

**Meeting commenced at: 11.05am**

**Present:**

Kevin Lansdell (Chair), Simone Lansdell (recorder), Renae Dawson, Graeme Dawson,

Stephen Watt (principal), Brad Nalder, Sonia Nalder, Howard O'Neill, Sandra O'Neill, Tina Babic, Liz Leusciatti, Rachelle Drage, Murray Williams, Peter Rundle (MLA) Member for Roe arrived at 11.20am Jenene Wasley, Doug Wasley arrived at 11.30am

**Apologies:**

Sandi Wheatley, Cindy Paice, Sarah Mitchell, Mike Green, Mrs Manglavite

**1. Amendments to the Previous Minutes**

No amendments required

**2. Previous Minutes:**

'That the P & C meeting minutes of the 2 March 2018 as presented be accepted as a true and correct record.'

Moved: **Simone Lansdell**

Seconded: **Renae Dawson**

Carried

**3. Business Arising from Previous Minutes:**

**31/01/2018 7a) Loss 20% of funds from the Agricultural Education Provisions Trust Fund**

Detailed in general business

**31/01/2018 7e) Teleconference for future P&C meetings**

Jill Norwell has been active in pursuing a means for parents to be able to join in meetings from an external location. Phone system is being replaced and IT support has been sought. At this stage, the option that the school can offer with IT capabilities is for telephone dial in to a meeting. Parents will be advised of a number to dial in on as this information becomes available.

**31/01/2018 7f) Constitution, Association rules**

Liz Leusciatti discussed our financial reporting obligations. Liz will contact WACSSO to confirm but believe that the P&C fall into category of Tier 1 less than \$250 000.00. Need to confirm that WACSSO have updated constitution as per the changes to the Associations Incorporation Act 2015.

**31/01/2018 7h) Clothes lines**

Steve informed that the students will be erecting these as part of their building construction studies.

#### 4. **Correspondence:**

##### **Correspondence In:**

- (i) ANZ Bank Statement
- (ii) Emails regarding Education Trust Fund Cuts
- (iii) Email from Mr Watt and Mr Pascoe in response to P&C letter

##### **Correspondence Out:**

- (iv) Letter to Sue Ellery Minister for Education and Training re trust fund cuts
- (v) Letter to Peter Rundle MLA Member for Roe re trust fund cuts
- (vi) Emails regarding Education Trust Fund Cuts
- (vii) Email to Mr Watt raising questions from previous meeting

‘Inwards correspondence received and outwards endorsed’		
Moved: <b>Simone Lansdell</b>	Seconded: <b>Liz Leusciatti</b>	Carried

#### 5. **Treasurer’s Report:** prepared by Liz Leusciatti (Tabled)

- \$4018.01 in account
- Request for the school to transfer levies amounting to \$17 000.00 into the P&C account.

‘Financial report be endorsed’		
Moved: <b>Liz Leusciatti</b>	Seconded: <b>Renae Dawson</b>	Carried

#### 6. **Principal’s Report –Stephen Watt** –tabled and a copy attached.

- Student expelled from residence after panel decision
- Settling in issues amongst students continuing to take some time
- Repairs to kitchen
- After school activities – students have opportunities to be involved in working on projects in trades, class etc
- Oval to be seeded next week
- Issues with fire alarms being set off
- Hole in the system with the Ag Director position removed

