



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
COLLEGE of AGRICULTURE
Narrogin



COLLEGE CHRONICLE

**EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION IN
AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

An Independent Public School

FRIDAY 21st MAY 2021

PRINCIPAL - Clare Roser



Dear parents, carers and College community

As with most other Wheatbelt farmers, seeding is well under way. It is heartening to see dirt being turned and earlier sown crops starting to appear out of the ground.

It does amaze me seeing some of our students confidently handling machinery worth \$100,000's with confidence whilst the crop goes in. It's also a wonderful time seeing lambs on the ground and hearing from students who have been out confidently assisting ewes with birthing difficulties and helping mothering up. Some of these students have never done this before, but have been willing to give it a go.

Wednesday of next week sees us at the half-way point of this 11 week term. As usual for this time of year, the 'flu' and colds have hit the student body and staff, with many away recovering. As our COVID-19 requirements are at a higher level due to our residential situation, when a student has cold-like symptoms, we need them to head home until they no longer have those symptoms. I realise that at times this proves a difficulty for families but we are required to follow

national guidelines developed for boarding schools. I would also ask for the support of parents and carers to keep their sons/daughters home if they develop symptoms over weekends as we are not able to have students back in residence if they are sick. This also applies to students who are injured on weekends through sport or misadventure; we ask that they are provided with medical assistance by their carers and if they are fit to return, they may. Unfortunately some students are being returned to the College with them knowingly being injured or sick and this puts a lot of pressure on residential staff to seek medical help during exceptionally busy times.

We have a number of activities planned over the next few weeks during school and residential time to reduce the mid-term and winter 'blues'. Keep an eye out for those events in the next Chronicle.

I wish you a safe and enjoyable weekend with your family and may seeding continue without breakdowns. I hope also you gain some rain this weekend in your region.



**WHAT
ARE
YOU
DOING
FOR
OTHERS?**

stymie.
#saysomething



Year 12 Defensive Driving Course

The Defensive Driving Course for Year 12 students which was cancelled last year due to COVID-19, will be held this coming week (Monday – Thursday) under the direct supervision of a qualified driving instructor. Students will go out in a group of three and the group will have a two hour practical session covering a range of skills. Below is some information from Peter Ramsay who has been instructing our students for the past eight years.

My name is Peter Ramsay and I am a Driver Behaviour Specialist and deliver driver training under the business name, The Drivers Mind. In 2019 I completed what was my sixth year of driver training here at the Agricultural College, with the course unable to proceed in 2020 due to COVID-19. The programme started following a request for help to the RAC Driving Centre from the Agricultural College, initiated by Jo Drayton, eight years ago, following fatal road crashes involving ex-students. At the time I was a trainer at the RAC Driving Centre (now closed down) and delivered the training in workshop format to the students. From there it expanded considerably with a couple of years ago this same course which your son or daughter will complete over the next week, was a finalist in the Caltex National Road Safety Awards and Mr Pascoe travelled to Melbourne for the awards presentation.

It is difficult to select subjects when training time is short, so I have always concentrated on the biggest risk to country drivers, and that is driving on a low traction surface such as gravel roads. This is not meant to reduce the risk of driving on bitumen, but your son or daughter will gain an understanding of basic vehicle dynamics. They complete various driving skills on a low traction surface and drive in conditions where they have to select the correct 4wd range, be it High or Low, because of the terrain.

Another skill your son and daughter will acquire is the use of the ABS braking system now standard in all new cars but unfortunately not understood by all drivers. I am sure your son or daughter will take great pleasure in coaching you on its main benefit if you have “forgotten” over time.

In conclusion, it is not all bad news as working with “country kids” is enjoyable, and I always learn something from them even if it is the price Dad got for his lambs last week and if they were shorn before the sale and that not many sons and daughters or Mums and Dads drive with their lights on all the time, but they will now! I digress; your son or daughter is miles ahead of metro students in practical skills but you also knew that. To me it is encouraging to see that many sons and daughters weren’t born with some form of electronic device attached to a hand. Seeing teenagers walking around the Campus talking and not texting the conversation is good to see.

As part of the course, all Year 12 students will need to attend a short workshop that will be held at 6:30pm on Monday 24th May. Day students are invited to attend dinner and then remain for the workshop which will be finished by 7:30pm.

