



COLLEGE CHRONICLE

Thursday, 4 April 2024

**EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION IN
AGRICULTURE EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

An Independent Public School



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
COLLEGE of AGRICULTURE

Narrogin



2025 Student Interviews

Round 1 of student interviews for 2025 is almost complete and outcome letters will be sent out by the end of Week 2. I am pleased to report, the overall quality of applications for Year 10 and 11 has been outstanding.

Prospective students are assessed against set criteria relating to academic engagement, behaviour, attendance, interest and experience in agriculture and agricultural related trades. They are also asked to provide a personal reference to support their application. To date we have received over 70 applications for a place in Year 10, competing for a total of 48 places.

Round 2 interviews will commence in Week 3 of Term 2 and any further offers will be sent out in Week 2 of Term 3. Round 3 interviews commence in Week 1 of Term 3 and final offers will be sent in Week 2 of Term 4.

Student Appearance

While we do encourage and allow self-expression and individuality, the College has set guidelines and standards relating to personal appearance, which all students and parents agree to abide by, when the enrolment is accepted.

Unfortunately, a number of students have taken it upon themselves to cut their own (and other students') hair in residence. The College Operating Procedures clearly states that this activity is not permissible and all students have been reminded of this by Mrs Rae and the Residential staff on numerous occasions.

“hair styles that are clearly self-cut, unprofessional, untidy or not reflecting a positive image of the College are not permitted. Students are not permitted to cut each other’s or their own hair at the College.”

“Students that choose to shave their heads or have a haircut that is less than a number two will be excluded from representing the College on any official College function, including all trips and tours and College sporting events.”

As a result, students will no longer be able to have electric clippers at school. If your child has these, can you please ensure they are taken home as soon as possible.

Winter Uniform

As we move into the colder months, I would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents of the allowable uniform items. These can also be found in the [College Operating Procedures](#) (with photos).

| Item | Description |
|---|--|
| Navy Blue Polo Shirt | JB’s wear, embroidered with logo and student name. |
| College Black Track Pants | Champion Micro Fibre Infinity, ladies’ and men’s sizes, embroidered with logo. |
| College Black Shorts | Champion Micro Fibre Infinity, ladies’ and men’s sizes, embroidered logo. |
| Black Joggers | Plain black. |
| Socks | Plain black or navy blue. |
| Sports Jacket | College design. |
| Hat | College navy bucket hat in Terms 1 and 4, and the College peaked cap in Terms 2 and 3. |
| Beanie | College navy blue beanie, embroidered with logo. |
| Boots (Trade/Farm) | Black steel capped boots |
| Navy Blue Work Jumper (Trades/Farm) | JB’s wear, embroidered with logo. |
| Navy Blue Soft Shell Jacket (Trades/Farm) | Bisley work wear, embroidered with logo. |

The College Formal uniform must be worn correctly for all formal excursions, field days and shows. This also includes footwear that is NOT worn on Trades and Farm days, as these sustain extensive wear and tear over the course of the year.

The following are NOT part of the standard College uniform:

- Hoodies
- Leggings or Active Wear pants
- Track pants with other commercial logos (ADIDAS, PUMA, ASICS etc.)

(continued overleaf)

Principal - Clare Roser (Cont'd)

Congratulations!

Mrs Quartermaine and Ms Armstrong interviewed prospective applicants for the roles of Year 10 and 11 Prefects and Sports Captains. They were ably assisted by the Year 12 Prefects who took the opportunity to participate in this process.



Congratulations go to the following students who take up the final Student Leader positions for 2024:

Year 10 Prefects

Piper Gillett
Liv Christophersen

Year 10 Sport Captain

Zac Camiller

Year 11 Prefects

Eric Williams
James Stramsek
Kirsten Hanemaaijer

Year 11 Sport Captains

Alex Furey
Eilidh Kershaw

Deputy Principal - Joan Armstrong



Hello everyone

The closing weeks of Term 1 have been incredibly busy! The Year 12s have been exploring Teen Mental Health during the last three weeks.

According to Beyond Blue research, over 75% of mental health issues occur before the age of 25, and half of all people Australia-wide will struggle with poor mental health during their lifetime (www.beyondblue.org.au). It is therefore vital that WACoA Narrogin actively supports all our students to achieve, and sustain, positive mindsets and good mental health. Over three successive weeks, Romy and Rosie from MIFWA (Mental Illness Fellowship of Western Australia) worked through a range of scenarios and solutions with our Year 12s. Having sat in on a couple of sessions, I was thoroughly impressed by the level of maturity which our students used to consider these serious issues.