## 7. General Business

### A) **Loss 20% of funds from the Agricultural Education Provisions Trust Fund**

*Business arising from 31/01/2018 7a)*

- Kevin informed that a meeting has been arranged on Friday 4 May 2018 at 11.00am with Hon. Donna Faragher MLC Shadow Minister for Education and Training and Member for the Agricultural Region Hon. Jim Chown MLC. Leigh Ballard Narrogin Shire President and possible members of CAAC Malcom Talbot and Murray Williams will be in attendance. Simone to send email confirming meeting with interested parties.
- Murray Williams is the Vice president of the Combined Agricultural Advisory Committee (CAAC). He attended today's meeting to inform P&C of how he perceives the Agricultural College are going to be impacted following the government decision to take 20% of funds from the Agricultural Education Provisions Trust Fund.
  - Murray provided us with a handout of his notes of how the system works (attached) and discussed his perception of how the system works.
  - There is no real body to advocate for the College on an independent basis.
  - Independent Public Schools (IPS) and School Boards have taken over and Farm Advisory Committees are all appointed by the minister. IPS have no line managers Need a way for the community to voice opinion and not tied to members within the department to have an independent say. P&Cs can play a role but not all schools have active P&Cs.
  - CAAC are ministerial appointments made up of reps from all college advisory boards. Executive decided that they have nothing to lose other than to try to support the agricultural education system.
  - Murray noted that the "Cuts to rural education" went national this week and with possible federal election to be held late this year or early next year, federal ministers may encourage State ministers to reverse cuts
  - Murray explained that cuts don't gain as much public sympathy as no whole loss is sustained, unlike School of the Air or Closing Moora College.

#### **Peter Rundle arrived 11.20am**

- 20% of funds will be equivalent to approximately \$300 000.00 each year whilst the government is "repairing the budget".
- Murray urged schools to not drop the bundle and to continue making the most we can as the more money we make, the more that will go back into colleges
- Director Agriculture Position in the Education Department – loss of this role has seen that there is no one in the system with any understanding of the agricultural side. Education side is good. There is also a lack of understanding of how residence operates too.

#### **Doug and Jenene Wasley arrived at 11.30am**

- CAAC have met at Cunderdin and met with Minister for Education Hon. Sue Ellery MLC and Minister for Agriculture and Food Hon. Alannah MacTiernan MLC
- There is some working out to do regarding whether issues need to be presented as Education or Agricultural issues.
- Murray feels that there is a strong Principal group working behind the scenes to manage the Agricultural colleges to get the best out of the whole system.
- Murray noted that it is positive step that we are meeting with Shadow ministers and for future we should always take opportunities to meet with both side of

- politics to ensure they understand how the agricultural education system operates.
  - The minister has said that these cuts are temporary and for a period of budget repair. We need to be prepared that this could change
  - Murray reiterated that we need a system of advocacy for agricultural education with no staff as staff are limited regarding political issues.
- Peter Rundle, Member for Roe noted that the National Party are taking every opportunity to hold the government to account and the issue is being raised at several recent meetings.
  - Terry Redman Member for Warren-Blackwood has an excellent understanding of the system being an ex-principal
  - As a farmer, Peter recognised the Agricultural Students at the Wagin Woolorama and recognises that Ag industry is looking better all the time
  - Point of pride to maintain ag schools' and to keep advocating for the system
  - Importance of role of Director of Agricultural Education is within the Education system and to maintain relationship with WA Education Department Director General Sharyn O'Neill.
  - Noted that he agreed with comments made by WA Isolated Children's Parents' Association Liz Sudlow who said "don't use our regional kids for budget repair"
  - Difficult when not being shut down and fighting against a cut
  - Correspondence helps to build a case, petitions and keep pressure on
- In summary of where we are at:
  - P&C to write to try and keep parents informed of what is happening and what P&C have done to try and reverse these cuts.
  - Encourage parents to contact their local member
  - Query media protocols regarding meeting with ministers on 4<sup>th</sup> May.

## B) Priorities List

*Business arising from 31/01/2018 7c)*

- Steve proposed some items that P&C could help to fund.
  - Table tennis tables x 2           \$1200.00
  - Fleet Mountain Bikes x 4       \$2500.00
  - Relace weights                   \$2500.00
  - Uniforms – Girls Basketball   \$1000.00

**MOTION:** 'That the P & C allocate funds of \$10 000.00 towards the purchase of 2 table tennis tables, fleet of 4 mountain bikes, replace weights and purchase of girls' basketball team uniforms.'

