

In 2005 a trial group of Year 10 students made it the most diverse of all Agricultural Colleges that make up the Western Australian College of Agriculture. The trial was continued and expanded in 2006, laying the foundation for a 3 year course.

College Major Events

- January 2000 - Became a Registered Training Organisation (RTO).
- April 2001 - A state of the art dairy on the Wokalup site was commissioned to provide a million litres of milk to the WA market under contract. This marked the beginnings of students residing at Wokalup in a refurbished house under independent conditions not only to staff the dairy program, but to acquire and practice greater independent living skills.
- 2003 - Compensation from the Wokalup dam site used to fund major projects such as establishment of a center pivot irrigation system.
- 2006 - Development of a state of the art shearing training facility.
- 2010 - Commencement of the \$3 million Metal Trades Training Centre at the Wokalup farm. Practical completion was November 2011 with students commencing to use the facilities Term 1 2012.
- 2010 - Commencement of the \$26.4 greater school rebuild at Wokalup. Practical completion of the Design and Technology buildings Term 2 2012.
- 2012 - Practical completion of the new College Term 3 2012





WA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE HARVEY - HISTORY

Source (Ag Admin) and College Admission records.

In the early 1950's a group of active local citizens lobbied for the development of an Agricultural School similar to Denmark and Narrogin be set up to provide boarding and educational facilities for boys wishing to pursue intensive agriculture as a career. Land from the Northern side of the Wokalup Research Station which had no buildings, but good land, or the War internment camp facilities to the North of the town which had no land, but buildings. The latter site was chosen and a boarding school for boys was set up under the administration of the Harvey Junior High School. Students were ferried to nearby farms for their practical sessions.

In 1952 the Education Department purchased the Commonwealth Rural Training Centre at Harvey for use as an Agricultural School. The Centre had first been set up as an internment camp shortly after the commencement of the 2nd world war. They left their mark on the site in the form of all kinds of stonework and figures in cement. The wishing well, Romulus and Remus and the shrine on the golf course, the cellar under the cactus gardens and the fish pond which still remains. At the conclusion to hostilities, the training camp under the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme was used to rehabilitate farmers after war service.

At Christmas in 1952, Mr JH Barton took up duties as the Headmaster of the Harvey Agricultural Junior High School to open in 1953. The Agricultural Advisory Committee was formed July 31st 1953 with Messrs EK Cooling, JM Clifton and F Byrd as the founding members. Most of 1953 was used to ascertain the boundaries of the School with the eventual demarcation in August 1954: Korijekup Estate No 24002 Lot 277 62 acres. The College opened to students in February 1954 with 16 students.

Various pieces of land surrounding the Ag School site were purchased until a very well developed 200 Ha farm was used by College students. Girls were later introduced to the school in the 1990's.

In January 1998, the Agricultural Wing of the Harvey Agricultural Senior High School separated from its parent school and became an independent College joining like minded schools at Narrogin in 1981, Cunderdin in 1983, Denmark 1990 and as Morawa did this year 2001. Neale Armstrong became the founding Principal in May 1998.

Late in 1998, the Water Corporation announced the intention of expanding the Harvey Irrigation dam to supply water to the SW Irrigation District, and revert much of the water from the Stirling dam for potable water for the SW Corridor of Perth. This necessitated the purchase of about 125 ha of the College land effectively reducing the College ability to function.

In September 1999, after several years of consultation and negotiation with several State Governments, the then Minister for Agriculture Mr Monty House, and the Minister of Education agreed that the Education Department would purchase the land, buildings and livestock of the Wokalup Research Station for the purposes of educating agricultural students on a truly commercial operation. The sale was valued at \$5.4 million and cattle at \$329,000. The College has been working very hard at reinvigorating the Wokalup Farm site since then.

The College became a REGISTERED TRAINING ORGANIZATION in December of 1999 and certificated its first students in Agriculture at the end of that year. As a result, all students in Year 11 and 12 are now given the opportunity of achieving Certificate 1 and 2 in General and Specific areas of agriculture. In 2000, training in Industrial subjects relating to agriculture were also certified under the Registered Training Organization status. using the College farm at Wokalup.

With the amalgamation of the 5 independent Ag Colleges to form the WA College of Agriculture in April 2000 and the removal of RTO status from all schools by the end of 2001, the College had to undergo extensive validation processes to enable Australian National Training Authority Training courses to be delivered and assessed. The WA College of Agriculture was reconfirmed as a Training Organization in May 2002 as far as we know, the only schools to do so.