Thanks to our dedicated coaches and managers, training for 2024 Country Week is well under way. We will hold a coaches' meeting in Week 1, so by the start of Week 2, students will know their teams and requests for deposits will

be sent out to parents/caregivers during that week. The overall cost for this year's Country Week will be around the \$700 mark and we will leave on Sunday 23rd of June and return to College on the afternoon of Friday 28th. This year, the teams will again be staying at Be. Fremantle and we are currently discussing the evening activities with our sports captains.

On Wednesday, 27th of May, the Year 11 students attended an extremely well-received excursion to the Perth RAC Arena. BStreetsmart is an annual road safety event that educates young people about road safety and risk-taking behaviour. This not only aligns with the College's short course on Defensive Driving, which happens in Term 3 for the Year 11s but also builds on the students' learning from their Year 10 Health and Physical Education. The students, who I spoke to on their return to College, all commented on how useful the lifelike simulations were to their thinking around road safety, especially as many will be getting their L plates this year.

(continued overleaf)

Deputy Principal - Joan Armstrong



On Tuesday, 26th of May, the College celebrated the 43 students who have maintained over 95% attendance for Term 1 with Easter eggs and certificates, an 'eggscellent' achievement!

I hope this will be maintained and improved upon for the rest of the year as ten of these students achieved a magnificent 100%. On that note, as we are coming into seeding time, it is important that students do not miss out on valuable College Class, Trades and Farm time to help out at home. The curricula for each of these areas is planned for the entire College year and students need to be allowed to prioritise their learning to be successful. If students are not sick, or do not have appointments to attend, the absence may be recorded as having an unacceptable reason.

Finally, thanks to those Year 12 students and their families who have already organised their Work Experience placements for next term. Work Experience for the Year 12s is from May 27th—31st. This has been brought forward, as last year the Year 12s had so much to finish off in Term 3, it just added to their overall load. Therefore, these holidays will give you more time to make an arrangement with host

employers. EOIs can be emailed to the College Admin over the break or brought to me at the start of next term.

Have a restful holiday everyone, next term is going to be a long one!



Eric, Devin, Wyatt, Casey and Riley at BStreetsmart





For the past three years, Mental Illness Fellowship of WA (MIFWA) has been running Teen Mental Health First Aid courses at the College, funded by CBH. Students receive the knowledge, skills, and confidence to recognise, understand and respond to a friend or classmate experiencing mental health challenges or are in a mental health crisis.

As our school leaders, the Year 12 students completed this course over the last three weeks. They are to be commended for the way they participated and engaged even with difficult topics.

Certificates for course completed will be added to the year 12 graduation file.

Thank you to our presenters Romy and Rosie, who were excellent with the students. Also, thank you to staff who gave up their time to support students completing the program.



Romy Pritchard with Year 12 students Bayley, Zaide and Cooper.

Year 12 Foundation Maths Fundraisers - Danielle Quinn



The Year 12 Maths class are trialling different ventures to determine how to make money.

All profits at the end of Term 3 will be donated to charity.

Along the way, they will learn how to:

- supply goods and services,
- identify expenses and income,
- keep appropriate records for tax purposes,
- refine their collaborative people skills, and
- value their contribution to society.

This week they have produced colourful coconut ice for sale, worked well as a team from start to taste test, to packaging and marketing.

They are taking charity suggestions from customers (see the package label). The suggestions will be collected and then processed later in the year to determine the charities of choice.



Image from taste.com.au

Ingredients:

- Icing sugar
- desiccated coconut
- condensed milk
- food colouring





Automotive

The two Year 10 Automotive classes are finishing up their respective tasks of dismantling and reassembling small engines and dismantling cars. These tasks enable the students to gain a broad range of basic mechanical skills and knowledge and at the same time learn how to work safely in an automotive workplace. These tasks also support the unit of competence 'AURASA102 Follow safe working practices in an automotive workplace' which they continue to complete.