Moved: **Liz Leusciatti**

Seconded: **Sandra O'Neil**

Carried

## C) School Ball Parent Dinner- Friday 13th April 2018.

*Business arising from 31/01/2018 7b)*

- Simone will be finalising numbers and sending cheque to the Atrium Restaurant at the Esplanade next week. Parent numbers unknown at this stage as we need a print out from the bank of deposits made.

**D) Students prefects to attend P&C Meetings**

*Business arising from 02/03/2018 7C)*

- Student prefects attending meetings – as per correspondence Steve noted that students could write to P&C but feels that attending meeting is doubling up on reporting with Board as well
- Food
  - Parents in attendance commented that students on a whole have been disgruntled with food
  - Steve said that the evening meal has been a bit hit and miss and measures being taken to rectify this
  - Steve noted that the prefects are meeting with head of residence Mrs Rae to review menus
  - Staff rosters being changed – will see if this has any change

**E) P&C Facebook Page**

- Parent request for P&C to have a Facebook page
- Consensus that it is not a bad idea, WACSSO do approve with some guidelines but there is an issue on who would be responsible to administrate/moderate.
- School has a face book page and Steve is happy for parents to add to this for P&C communications
- Steve said that we could also add communications to the P&C section on the website

**Next P & C Meeting:** Friday 1 June 11.00am

**Meeting closed at:** 12.20pm

## ACTIONABLE ITEMS

Item No.	Item Description	Action	Person Responsible	Action Date or No Further Action
31/01/2018 7e)	Teleconference for future P&C meetings	Phone conference line for P&C meetings continuing to pursue	Jill Norwell	Report at next meeting
31/01/2018 7f)	Constitution, Association rules	Contact WACSSO to confirm category of Tier 1 reporting  Have WACSSO updated constitution as per the changes to the Associations Incorporation Act 2015.	Liz	Prior to next meeting
31/01/2018 7h)	Clothes lines	Students will be erecting these as part of their building construction studies.	Steve	Report at next meeting
31/01/2018 7b)	Ball Parent Dinner	Get parent numbers from ANZ bank and pay Atrium by cheque	Simone	Prior to Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> April
29/03/2018 5)	P&C Levies	Request for the school to transfer levies amounting to \$17 000.00 into the P&C account.	Jill Norwell	ASAP
2/3/18 7 a)	Trust fund cuts	Follow up confirmation of meeting with ministers, CAAC, Shire President on 4 <sup>th</sup> May  Media protocols	Simone  Steve	ASAP  Prior to 4 May 2018
29/03/2018 b)	Priorities List	P & C allocate funds of \$10 000.00 to school. Invoice P&C	Steve/Jill	ASAP
29/3/18 7 e)	P&C Facebook Page	Communications for P&C section on school website	Steve	Report at next meeting

THIS IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE MEETING MINUTES

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrogin Agriculture College  
P & C Association  
29<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

<b>Opening balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018</b>	<b>3862.01</b>
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**Income**

26.02.18	Dinner Wheatley x2	78.00
28.02.18	Dinner Van Wyk x2	78.00

**156.00**

**Expenditure**

**0.00**

**Bank Reconciliation**

<b>Balance as 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018</b>	<b>4018.01</b>
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## **Principal's report term 1 2018**

### **Steve's general philosophy**

- Consistency- systems and expectations are efficient , logical, understood and applied by all
- Transparency- decisions and processes are accountable, defendable and ethical
- Opportunity- for students to learn and improve themselves

### **Staffing**

Assistant Farm Manager- Graham Lymbery acting until April- advertise term 1

Head of Trades- Mitchell Wray acting first semester 1-advertise term 2

Head of class- Gayelle Quartermaine returns 2 days per week to share role with Sarjit Manez.

