

Harvey Agricultural College

NEWSLETTER

VOL 5 NO 5 : 1998

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As Christmas approaches, it is appropriate that we take time to reflect on the year that was in 1998 and to indicate the challenges that are to befall us in the new year. Our College has come a long way from being an off shoot of the local Senior High School to that with the foundations of a strong independent College having its own ethos and direction. Next year will continue this direction with some very exciting objectives on the horizon.

CURRICULUM AND TIMETABLE

The timetable for 1999 has been reviewed. Over the two year course, it will offer more of a balance of theory and practice than in previous years with students in both year 11 and 12 over the 10 day cycle. All students will complete 2.5 days class, 2.5 days farm or design and technology, 2.5 days class followed by 2.5 design and technology or farm.

Whilst on the class, students will study in 8 x 50 minute periods of time. When split in two groups they will receive instruction using teacher directed sessions by the subject expert. During tutorial time, the year group on class is split into three groups allowing for smaller groups to work on subject tasks, and finally they will be split into approximately groups of 4 or 5 to work on and complete an Animal and Plant Enterprise during four periods of "enterprise" time in conjunction with the Farm. A period of Sport has also been placed in the curriculum as has a time slot to enable students to keep abreast of what is happening on the farm, and complete some Automotive Technology theory.

Whilst on Design and Technology, students will still study in half day blocks of time. A new subject called Building Constructions will replace Furniture Design and Technology and Metal Constructions. The content of these subjects will still be obtained under this new subject. As well as metal and wood, students will undertake the study of buildings. This will involve small group work learning about concrete, bricklaying, pipes and



plumbing, fencing and so on. This subject should add a whole new perspective to the curriculum offerings of the College.

Automotive Technology will continue to be taught, but students are rostered in such a way as to reduce the class sizes. Student centred approaches to learning mechanics can occur more easily.

Students will spend more time on Farm over the period of the course under the new timetable.



They will continue to study Farm Practice as the subject by way of small groups rostered to an Ag Technical Officer, over the six sections offered by the College. Next year they will spend a full 2.5 days on each section instead of 2. This will enable more flexibility and depth to skills development.

Overall, I feel quite confident that the new structure will improve the learning opportunities and outcomes to our students, and look forward to reviewing its success or otherwise.

NATIONAL TRAINING PACKAGES

In 1999 all Colleges of Agriculture in the state will be trialing the competencies found in the Rural National Training Package in an effort to award a National Industry recognised portable certificate. This will be studied in conjunction with Farm Practice and other subjects.

This curriculum is a bundle of National Competencies organized according to each Industry. Since 1996, all industries have been getting together their Training Packages all linked to a 6 tiered qualification under the New Apprenticeship System. Harvey will be offering competencies from 5 training packages: Agriculture, Horticulture, Meat Production, Automotive and Metals and Engineering.

Ultimately this means that competencies attained at Harvey Ag can be used as a platform when a student graduates and moves into that particular career. For example, competencies gained in Mechanics will help towards an apprenticeship in that area.

A unit of competency is a statement attesting that a person has achieved a certain level & type of skill. For example, "muster and move cattle..."

At some point during the year the student will need to demonstrate that they have met the standards set down on many different competencies. Once they have gained sufficient, they will be entitled to a National Certificate as a statement of their achievement.

In 1999, our aim is to offer sufficient competencies for all students regardless of year level, to be able to get Certificate II in (Agriculture) General as a minimum.

In the year 2000, it is expected that students will obtain this certification in year 11 and choose on the basis of their career aspirations, sectors of industry that they may like to study in year 12.

Please contact the curriculum head of department for additional explanation.

REGISTERED TRAINING ORGANIZATION

After 1999, only institutions classified as **Registered Organizations**, will be able to offer Vocational Education certifiable to industry level.

As part of the Education Department's strategic plan, Harvey will join the other Ag Colleges around the state to apply for this status as one cluster. The process of obtaining validation is quite involved and will be a major hurdle to overcome throughout 1999. We will not be able to sign students off against the industry competencies unless we are successful at obtaining this status.

McGHIE REPORT

After nearly two months of study undertaken as to the feasibility of the Agricultural College at Harvey being relocated to Wokalup, the McGhie report is finally out. It suggests that the potential for expansion of the College is dependent on it having access to a suitable site which appears to be the Wokalup Research Station. It also indicates that the transfer of the Research Station over to the Education Department would not adversely affect any of the Ag WA operations currently occurring.