The Year 11 Automotive students are finishing their tasks of disassembling car engines and gearboxes, accompanied by a higher level of learning on how these components work and interact with each other. Students have also been exposed to the use of special tooling for these tasks. Competency wise, they have just begun a new 'AURAF104 Resolve routine problems in an automotive workplace'. Starting next term, students will be encouraged to bring in personal projects to work on. Permission needs to be sought by the student before bringing in a project, to ascertain that the project is within the scope of the student and College.

The Year 12 students have just finished the unit of competence 'AURETR006 Solder electrical wiring and circuits' and have quickly put their new skills to practice on their personal vehicles, carrying out tasks such as repairing spotlights and wiring new tail lights. They are now working on the unit of competence 'AURAF002 Follow environmental and sustainability best practice in an automotive workplace', which teaches knowledge and skills around such topics as 'Reduce, reuse, recycle' and how to dispose of various wastes correctly in an automotive workplace.

Construction

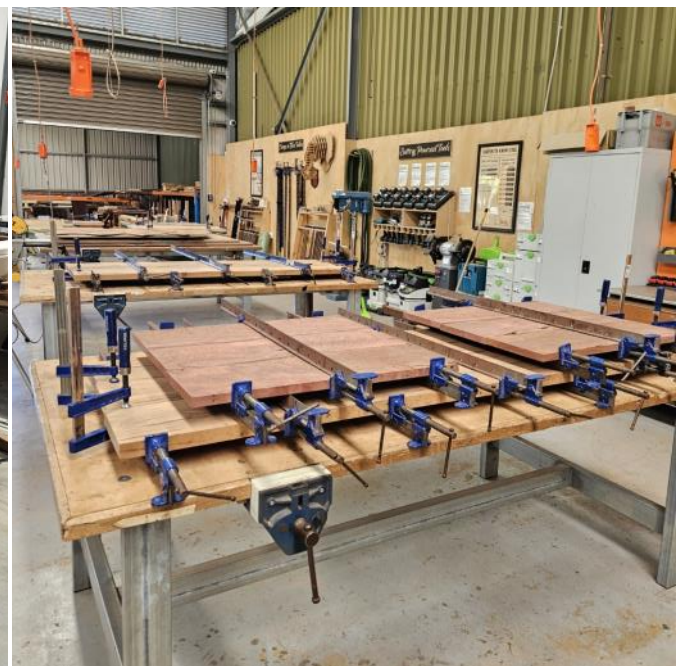
During the short but eventful first Term of 2024, the Construction cohort of the College has been bustling with activity.

In Year 10, students have been immersed in the fundamentals of bricklaying. They've learned the meticulous art of creating mortar with precise ratios of sand, water, and lime. Lessons on gauge level and plumb have honed their skills in constructing sturdy brick walls. Additionally, they've mastered the techniques of compacting, screeding, and leveling sand for laying pavers, as well as leveling the terrain around the newly renovated cricket nets.

Meanwhile, Year 11 students have been actively involved in farm maintenance and construction projects. Alongside completing units on the College's online learning platform, Read Cloud, they've assembled a new cattle crush from a kit, constructed a concrete access ramp to streamline cattle flow, and prepared a flat, compacted sand pad for the Flexi N tanks at the chemical shed complex.

Year 12 students have been diligently progressing through their Read Cloud theory coursework. They've also dedicated time to enhancing the construction workshop storage facilities and undertaking modifications to the St. Matthew's Primary School cubby house, including the addition of a rear window and a rock-climbing wall.

Throughout the term, each cohort has demonstrated dedication, skill development, and a commitment to practical learning experiences, and we look forward to the remainder of the year.



Head of Trades - Mitch Wray (Cont'd)

Engineering

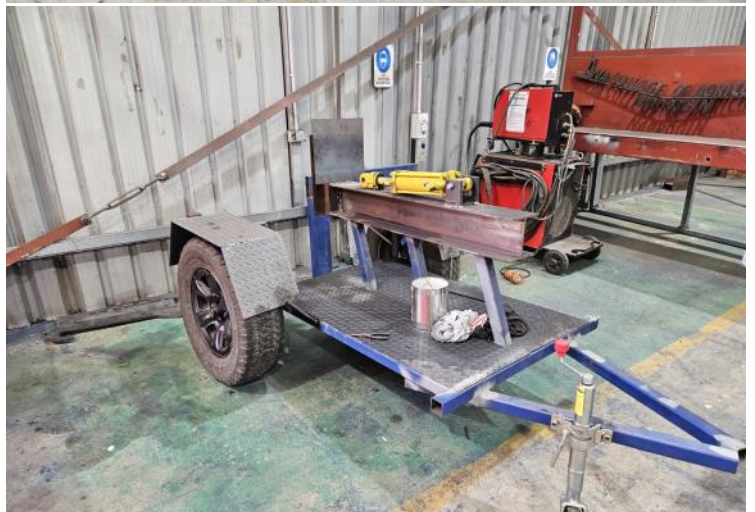
As the term draws to a close, the Engineering workshop has been bustling with activity.