Vocational Trainer Constructions- Mark Batt- semester 1- advertise term 2

Ag teacher Amy Corsini

### **Student numbers**

Year 10- 33

Year 11- 51 (33 old 18 new)

Year 12- 42 (40 old 2 new)

Total - 126

44 female (35%) 82 male (65%)

110 boarding 16 day

4 year 10's left at end of 2017- 1 returned to normal school as didn't want to board, 1 returned to repeat year 10 at normal school, 2 left for apprenticeships (auto mechanics and diesel mechanics)

6 year 11's left at end of 2017- 5 to apprenticeships (welding, metal fab, auto electrics, small engines, diesel mechanics, 1 to farm employment)

### **Student issues**

#### **Activities this term**

Wagin Woolorama

Harvey intercollege sports carnival

Short course week- year 11

Defensive driving course- 12's and 11's

Ball

Two closed weekends

#### **External groups using the college**

Narrogin Invitational Bull sale

### **Classroom**

Connect- continue to implement in class and Trades- students and parents can access from home

WACE exams ATAR students

Class staff available after school Tuesday for tutoring

Library and computers open each evening for prep



Material Design and Technology added to the class program for year 11 General stream students. Materials D&T will provide additional choice and greater opportunity for C grades. Significant synergies with Trades program and will be taught by Trades staff. Students will select two subjects from Animals, Plants and Materials D&T.

Cert II Furnishing pathways- introduced 2017 and first 12's to finish this year.

### **Farm**

Still want to develop small grow out piggery- will aim to progress this year

Continue construction of new horse pens

Machinery Trust allocations \$94,000 for a telehandler, \$50,000 for a dual cab light truck to purchase

Recent purchase of 670 merino ewe lambs of superior breeding to undertake major overhaul of our merino sheep enterprise. Selling equivalent number of existing ewes. Ultimate aim of circa 1100 merino ewes self-replacing flock.

Reintroducing training cattle for shows- led steer as well as trade cattle competitions

Machinery/hay shed and extension to farm workshop ideally proceed this term

Shearer and wool handling training this term- AWI and college funding

### **Trades**

Various building projects around residence- outdoor table/seats, decking at oak tree

Afterhours workshops open Tues and Wed

Trades theory support on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon for those students behind in their theory

Trades advisory group needs progressing

Continuing work to improve focus on competency signoff, use of workshops and enhanced student projects

### **Infrastructure**

Planning for glasshouse for class trials etc

Consultants engaged 2017 to develop refurbishment plan for kitchen- major works required, report complete and seeking support from Central Office for funds. Estimated approx. \$400,000 unlikely to achieve. New report commissioned to look at food safety issues.

Conversion of Shugg dorm to develop new learning spaces- architects have been engaged to design and cost the conversion given the work requires a building permit.

Bottom oval renovation-reseeding to kikuyu when weather cools. Reticulation will be via a travelling irrigator rather than pop-ups.

Various sheds need progressing- chemical, gardeners, machinery, farm workshop extension

### **Residence**

Lots of afterhours activities- Trades workshop open Tuesday and Wednesday, computers and staff available every prep, Class staff available after school Tuesday to assist, motorbikes after school Tues and Thurs.

Guitar lessons Thursday evening

Three basketball teams in town competition

Allocating groups of students to staff members to provide closer care

### **General issues**

College finances- Currently finances largely sustainable for staffing level and number of students.

Approximately \$230,000 as a permanent reduction due to Student Centred Funding .

Agriculture Directorate in Central Office undergoing major change- no longer a Director Ag Ed.

Awaiting notification of new structure.

### **Reporting term 1**

Interim report by Easter and parent/teacher interviews at end of term

**Student recruitment**

Not yet commenced

**Planning for 2019**

## AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN THE GOVERNMENT SYSTEM IN WA.

Notes for the ICPA Conference 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018 by Murray Williams

The system consists of five Campasses of the WA College of Agriculture situated at Cunderdin, Denmark, Harvey, Narrogin and Morawa along with the Esperance Farm School. These all contribute 40% of their gross farm income to the Agricultural Education Farms Provision Trust Fund.

