosystems.

Employment opportunities in this area are also growing as we move towards carbon offsets and revegetation projects in many areas across the state and beyond.

Equine

Equine student horses have all now arrived and settled in. Food preparation and general horse care are very useful skills and many of these Equine students are up early looking after their horses. We look forward to many adventures in this area when the shows and events begin. As always, Miss Pagan is giving everything 100% in that area and has been busy arranging and coordinating improved layout and drainage over the summer. The winter months should be a lot more comfortable from now on.



Our Metals and engineering students will be supporting the area with the construction of a purpose-built horse crush and if time and budget allows, some arena seating too.

If you have any comments or contribution to offer our Trades and Training Department, please get in touch and let us know...

Trades and Training Staff:

Automotive – Mr Kemp

Bees – Mrs Dufall

Design & Technology – Mr Toon

Engineering (Metals) – Mr Hamilton

Equine – Miss Pagan

Forestry – Mr Adams/Mr Spencer

Mark Boynton

Program Coordinator – Trades and Training

WACOA – Denmark

Teaching & Learning



Jessica Lewis

A great start

My first 4 weeks at the College have flown by as I try to get to know student names and find my way around the College – luckily there are only 7 classrooms on my side of the school! It is lovely to see students looking their best in their uniforms and following the school's values of pursuing personal excellence, building positive relationships, and demonstrating social responsibility.

Submitting student work

This week has seen the first assessments start with a mixture of nervousness and confidence being shown by students. All students and parents should have received a copy of our assessment outline by now. Please ensure you read this carefully as it is important that WACoA Denmark is setting a fair and equitable standard compared to other students across the state. If a student is unexpectedly away on the day of an assessment, a medical certificate may be required to allow that student to complete it on another day without any consequence. If an absence is planned, please let the classroom teacher know as soon as possible so other arrangements can be made. It is the student's responsibility to ask their teacher what they missed and to catch up in their own time. I also want to stress the need for

all submitted work to be solely that of the student handing it in. Any suspected plagiarism or artificial intelligence will be investigated and a mark of zero may be recorded.

Recent Job Interviews with an outside agency

Well done to all the Year 12 General English students that completed their mock job interviews this week; I hope you have gained some understanding of the process and are feeling more confident about approaching the real thing when it comes up.



Year 12 private study expectations

I want to let everyone know about the College expectations of students in their study time, whether it be at school or after hours. All Year 12 students get some study time during the school week, but some might not know what study looks like, so here are some suggestions which I have put up around the College:

- Any normal schoolwork e.g. certificate LMS, reading over class notes (and then quizzing yourself or re-writing them on palm-cards), completing unfinished worksheets, making mind-maps (there are some cool apps for this), doing extra research (watching videos or reading from additional resources),

- OLNA practice subscriptions (only for certain students, these have been emailed home so everyone should now know their login details.)
- Update your C.V. or look for relevant job advertisements.
- EST/exam practice – ask your teacher to help you find past papers from SCSA (School Curriculum and Standards Authority).
- READ! A newspaper, novel, magazine, website or textbook. All of these can give you knowledge from a different perspective.

Support for students

In the next few weeks, we will begin the process of surveying students about their study skills and what we can do to strengthen and support them in this area. This will be particularly aimed at year 11 ATAR students, but all that are interested in attending will be welcome. Please watch out for more information on when and where we will be running these sessions.

We are currently finalising any individual or group education plans (IEPs and GEPs) for students that require additional support. If you think there is something we should know about a student that affects their learning, please get in touch!

Jessica Lewis

Program Coordinator - Teaching and Learning
WACOA – Denmark

Student Services



Keir Mulder

Welcome to The Hive – a place to gather, support, laugh and relax, it's all right here.

Well hello there, I'm Keir and I have been given the absolute privilege of being part of the Student Services team this term whilst Brad Woodruff is enjoying well deserved long service leave. My background is in Disability Support Services, Medical & Mental Health Administration and of course for the last 6 years I have had the honour of being part of the amazing Residential team here at 'Ag', where my focus has always been on pastoral care.

The Student Services team coordinates the monitoring and provision of support services to students and oversees well-being initiatives. My role this term is to be a conduit between students, parents, staff and internal/external agencies in developing support and planning for our wonderful young people here at the College.