Year 10 students have enthusiastically embraced a diverse range of set tasks and skills, these include a replica windmill, weathervane, and a screwdriver. Each project is designed to teach students many skills such as metal fabrication, welding, metal lathe work, drilling, grinding and many other skills. They have eagerly welcomed any additional challenges that will hold them in good stead as they progress into years 11 and 12.

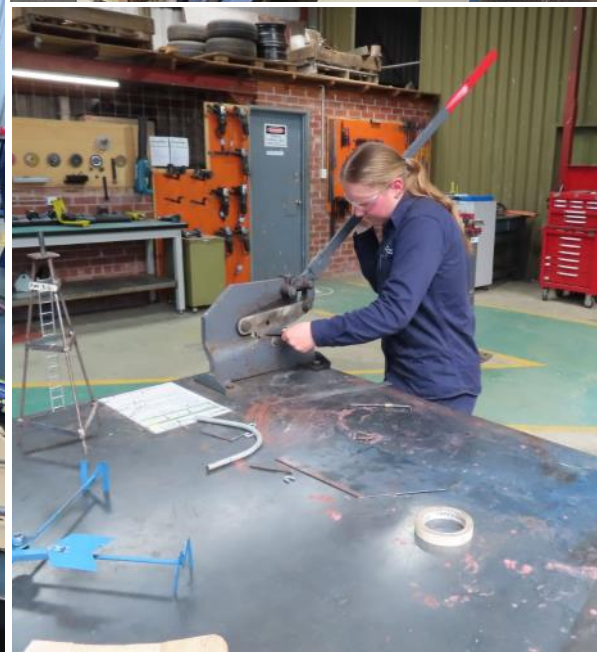
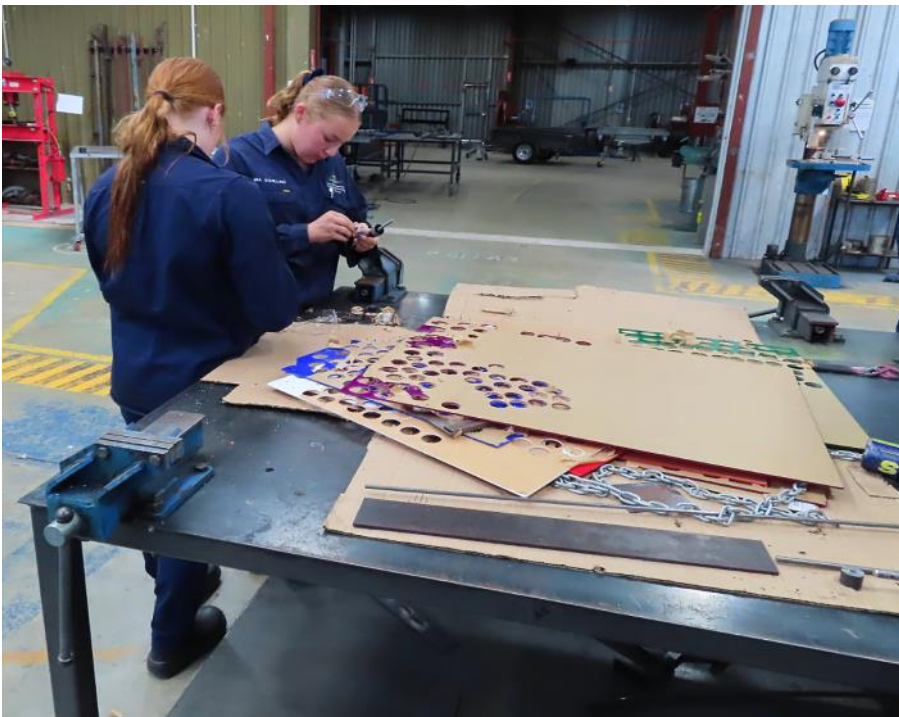
Year 11 students are currently researching and working on their designs for their major projects. There are quite a variety of ideas this year ranging from work benches, ute trays, dog kennels and trailers. The Engineering workshop is always very busy, and all space is utilised as we have many projects on the go for the year 11 and 12 groups.