This Fund in turn supports agricultural programs at nine rural and metropolitan schools. Namely Coodanup College (Mandurah), Kelmscott SHS, Kiara College, Kojonup DHS, Manjimup SHS, Margaret River SHS, Merredin College, Mount Barker CC and Pinjarra SHS. Programs at these schools vary widely from Primary Awareness; programs for 'at risk' students; basic agricultural learning and through to the experiences of an almost self sufficient Farm Program.

All schools have a Farm Advisory Committee made up from leading industry personnel to advise on the operation of the farms. Representatives from these Farm Advisory Committees make up the Combined Agricultural Advisory Committee (CAAC) which administers the Farm Provisions Trust Fund.

The 'College' (Contributing Schools) system functions from Year 10 through to Year 12 in all except Cunderdin where only Years 11 and 12 are accepted.

All except Esperance run a residential hostel which not only accommodates the students but provides the communal living experience which helps to shape the students social and community attitudes.

There are 641 students enrolled across the system with 520 in residence, for which parents pay a residential fee of \$8,536 per year. The total number of students is 100 more than just four years ago. All Colleges are co-ed with around 25% of students being female. The female intake is increasing and at Denmark is now over 50% of the students.



Colleges are Registered Training Organisations (RTO's) and deliver the National Curriculum in Vocational Education Training (VET). They deliver the State curriculum for the WA Certificate of Education as well as their own humanities curriculum.

They generally have three education streams: ATAR, Trades and Farm.

They all deliver Certificate 2 in agriculture and some are now delivering Cert 3. In order to deliver Cert 3 in some cases there is a need to use RPL (Recognition of Prior Learning).

All deliberately take students with a wide range of academic and practical capacity and give preference to Attitude over Ability in their student selection.

All are now Independent Public Schools and do suffer staffing issues mostly because of location. However they are rewarding schools for staff and have a big advantage over other High Schools because it is a student's choice to attend.

Student destination data over the last four years indicates that an average of 50% of students go straight into employment, two thirds of this directly into Agriculture; 27% go into apprenticeships or training; 11% to University; 6% to TAFE; 3% are looking for work and 3% are unknown.

Few other educational facilities in this state can claim these results.

The Colleges punch above their weight in achieving recognition through School Awards, Staff recognition, various student Awards and Scholarships and State Medals. They try hard to provide good recognition to these achievers but probably take most pride in the acknowledgement of a parent that. "My son or daughter was an 'at risk' student in the normal education system. Their time at AG College has turned their life around. They have found their place and are now highly employable, community aware citizens."

## SYNOPSIS of AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN THE GOVERNMENT SYSTEM in Western Australia.

Notes compiled by Murray Williams VP CAAC Jan 2018. to provide greater understanding of the system to those who seek to help retain it.

The system is based on the principle of one entity called 'WA COLLEGE of AGRICULTURE' which is comprised of five separate residential campuses based at

Cunderdin  
Denmark  
Harvey  
Morowa  
Narrogin

and one non residential Farm School at Esperance.

The above make up what are called the 'contributing' Schools/Colleges  
There are farm Schools/Colleges which are 'non contributing' at

Coondanup  
Kelmscott  
Kiara  
Kojonup  
Landsdale  
Manjimup  
Margaret River  
Mount Barker  
Pinjarra

Each of the contributing sites and most of the other sites have a Farm Advisory Committee. These committees are appointed by the Minister for Education and are Voluntary positions.

The guidelines for the Farm Advisory Committees state their purpose as.

- To provide industry advice to the School/College on all matters affecting the management and operation of farm enterprises conducted at the School/College.
- To provide advice on the inclusion of latest technology into the School/College farm operations and the agricultural education program.
- To provide industry consultation and validation of endorsed agricultural training programs.
- To provide advice to the Minister for Education on agricultural education programs at the School/College.