Appointments with any member of the team are so easy to organise – students can just drop in or ask any of the wonderful staff to contact us on their behalf. Parents and caregivers please feel free to contact me or any of the team through Admin on 9848 0200 or email me at keir.mulder@education.wa.edu.au

We are so very lucky to have such an amazing Student Services team here at the Hive ready to support our young people, let's introduce them.

Abigail Weber – School Psychologist

Hi, I'm Abi the School Psychologist and I'm new to the College this year. I look forward to meeting you when I'm at The Hive.

My aim is to support your achievement, engagement and wellbeing through my knowledge in mental health, learning, human development, behaviours and school systems. These services are confidential, however, I do require verbal consent from your parents/guardians to meet with you. If you'd like to meet with me, please see Keir, John or drop into the Hive to introduce yourself.

Chris Urschitz – School Chaplain

Hi I'm Chris and I'm your school chaplain. I'm very passionate about helping young people take responsibility for their journey in discovering and growing their Value, Identity and Purpose (V.I.P.) I look forward to working with you all.

The Chaplain walks alongside our Students and Staff to support them as needed. We provide a place that allows our young people to thrive and we achieve this by;

PLANT: Creating a student-centred environment

GROW: Nurturing our students, providing training and care that allows them to thrive.

HARVEST: Which ultimately sees them ready to engage productively in society, the workforce, further training or study.

Bronwyn Waddington – Youth Focus

Hi, I'm Bronwyn and I provide sessions with Youth Focus at the College. The sessions can include anything that young people want to discuss, from boarding issues, living away from home, friendships, career discussions, mental health, goal setting, social media. We require verbal approval from parents/caregivers in the form of a referral through student services, however young people and their carers can also phone Headspace directly on 9842 9871 and we can book them in on my school calendar. Sessions with students are confidential.

About Youth Focus

Youth Focus are a youth community mental health service for young people throughout metropolitan, regional and remote Western Australia. Youth Focus have been the lead agency for headspace Albany since 2015. Youth Focus and headspace Albany programs work together to support young people and their families across the Great Southern in schools and in our centre.

Dana Boston – School Nurse

Hi, my name is Dana and I am the School Health Nurse at Denmark Senior High School and WA College of Agriculture – Denmark. School health services are an easy way for secondary students to access health care and health information for issues including;

- mental health and wellbeing
- healthy lifestyle – nutrition and physical activity
- development and growth
- relationships and sexual health and
- alcohol and other drugs.

School Health Nurses are skilled in assessing adolescent health needs. We engage in health counselling with young people to identify issues, risks and protective factors, provide advice and brief intervention, assist with access and referral to other services, and provide follow up care. Young people can drop in to the health centre or make appointments to discuss health and wellbeing issues.

Young people are always encouraged and supported to talk to their parents or guardians about significant health issues.

The services provided are free and confidential. If you have a concern about your child's health or wellbeing please contact me on 9848 0123 or email me at dana.boston@health.wa.gov.au.

Keir Mulder

Program Coordinator – Student Services
WACOA – Denmark

Manager Corporate Services



Craig Armstrong

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:

1. \$115 Clothing Allowance which will be paid to the parent/carer unless indicated on the application form that you wish it to be paid to the College.
2. \$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) \$1,389

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:

1. 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).
2. AIC Subsidy which applies to all students who are currently in receipt of AIC from the Department of Human Services (Centrelink).

The latest versions for 2024 Contributions, Fees & Charges Handbook; and 2024 Uniforms, Booklists & Residential Requirements Booklet were released on November 3 2023 and can be found on our website or via this post on our website.

<https://www.denmarkag.wa.edu.au/newsletter-blog/issue-1-2024-manager-corporate-services>

Change of Bank Account

Please be advised that the College has transitioned to a new banking service due to Bankwest no longer offering business products. As a result, the College bank account for direct deposits has changed.

The new account details are:

BSB: 036609

Account: 042141

Bank: Westpac Denmark

Account Name: WA College of Agriculture Denmark
ABN 15246080010 (WACOA Denmark for short)

The former account will remain open for a short period of time. Please ensure all payments are directed to the above mentioned account.

For security purposes, this information can be verified via our website, the Contributions, Fees

and Charges Handbook or contacting us on 9848 0200

Account Related Communication from the College

Statements summarising all items charged and payments received will be emailed twice per term.

Many extra cost options are required to be paid prior to a student participating in an activity and you will receive an event form in Compass advising of this.

If your account goes into credit, you will receive communication from the College regarding this.

Accounts do go through quality checks, however, if you do happen to notice something not quite right, please contact us.