Year 12 ATAR Exams

I have had some queries from parents about the Year 12 ATAR exam schedule that is running next week, particularly about having two exams on one day. The School’s Curriculum and Standards Authority will publish the 2021 ATAR External Examination Schedule in Term 3 and there is a possibility that the students will have two exams in a day. To better prepare our students for that possibility, we have put two on one day so they have an awareness of the preparation requirements needed, which are significantly different to having a single exam. You would also be aware that over the last two weeks our ATAR students have not had their laptops in classes, which is also part of our exam preparation process. Previous students have struggled with hand writing a three hour exam due to reliance on using a laptop.

An email was sent on 12th May regarding Country Week consent & payment.

Please note that payment and consent are due back by Friday 28th May.



HEAD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING - Leanne Sjollema



The past two weeks have seen the Year 12 General and Foundations students sitting a suite of Externally Set Tasks (ESTs) which are developed by SCSA and completed by all students across the state. The class staff have been incredibly impressed with the focus and positive attitude that the students have exhibited throughout this stressful period and it was clear that most students tried their best in each assessment. The Year 11 and 12 ATARs have their exams coming up over the next two weeks and class staff are available after school for additional support should students need it.

11 ATAR		
Week 6	Monday 24 th May	Animal Production Systems
Week 7	Monday 31 st May	English
	Thursday 3 rd June	Plant Production Systems
	Friday 4 th June	Mathematics

While the majority of students are making good choices, completing work and engaging in lessons, disappointingly, some students have chosen to test the boundaries of what it is considered acceptable and appropriate for the classroom. These students have received appropriate consequences and are encouraged to move forward by re-engaging in class work and seeking support where necessary.

On a more positive note, our Year 10 students are working hard in English, reading their novel "Tomorrow When the War Began" and are analysing the text in class. They are enjoying the 'Keys for Life' driver readiness program in Health and have started "Space" in Science and are doing well in class tasks.

12 ATAR		
Week 6	Tuesday 25 th May	Mathematics
	Tuesday 25 th May	Animal Production Systems
	Thursday 27 th May	Plant Production Systems
	Friday 28 th May	English
Week 7	Thursday 3 rd June	SIDE Exams

PREFECT - Colby Wisewould



Hi everyone

This past fortnight has been a very busy one in class with the year 12 ATAR students beginning to prepare for their exams. The General classes have also been working hard to complete their EST's which concluded this Wednesday just gone.

On farm the seeding program is continuing to move slowly as the students learn to calibrate and use the combine and the air seeder. The Certificate III students for ag have begun making their cropping plan which will be going ahead next week and they have also set up their aquaponics program, with barramundi and a range of different vegetables on top.

Have a good one.

MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINATION REMINDER

All Year 10 students have been given information and a consent form to take home for the Meningococcal vaccination.

Please complete the consent form and return it to the College by **MONDAY 24th MAY**.
(A copy was attached to the College Chronicle dated 7th May)

The vaccinations will take place on **Tuesday 15th June**.



Is your life how you want it to be?

Your beliefs control your behaviour. The way you think determines the way you feel, and your feelings determine the way you act.

The person who says, 'I can't do it,' and the person who says, 'I can do it,' are both right. Your thoughts reinforce your beliefs. Whether you think you can or you can't, you're right. We have the power to change our habits because we can choose our thoughts.

You can be defeated before you start by what you're saying. Don't set yourself up for failure by constantly criticising yourself: 'I'm no good. I have no control over my life. It won't work.' Change your words and you will change how you feel, 'I can do it, I'm going to have a go. I am good enough.'

You Can Change

The desire to change is the key to growth in any area of life. Change is possible if you want it badly enough.

One man said: 'You are the way you are, because that's the way you want to be. If you really wanted to be any different, you'd be in the process of changing right now.' Change is never easy. It takes time, energy, perseverance, and desire. The desire to change must translate into a decision to change, and you must make that decision every day.

The manager of the *Baltimore Orioles* baseball team was unhappy with a decision by the umpire so he charged out of the dugout and yelled at him, 'Are you gonna get any better, or is this it?' If you want to change, then ask yourself, "Am I going to keep trying to get better, or is this as good as it gets?"