Work continues for our year 12 students as many of their projects are progressing well. Like previous years, we have many and varied designs of trailers being produced. As the term ends, the year twelves are realising the limited time left to complete projects and have had their heads down working hard on their projects and associated theory tasks.

We are very excited for the arrival of ten brand new MIG welders recently purchased from Gentronics in Perth. These new welders are the latest in technology and are multi-function welders, allowing students to access the very latest current industry technology.



Head of Trades - Mitch Wray (Cont'd)



Head of Trades - Mitch Wray (Cont'd)

Furniture Making

It has been a highly successful term in Furniture Making, with all year groups actively participating in their programs. Significant progress has been made in working through the safety sign-off stage of the courses whilst completing practical and theoretical elements of the course.

Year 10 students have successfully finished their initial project of crafting a pine picture frame with a Jarrah inlay, and they are now a few weeks into their second task: building a side table/magazine rack. This project serves as their first introduction to essential joining techniques while honing their skills in the Furniture Making machine room. The skills acquired and strengthened during this project will greatly benefit the students in their Furniture Making studies throughout years 11 and 12.

The year 11 cohort has successfully finished their initial set task, which included crafting pine personalised boxes with sliding lids, intended for storing their safety gear in the classroom. Additionally, they are close to completing their second practical task: constructing a shaker lamp table. This project serves as an excellent opportunity for students to familiarise themselves with working with native Australian hardwoods, with the choice between Jarrah or Marri (Redgum). The techniques and knowledge gained during the construction of these tables will be invaluable as they embark on their first personal projects later in the year. Furthermore, year 11 students have also accomplished the unit of competence MSMENV272 - Participate in environmentally sustainable work practices. This unit covers crucial topics such as consumer resource usage, environmental protection acts and regulations, and

reinforces in students an awareness of their environmental footprint when operating within the Furniture Making industry.

The Year 12 students have been diligently working on their personal projects, which encompass a wide range of projectors including dining tables, resin signage, coffee tables, bench seats, drawers, entertainment units, king-size beds, bars, and various others. Concurrently, they have been focusing on completing the theory components of the course, with units of competence such as MSMSUP106 – Work in a team, MSMENV272 - Participate in environmentally sustainable work practices, MSMPCI103 - Demonstrate care and apply safe practices at work, MSFFM2013 - Use furniture making hand and power tools. With time running short in the course and a substantial workload ahead, it is crucial for students to attend all available classes to ensure the completion of their qualifications.



Vocational Trainer - Renae Tucci



In Term 1, we welcomed our new Technical Officer, Mr McSevney, and he's been working closely with the cattle, and Mr Ryan Hough, and assisting Class with conducting feed trials. The trials are looking like they will have interesting results and we are looking forward to seeing the final reports from Ms Sjollema's class next term.

Tree cleaning up along fence lines by Mr Zielke after some windy days will allow the cattle in to use those paddocks.

Our Certificate III students have completed all of their practical components for Certificate III in Advanced Wool Handling with TAFE. In term 3, they'll complete the theory components for these. Feedback from the TAFE lecturer has indicated that the students have been very engaged and show a high level of understanding toward this subject. AusChem training sessions are scheduled for April 30th and May 1st for Cert III students under the guidance of Mr Wiese and Mr Hough. The Cert III students have also been planning for cropping season, and this year they are trialling wheat to produce feed for our poultry section and low-sugar hay for our student horses.

Student shearing is now complete, thanks to the efforts of Mr Gooley and the AWI team. Their hard work throughout the term has ensured that our students receive huge amounts of training and assessment in this skill.

Preparation for cropping has been in full swing, with equipment undergoing maintenance and repairs with Mr Erickson in the workshop. From repairing the boom spray to servicing the combine and air seeder, our cropping team has been working to ensure everything is in ready condition.