Use of General Email Addresses

In this time of staffing changes and staff leave, it is important to remember when emailing the College, to use one of our general contact email addresses. This is to ensure your query will be dealt with efficiently by the correct team. Our contacts are:

denmark.wacoa@education.wa.edu.au
for all general queries, enrolment applications, complaints, and feedback.

denmark.wacoa.adminstaff@education.wa.edu.au
for all queries relating to students including attendance, excursions, appointments, and any other front office query.

denmark.wacoa.finance@education.wa.edu.au
for all queries relating to student billing, subsidies, allowances, payment plans, accounts payable and accounts receivable.

Did you know you can enter Attendance Notes in Compass?

If your child is going to be away from school or has been marked not present without an explanation, you will need to add an Attendance Note.

Simply follow the instructions on our website to submit an Attendance Note.

<https://www.denmarkag.wa.edu.au/newsletter-blog/issue-1-2024-manager-corporate-services>

Craig Armstrong
Manager Corporate Services
WACOA – Denmark

Farm Manager



Kevin Marshall

What's been happening on the farm?

It's been a busy start to the year as always. An influx of new students combined with the demands of the farming enterprise certainly puts the emphasis on efficiency.

Farm Staff would like to welcome all students, old and new, back to the farm and we look forward to working together on this wonderful property.

January was a challenge with limited farm staff on-site and the inclusion of the Nutrien Blue Ribbon Bull Sale. Many hours of preparation were put into preparing the Simmental bulls for sale and then attending the event. Pleasingly, the farm sold four stud bulls in a very tough beef market. There are four remaining bulls for sale and will be held over until later in the season when most farmers begin to join their herds.

During the summer the farm had extensive earth works completed on various areas of the farm. An excavator was hired and under the experienced control of Farm ATO Mr Seib, several drainage systems were installed. Harris Block dam wall was rebuilt and a system was constructed to channel the run-off away from the paddock and into the catchment. On the Eastern Block, several drains

were built to direct the excess winter water into the creeks and drainage points. A grader was also hired and contour banks were enlarged with culverts installed with rock walls and channels to slow up water flow to prevent erosion.



These banks and drains are now being fenced off from livestock with a semi-permanent electric fence system.

Dairy and beef herds have been calving since the beginning of February. It's always a nervous time when multiple herds are calving and livestock need to be monitored regularly to observe for trouble. Two new stud Simmental sires were used in last year's Artificial Insemination Programme, so it is an anxious time wondering how they will calve and what they will look like.



Hooray hooray! After nearly two years of planning, the farm has received some new machinery which arrived just in the nick of time before seeding. Firstly, a 4.5 tonne fertiliser multi spreader built

by CGS Engineering in Kojonup was delivered this week. This spreader will be used for spreading all products such as lime, pasture and nitrogen-based fertilisers. It has a set of load bars fitted which weighs the product being spread. Between the spreader and the tractor's GPS area guidance, very accurate application rates can be achieved.



Along with the spreader was the farm's new seeder. After several years of looking for an alternative seeder, it was decided to purchase a "Vaderstad" brand machine. Vaderstad is built in Sweden and is used extensively throughout Europe. The farm has been looking for a machine that can perform three primary and critical outcomes. 1: Have three compartments suitable for fertiliser, large grain and small grains. 2: Along with the compartment (box) separation we wanted to deliver the three products at different rates at different seeding depths. 3: Provide some form of soil disturbance to combine soil and vegetable matter to provide adequate soil/seed contact. This machine does all three of these operations in a one pass application.

Farm staff are excited to get some trials done immediately and in early March, begin dry seeding some of the pastures. The normal seeding program

is applying approximately 80kg/Ha of fertiliser directly drilled into the sub-soil, apply 50kg/Ha of oats sown at 30mm of depth and sowing 25kg/Ha of rye grass species at 5-10mm of depth. This is then followed with press wheels and harrows.

In the vineyard things have been frantic. The grapes looked great, so it was a mad dash to get the nets on to protect them from bird damage. The crop of Pinot and Chardonnay ripened earlier than expected and was ready for picking. The produce was sold to a local winemaker and the overall yield was higher than expected. For quite some time the farm has battled with disease and low yields, but we are proud to say that under the careful and watchful eye of Farm ATO Mr John Cosby, the yield this year was higher than ever produced. At approximately 6.5 tonnes of grapes per hectare, we are very pleased with a successful season.