Commitment and persistence is what it takes to change your life. Believe you can do it, make a plan, and take that first step. Remember change is often met with challenge, but do not give up.

If you want to change, but don't work daily to improve yourself, you will end up stuck in the same place, doing the same things, dreaming the same dreams, and never getting anywhere. So, keep growing! Remember, nothing changes if nothing changes. If you don't like how things are, if you want your life to be different, what are you going to do about it?



A bookmark students received on games night.

Our Secret Pathway games nights continue. Students have to compete in teams to find their own pathway across the grid to be the first to get to the other side. The moral of the story is we need goals to work towards. In the game we start at the beginning representing the College, and the goal is to graduate when we reach the other side.

We all need three things in life; someone to love, something to do, and something to look forward to. We need goals to work towards, and then we need a plan of how to get there.

A student's short term goal might be they have an assignment to get done. How can they do that? Draw up a plan, and then start putting it in to practice step by step. Break the question down, what is it actually asking, look at how many marks it's worth, read your notes, clarify with the teacher, research, make a list of what you need to know and do, then tick things off as you do them. You might say you're not good at planning, but you can change.

This can apply to anything in life, I want to go on holiday, where will I go, research the cost of travel, accommodation, work out the cost, when do I want to go, how much do I have to save each week to have the money by that date?

As a student you study, you graduate, you get a good job. All the steps to get there were leading toward something. It is easier to apply yourself if you define what you want and can see that what you are doing is leading you forward.



TRADES - Allan Dewing



After completing their small engine rebuild task last term, the Year 10.1 group have started their second practical task of disassembling two vehicles for speedway purposes. These tasks enable the students to learn a range of mechanical skills and knowledge, communication skills and introduces them to safe working practices, as a practical component to the unit of competency *AURASA102 Follow safe working practices in an automotive workplace.*



TRADES - Allan Dewing (Continued)

Year 11 automotive students have almost completed the competency unit *AURLTA101 Identify automotive mechanical systems and components*. This unit identifies the major mechanical systems and components on a vehicle, how they work and how to diagnose minor faults. In the workshop, students have completed thread cutting and other basic hand and power tool tasks, as part of the unit of competency *AURTTK102 Use and maintain tools and equipment in an automotive workplace*. The students have also been busy with other practical tasks ranging from disassembling engines and gearboxes, to working on various College vehicles/machinery and personal projects as pictured.



OUT & ABOUT



OUT & ABOUT



OUT & ABOUT



SCHOOLS SYSTEM SUPPORT OFFICER / FINANCE - Jill Norwell



Statements have been posted home to parents. **Please refer to the statement for the closing balance.**

Just a few reminders -

- The 2nd Instalment of boarding fees of \$2960.00 was due by 15th April 2021

and should be paid by now along with course and other charges.

- The 3rd Instalment of boarding fees of \$2960.00 is due by 15th July 2021.

(Boarding Away From Home Allowance of \$1477.00 will be offset against the 3rd instalment leaving a balance of \$1483.00)

For any students claiming Assistance for Isolated Children where the payment is coming to the College, *(as is our preference)* the payments will be deducted off your account. Please provide the Centrelink entitlement statement as soon as possible with the Boarding Away From Home Allowance application form.

Payments can be made by direct deposit, EFTPOS, cash, cheque or credit card over the phone.

Our banking details are -

Narrogin Agricultural College (CBA Narrogin)

BSB - 066 522

ACC - 00900281

Please state your student name as the reference.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries: jill.norwell@education.wa.edu.au or 98819733.

Baby and year one photos for Graduation & Yearbook 2021

To make Graduation a more memorable experience we are asking all of the parents / guardians of the **Year 12** students to loan us two photos of your son or daughter.

1. Baby Photo (in clothing)
2. First day at school photo or a photo taken around their first year at school.

You can post them in or drop them off at the front office. Alternatively you can scan and email the photos to -

wendy.hogg@education.wa.edu.au.

You may collect the photos immediately after the Graduation Ceremony or we will send them back to you via registered mail.

Thank you.



ALL YEARS COLLEGE YEARBOOK

The 2021 whole College Yearbook is currently being compiled.

The book is \$30 and this cost can be placed onto your account.

If you would like to order one please place your order by Friday 28th August.

An order form was attached to the College Chronicle dated 23rd April 2021.