Woolorama was a success, with our poultry and sheep teams showing their hard work and dedication. Special congratulations are in order for our champion ram in the Suffolk section and the great results of our chickens and eggs, with numerous awards to display. A huge congratulations to Mr Bertuola for winning Best Eggs, he was thrilled with this result!

Mr Colin Batt will be retiring after many years of dedicated service to the College. We recognise his immense contribution to our Suffolk area. His passion for breeding top-quality Suffolk sheep and mentoring countless students will leave a lasting legacy. We'll be hosting a retirement lunch celebration for him next term, and we extend an invitation to all former Ag sheep team members to join us in honouring his time with us at the College.

All year 11 students will need to be studying on LMS over the term break to complete the reading for Treat weeds and Apply chemicals under supervision in readiness for chemical use to start next term.

Brodie Hills Sets A New Record

Friday the 15th of March saw Year 12 student Brodie Hills set a new record in the shearing shed. In a four-and-a-half-hour period consisting of three 1.5 hour runs, Brodie managed to shear 60 full grown ewes. Not only did he manage this in an effective time, he maintained a high quality standard throughout his work day. Brodie has been consistently working on his craft since joining the shearing team as a fresh faced Year 10 student, always willing to watch, listen and learn all he can from the shearing instructors provided by the College.

"Brodie has shown that he is a great person to work with, seen not only from a trainer's perspective but also from his peers. Brodie's work ethic is outstanding, which matches his determination and desire to complete the task in front of him. Brodie has reached a shearing ability beyond the level normally achieved by someone who has spent such limited time on the boards."

~ Steve Thompson and Mark Stanton – College Shearing and Wool Trainers



On Farm



SHEEP RESULTS

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Ram over 1 year old | First |
| Ram born in May | Second Reserve Champion |
| Ram born in June | Third |
| Ram born in August | First and Second |
| Ewe over 1 ^{1/2} years old | Second and Third |
| Ewe born in June | Third |
| Ewe born in August | First and Second |
| Group of 1 Ram and 2 Ewes | Second |
| Group of 2 Rams and 2 Ewes | Second |
| Group of 3 Ewes | Second |



Sarah Beckman came second place and Jamie Meehan won fifth place in the Merino Ram Judging. Sarah and Jamie have both qualified to compete at the 2024 Perth Royal Show.

2018 graduate Brendan Lamont placed second in the Merino Ram Judging and also won third place in the Wool Judging. 2023 graduate Libby Hardingham won third place in the Merino Ram Judging and took out second place in the Wool Judging.



Ex students Libby and Brendan







POULTRY & EGGS

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Heavy Breed Soft Feather—Sussex AC Male | First |
| Heavy Breed Soft Feather - Sussex AC Female | First |
| Heavy Breed Soft Feather – Rhode Island AC Male | First |
| Eggs – AOC Large | First |
| Heavy Breed Soft Feather – Australorp Female | First |
| Light Breed Soft Feather – Leghorn White Male | First |
| Barnyard – Open - Barnyard Large Male or Female | First |
| Heavy Breed Soft Feather – Australorp AC Female | Second |
| Eggs – AOC Large | Second |
| Barnyard – Open – Barnyard Large Male or Female | Third |
| Heavy Breed Soft Feather – Australorp AC Female | Third |
| Heavy Breed Soft Feather – Rhode Island AC Female | Third |
| Heavy Breed Soft Feather - AOC Heavy Breed Male | Third |
| Champion Egg Exhibit | WACoA Narrogin |
| Champion Soft Feathered Large | WACoA Narrogin |





Students painting umbrellas supplied by Tricia from Arty Brellas.



This year, we will be running Past Student Lunches as part of our careers education.

Graduates will be invited to speak to the students at lunch about their career pathways since leaving the College.

A big thank you to our first presenter, 2007 graduate Luke Hall, who visited the College on Wednesday, March 13th, to share his success story. Luke farms in Wagin with his wife and two young children. He spoke to the students about taking opportunities as they arise, using technology to improve profitability in farming, and how he still remembers lessons from Mr Burrow's Business classes in Years 11 and 12.

Luke also spoke about his experience as a Rural Ambassador and the importance of networking in agriculture.

Ag Wing Carnival Photos



Ag Wing Carnival Photos



STUDENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES

SERVICE SUPPORT TECHNICIAN

Best Office Systems | Narrogin

Your role is responsible for:

- Running up equipment.
- Machine refurbishment and repair.
- Assisting with delivery and installation of equipment.
- Maintain an accurate record of work completed.
- Using problem-solving skills, establish and enact the best solution to the requirement within the scope of skill and experience.