These are just some of the activities the Farm has been doing. Cattle and Sheep clubs are in full swing with Wagin Woolarama looming quickly.

Shearing the merino ewes commenced this week training interested Year 11 students in woolhandling.

The sheep feedlot trial is well under way with 140 mixed sex /breed lambs being grain fed for the duration of Term 1 and evaluated for growth and financial value.

Kevin Marshall
Farm Manager
WACO - Denmark

Residential Manager



John Overton

The start to the school year has been exciting and full of opportunities for our new and existing students to integrate and settle into the College for 2024. We are really pleased with the approach the College has endorsed to commence the school year, which aimed to provide a meaningful transition and comprehensive induction for our newly enrolled students.

Whilst the Term 1 Calendar is full of activities, it has also facilitated a fantastic platform to the 2024 year. Our staff have been excited by the changes to the start of the year and they have played a pivotal role in welcoming and settling our students into life at WACoA Denmark.

Within residence, 96 students are enrolled and living onsite this year, with an even split of 48 Girls and 48 Boys. We have welcomed students from as far as Paraburdoo, Karratha, and Broome and maintained a strong connection to the South West and Great Southern catchment areas. It is really pleasing to offer positions to students from remote locations and this is a testament to the College for broadening its profile to become a state-wide institution.

Orientation Program

Our staff recommenced on Monday 29th January with our school development day which provided

an opportunity for the final stages of planning to be implemented to welcome our new students and prefects on Tuesday the 30th January. Our newly elected College leaders provided feedback in Term 4 2023 and expressed that they would like to be a part of the Orientation Program. We listened and the Prefects were involved in the Orientation Program activities, from meeting and greeting to leading tours and conducting panel interviews. The initiative and ideas were all student led and created such a fantastic environment for our newly enrolled students.

Our schedule over the next few days was busy, but we felt it very important to provide a comprehensive overview of what life is like at the College for Day and Residential students. Following our Principal address, parents had the opportunity to participate in COMPASS and REACH sessions. After parents said their goodbyes, the program was handed back to our College Prefects to lead an activity in small groups:

Group 1 – Site Tour

Group 2 – Recreational / Team Building

Group 3 – Student Services

Another aspect of the program that were important to the College Prefects was the integration of Day and Residential students and therefore were invited for dinner to conclude Day 1 of the program.

Day 2 - was all about discovering what makes WACoA great and why the Agricultural Industry is a fantastic area to be involved in. Most of our day was spent in the Lecture Theatre hearing from key internal staff and external members of the Agricultural sector to share their perspective on what makes our College and this industry a worthwhile investment. It was fascinating to hear each perspective and I am sure

each student connected with a different presenter, but again the highlight of the day was conducting a Question and Answer panel with all six College Prefects and Board Chair – Mick Pratt. Our students directed questions towards our panel that provided context around student perspective and it made for a feature of the program and impactful session.

From 2pm our existing students arrived back to the College and were welcomed by our staff. They were encouraged to integrate with our new students in preparation for school commencing. Overall the program looked different to previous years, however, we believe it went a long way to settling nerves, building relationships and ultimately providing a meaningful introduction to life at WACoA – Denmark.

WOW Eco Cruise / Tree Top Walk

Our first weekend in residence saw new students and Prefects travel to Walpole – students were able to experience two local tourist attractions throughout the day whilst the focus was to also keep building and forming relationships. The WOW Eco Cruise is a fantastic boat tour into the unique waterways of the Walpole and Nornalup Inlets, whilst the Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk is a series of suspension bridges set across the stunning ancient tingle forest.

Both local attractions are excellent tourist operations that captures the Great Southern Region whilst also providing another medium for our new students to interact and get to know each other.

Peaceful Bay Camp

The end of week 4 is dedicated to our first overnight camp experience of the year with 35 students rolling out the swags to camp at Peaceful Bay Caravan Park. The College has a great relationship with the owners of the park, and the feedback we receive is always positive. A big thanks to the entire residential team for giving up personal time to commit to the camp for two nights and a special mention to Kaina from the kitchen team for coming out to the campsite to provide our delicious meals – awesome effort. The camp focus is essentially about recreational

activities which included:

- Fishing
- Swimming
- Snorkeling
- Beach walks
- Beach games

The camp was a really enjoyable experience, and whilst the weather was not perfect all involved had the opportunity to unwind and spend some time in nature. Fishing seemed to draw the most interest with a huge squid being landed by Ian Bock (Yr 12) to claim first prize in our first fishing competition for the year.