The Farm Advisory Committees always contain people who are recognized amongst their peers as leaders in their field of expertise/agricultural enterprise.. Membership of the Committees changes regularly but the direction set by the Committee remains stable. They provide advice that is local and is directly appropriate to the geographic location and types of enterprises at the School/College.

This longer term perspective is essential to the stability of the School/College enterprises because the Committee has a longer term focus than may be the case with Principals and Farm Managers who tend to change on a very regular basis.



Each of the Farm Advisory Committees from the contributing School/College's provide two delegates to the Combined Agricultural Advisory Committee.(CAAC) There is one representative from metropolitan non contributing Schools/Colleges and one representative from non contributing non metropolitan Schools/Colleges. One Principals representative and one Farm Managers representative complete the make up of the CAAC.

Contributing Schools/Colleges submit 40% of their Farm revenue to the Agricultural Education Farms Provision Trust. (The Trust)

Non Contributing Schools/Colleges do not contribute income to the Trust.

The purpose of the Trust is to support agricultural Education in accordance with the guideleines developed by the CAAC within the Department of Education of Western Australia policy and the requirements of the Financial Management Act 2006.

The CAAC manages the income to the Trust and distributes money back to the Schools/Colleges in accordance with need. This is mostly to improve plant or infrastructure and ensure there is modern technology available for use.

Both contributing and non contributing Schools/Colleges apply to CAAC with requests for funds. These requests must be endorsed by the Farm Advisory Committee before they are submitted.

If approved funds are distributed in two rounds, one in September and the other in February.

The Trust makes the payments for a number of on going budget items which it operates on behalf of the Schools/Colleges. These fixed costs occur regardless of Farm revenue and represent the following percentage of the Trusts current budgeted income.

Machinery leases and rentals 14%  
Vehicle repairs and maintenance 2%  
Vehicle and machinery Licenses 2%  
State Fleet lease costs 7%  
Insurance 4%  
Fencing 2%  
CBH Freight 1%  
Operational expenses 1%.

As is good business practice approx 13% is held for Contingency.

This means there is only 54% of Farm Revenue submitted that is available for distribution to individual Schools/Colleges. This includes any committed funds held for specific purposes or funds which have been allocated but not yet expended.

There is no build up of funds in the Trust. What is contributed in one year is allocated for distribution in the next and it is expected to be recouped by the allocated School/College in that year. Sometimes money which is allocated (committed funds) for major projects such as the Denmark robotic dairy will remain in the Trust until the project is completed.

It is important to understand that unlike the commercial industry the Schools/Colleges are unable to borrow money. They must make sure that they have funds to meet unexpected contingencies..

40% Farm Revenue submitted to the Trust in the past five years is:

2012/13 \$1,064,192

2013/14 \$1,199,023

2014/15 \$1,274,362

2015/16 \$1,507,358

2016/17 \$1,699,889

Of the funds available for distribution in the Trust budget it is normal for 10% to be distributed to support agricultural programs in the 'non contributing' Schools/Colleges. This includes their share of the fixed costs (vehicles and machinery costs, fencing etc) as well as any funds applied for.

#### OPINION.

The system we have in WA is unique in Australia and is the envy of other states and NZ. It has excellent student outcomes and matches well the different levels of ability of students. There is an almost 100% record of graduates going straight to employment or further education.

We believe there are two key factors which make our system so successful.

1. The farm enterprises have been very successful because of the enormous efforts put into the system by previous Directors of Agriculture, Principals and Farm Managers and most long term success has been driven by the work of dedicated volunteer Farm Advisory members. This close relationship with industry and community people provides outstanding results.

2. The Trust model enables some funding to be shifted around the system to facilitate large projects, plant and machinery items can be transferred to other sites when they no longer suit at the current site and no site is severely disadvantaged because of bad seasons or poor commodity prices because of support from the Trust.

The capacity to maintain equivalent standard of educational opportunity for a student regardless of site is critical to our success.

*\* All figures are taken from Trust Annual Reports and financial statements.*