If you are an outgoing and energetic individual who enjoys working in a professional environment and believe you have what it takes to succeed in this position, please email your detailed resume, including a cover letter to:

Best Office Systems

Attn: The Manager

Email: craig@bestoffice.com.au

ELECTRICIAN

Jerramungup Electrical Service | Jerramungup WA

[Jerramungup Electrical Service](#) is seeking a full-time 1st year apprentice to join our team, immediate start.

- Applicants with pre apprenticeships highly considered, but not mandatory.
- You must have good communication skills, a strong work ethic and a willingness to learn.
- Must be willing to relocate to Jerramungup.

Cheap rent in a shared house with one other apprentice is available.

To apply, please send your resume to:

jmpelectrical@bigpond.com

LINE BORING APPRENTICESHIP

TECHMECH | Perth metro area

Cert III in Mechanical fitting and first class machining. TECHMECH specializes in on-site machining in the Perth metro area, mainly in the following suburbs: Kewdale, Welshpool, Forreestfield and Guildford with potential onsite work.

Carrying out line boring in the following sectors; mining, oil and gas, power stations, civil works and agriculture.

The successful applicant will work in a team and do individual jobs as required. They will need to be well presented, honest and reliable.

Job tasks and responsibilities:

- Measuring and setting up specific jobs
- Machining to strict tolerances
- Welding (Mig/Stick) Use of robot welders
- Reading and interpreting drawings
- Finishing each job to an extremely high standard
- Efficiency
- Excellent work ethic
- Attention to detail
- Ability to work individually or in a team
- High level of initiative

Required:

- Current driver's license

If interested, please contact TECHMECH directly:

Director: Jake Belli

Email: admin@techmech.net.au

Phone: 0428 764 891

All Student Job Opportunity posts can be found on the College website at <https://www.narroginag.wa.edu.au/news-and-events/student-job-opportunities/>. Here, you can find more details about jobs/apprenticeships that are available.



Term 2 2024

| Date | Event | Venue |
|---------------------|--|-------|
| Sunday, 14 April | Residential students return after 3pm. | |
| Monday, 15 April | Term 2 commences | |
| Tuesday, 23 April | Friday timetable | |
| Wednesday, 24 April | Students depart after 3pm for closed weekend. | |
| Thursday, 25 April | Public holiday - Anzac Day | |
| Friday, 26 April | School Development Day | |
| Sat 27—Sun 28 April | Closed Weekend Residential students return after 3pm on Sunday, April 28th. | |

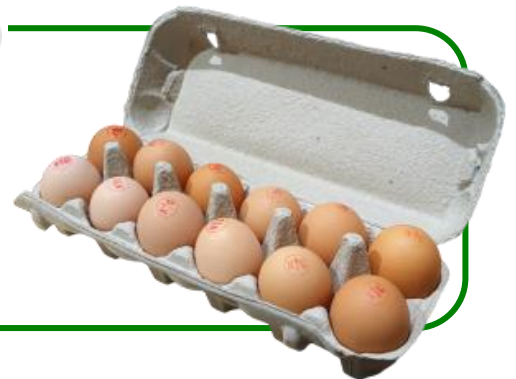
The College term planner is regularly updated and can be found on our website home page.

Fresh FREE RANGE Eggs

Eggs for sale at the Main Office

\$5 per dozen. 4 dozen per customer.

Due to supply demand, please call the Main Office in advance to check if any are available for purchase on (08) 9881 9700



Dog Bones for sale

Available in the Main Office for \$2 per bag. (Not for human consumption).

Western Australian College of Agriculture - Narrogin

216 Cooramining Road, Narrogin WA 6312

Postal address: PO Box 38, Narrogin WA 6312

Email: narrogin.wacoa@education.wa.edu.au

Phone: (08) 9881 9700

Administration email: narrogin.wacoa.admin@education.wa.edu.au

Residential email: narrogin.wacoa.residential@education.wa.edu.au

Website: www.narroginag.wa.edu.au

Facebook: @WACOANarrogin

Instagram: narroginagcollege



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
COLLEGE of AGRICULTURE

Narrogin