Other Activities

Following the closed weekend the calendar continues to be filled with excursions and activities all involving residential students and staff, this includes:

- Wagin Woolorama (Wk 6)
- Harvey Sports Carnival (Wk 7)
- Industry Adventure Tour (Wk 9)

As the Term draws closer to holidays we are committed to providing ongoing opportunities for our residential students to participate in. Moving forward, Term 2 will see the implementation of additional activities Monday – Friday to cater for:

- Movement and Exercise
- Talking Points
- Wellness
- Team building
- Fun

I am working with our Prefects to coordinate and finalise these activities and continue to engage our College leaders in the process to ensure we capture student participation.

As Term 1 continues to move at a fast pace we are continually aligning our students to the College values and provide support to our young people when necessary. I am very pleased with the way the year has started and look forward to continuing that momentum into Term 2.

John Overton
Residential Manager
WACOA – Denmark

Old Collegians



Don McCausland

Hi all,

Hoping the New Year is fine with you and you're keeping cool in all this hot weather. Please note my new email address: smaunder6@gmail.com.

This is the first article for the year and there have been a few losses in our community. Firstly, Vale Kathleen Ipsen, wife of 1952-1953 past student Don Ipsen, passed away on 23rd December 2023 at the age of 81 years. A private cremation was held, followed by a get together of Manjimup folk at the Country Club on 12 January 2024. On behalf of all Old Boys/Old Collegians, we extend our sympathy and condolences to Don, son Tony, daughters Gail and Belinda and all family members on your sad loss. May she Rest in Peace.

Vale Maurice Determes, 1951-1952 past student and Life Member who passed away on 22 December 2023, aged 89 years. Maurice was born in Rangoon, Burma and on arrival in Perth was a boarder at Aquinas College, while his parents lived in Darlington. From there he went to Denmark School of Agriculture, an experience he often remarked was some of the best years of his life. Having obtained a diploma, he worked on farms in the wheatbelt determined to one day have his own farm.

In 1953, he met his future wife of 67 years, Beryl, at a dance in the Maylands town hall. Discontented with his farming prospects, he joined the RAAF for job security before transferring back to Perth and marrying Beryl. They both worked and on their 1st wedding anniversary bought a 17 acre block and lived on it in a caravan while Maurice built a 20ft x 40ft shed as their first home. Once a house had been built, Maurice revisited his farming dream and turned the shed over to poultry. Unfortunately, poultry disease ended that venture so they sold the property and moved to Narrikup.

In Narrikup he was a contractor mulesing sheep as well as managing a farm for a dentist. They bought a virgin lock and while Maurice worked 2 jobs, the grain and sheep farm was established. Maurice had achieved the three things he ever wanted – a loving close family, a successful farmer and friends. On behalf of the Old Boys/Old Collegians, we extend our sincere sympathy to Beryl, daughter Janine, son Leon and families on their sad loss. May he Rest in Peace.



1952 DSA photo. Maurice is 4rd from right, 2nd row down.

Vale Kevin Green, 1947-1948 past student, prefect, Life Member and name on Honour Wall, passed away on 4th January. Kevin was born in Bunbury on 5th January 1932 so just missed his 92nd birthday. Mike Martin and I attended his funeral service on 1st February.

The family moved to Pinjarra where he went to school before going to Denmark School of Agriculture where he achieved a diploma and was a prefect. His first job was as office boy at Elders Pinjarra. From there he was transferred to Elders' office in St Georges Terrace where he worked in the correspondence department, which included some days out at the Wubin sheep sale and cleaning the boots of the stud stock representatives! Times spent at the Midland saleyards unloading pigs often resulted in Kevin copping affluent at the bottom of a two tier truck.

Having served a varied 'apprenticeship', Kevin was transferred back to Pinjarra as Elders' manager in 1956 at the age of 24. Eventually, he was given a stud stock position in the early 1960's and it was at a beef breeders dinner at the Adelphi Hotel in Perth that he met Jill in 1962. They married in 1963 and had two children, Douglas and Simone.

In 1970, Kevin's career took a very different direction. He obtained a real estate licence and opened Kevin Green and Associates in Mandurah. The first home he sold was a 3 bedroom brick and tile home near Mandurah Forum for \$13,900. The firm became involved in the development of Dudley Park, the first canals, Melross, Pinjarra, Barragup and others. In 1980, the firm moved to Mandurah Terrace and is still there today.

All in all, Kevin was one of the most successful businessmen to come from the Denmark School of Agriculture.

Kevin and Jill holidayed in Bali, Greece, Nanga and Donnelly River. Kevin liked to go on fishing trips to Shark Bay and Exmouth in particular.

His community contribution included being a Rotarian, Shire Councillor, Justice of the Peace, President of the Chamber of Commerce, member

of the Peel Inlet Management Authority committee, founding member of Landlink Australia. He received the Australia Day medal for community achievement in 1986.

Kevin was a handy footballer, playing for Subiaco Football Club, Bridgetown Warriors, Deanmill, West Busselton and Pinjarra. He was also a keen boxer and polo player, loved sailing and was an accomplished horse-riding stockman. A keen golfer, he became President of the Mandurah Country Club in 1975. In quieter moments he liked to play the piano.

Kevin attended many school/college reunions over the years. On behalf of the Old Boys/Old Collegians we extend our sympathy and condolences to his wife Jill, Douglas, Simone and families. May he Rest in Peace.



1948 Prefects – Kevin Green back left with Principal Charles Buckingham front middle.

Vale Brian Boardley who passed away recently. Brian was a Denmark town boy with a flair for sport. He played for the Denmark league team in the 1950's as an onballer. We extend our sincere sympathy and condolences to all the Boardley family. May he Rest in Peace.

Vale Andrew Camden who passed away on 23rd February, two days short of 59 years of age with cancer. Andrew is the son of Ian and Ray-Chel. Ian, past student 1953-1954, Life Member, and whose name is also on the Honour Wall, was an Agricultural Training Officer at the college for 5 years from 1987 to 1991. His funeral was held on 1st March followed by a private cremation. On behalf of 1953-1954 past

students, Old Boys/Old Collegians we extend our sincere sympathy to Ian, Ray-Chel. brother Steven, sister Cathryn and nephew Mathias and the Camden family. May he Rest in Peace.

Vale Gerry Atherden, husband of Wendy for 36 happy years. Wendy is the eldest daughter of Charles and Gladys Buckingham, foundation Principal of Denmark School of Agriculture from 1942-1952. Gerry passed away on 6 February aged 93 years. His funeral was held at Karrakatta cemetery on 19th February. Gerry was a stalwart of the Claremont Football Club for over 50 years, firstly as a junior player then captain of the reserves. He was a General Manager, committee member, Life Member and volunteer. He was in the North Cottesloe/Swanbourne Life Saving club and was part of the state team that won the national championship in Sydney. He was also in the state water polo team, and whilst at Christchurch Grammar School, he was part of the team that won the Commonwealth Cup in rifle shooting. On behalf of all Old Boys/Old Collegians, we extend our sincere sympathy and condolences to Wendy, Susan, Jenny, Debbie and families on your sad loss. May he Rest in Peace.

The Weekend West Australian ran a story on Vince Garreffa on 17th February. He was pictured holding portions of lamb. These grain fed lambs were the product of the breeding flock of Ian Wauchope, 1953-1954 past student, Life Member, and whose name is on Honour Wall. Ian supplies Vince's Mondo Meats with 50 lambs a week.

The College is asking for stories from past students. These stories will be placed on the website as part of the history of the College. The form can be found on the website www.denmarkag.wa.edu.au/alumni We encourage everyone to tell their own yarns.

As always, get your name on the honour wall - contact us to have your name added. Contacts are: Wendy Sutton 0419 048 694; Marjorie Morrison 9848 1633; Delys Ravenhill 0427 408 051 or myself 0428 526 398, email: smaunder6@gmail.com. News from all years of the School/College always welcome.

Cheers,
Don McCausland

Important Dates

TERM 1 Wk 6-9 2024

DATE/WEEK	EVENT
March 8 - 9 - Week 6	Wagin Woolorama
March 11 - Week 7	Yr 10 - 12 Assemblies
March 15 - 17 - Week 7	Harvey Sports Carnival
March 20 - Week 8	Parent Teacher Evening 4:30pm - 6:30pm
March 23 - Week 8	Year 11/12 ATAR Uni Visit
March 24 - 28 - Week 8 - 9	Year 10 Industry Adventure Tour Camp 25th - 28th Year 11/12 ATAR Uni Camp
March 28 - Week 9	Easter School Holidays Early Close 2pm



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
COLLEGE *of* AGRICULTURE
D e n m a r k

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