Meetings have taken place recently between officers of the Education Department and Agriculture WA in an effort to expedite this. We're hoping for a concrete Memorandum of Understanding early in the new year.

STAFF CHANGES

Harvey seems to have a large proportion of its staff due for or taking long service leave over the next few years. We thank them for their services, wish them a pleasant break and look forward to seeing them upon their return. In the classroom area, Mr Slee will be absent during first semester, and Ms Akkari throughout the second semester next year. As a result, these teachers will take on teaching the one subject area next year to minimize disruption to students and to enable the replacement teacher to maintain program continuity. As a local merit selection school, applications for an agricultural teacher will close on the 7th December 1998 with a panel making a recommendation by the end of the school year.

Applications for Long Service Leave throughout 1999 will close on the farm on the 5th February 1999. I believe several Technical Officers are likely to apply, with the result that we shall employ a relieving Technical Officer at different times next year.

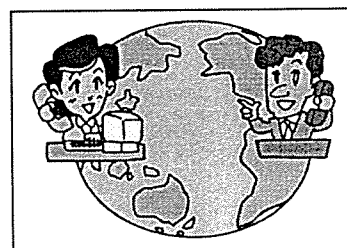
On the non teaching front, we'll be losing 2 people from the catering and laundry divisions for a period of time in 1999.

After nearly 18 years in the Education Department, I will be taking long service leave throughout 1999. Mr Stephen Watt has won the position as Relieving Principal and I wish him and the staff a very successful 1999. We've come through a period of establishment in 1998 with some solid foundations from which to test the future, but I feel certain these initiatives will stand the test of time no matter who is at the helm. The successful applicant to relieve Mr Watt has been recommended but is yet to take up the position.

MIDAS

The College was recently connected to M.I.D.A.S. This will enable all members of the College to be E-mailed. You can connect to an individual member of staff by using the following address:

Eg FName.LName@EDDEPT.WA.EDU.AU
JOHN.CITIZEN@EDDEPT.WA.EDU.AU



END OF SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

As noted in the brief flier sent to parents last week, parents are invited to attend an End Of School Assembly on Wednesday 9th December 1998 at 2:00 pm. Up until that time, students will be studying for their First Aid Certificate through St John in Bunbury.

During the year 12 Graduation, 4 students Danny Hartnup, Troy Hornby, Jordan Clemons and Tammy Scott, were elected by their peers to represent them on the College Council. These four people have now been invited to apply to be College Captain, addressing criteria just like you would for many jobs. A panel of staff and students will then recommend the Captain, based on an interview and written application. Congratulations and good luck to all.

The assembly will give us the opportunity of presenting subject certificates, and announcing the successful applicant for Captain in 1999.

MEAL REVIEW

A panel of students and staff have been given the brief to analyse the style, type and variety of meal we have on offer at the College.

It appears there is some appetite to change the way we do some of our catering, and I thank the committee for their efforts. I expect to publish the findings of this group, with a resultant trial period into next year.

GRADUATION

Graduation Day represents the end of twelve years of schooling for many of our students and as usual it is an emotionally charged event.



The ceremony was made a little more formal this year, with year 11's being part of the ceremony and several parents helping to make the event

special for all concerned. Mrs Nola Marino was our guest speaker this year. Nola is the President of the Milk Industry Liaison Committee of the WA Farmers Federation, President of the Harvey Bulls Football Club and the 1996 ABC South West Regional Woman of the Year. She spoke on the role our Graduands could have in their respective communities, caring for the land and the enduring friendships that are made at Agricultural Colleges. She also assisted in congratulating the graduates by presenting the very smart Graduation Folders donated by the Ex Students' Association.

Major prize winners on the day were: Dux, Matthew Chambers of Kulikup, Most Improved across all sections was Kate Clarke of Donnybrook, College Commendation was outgoing captain Lisa de Haan and the Royal Ag Society Scholarship was won by Fred Ancliffe in year 11.



The Ex-Students Association scholarships were won by Troy Hornby of Bridgetown and Tammy Scott of Busselton.

A special thanks to all those donating towards the magnificent prizes and congratulations to all prize winners.

SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Each independent school is required to have an elected School Management Council made up of students, staff, parents and the community. I have not been able to get this up and running in 1998, and it will be one of our "governance" priorities for 1999. We shall investigate a school management council constitution from another college to get us started.

LISA DE HAAN MURESK BOUND AND THE WINNER OF THE \$1000 FOR THE LEE-STEERE SCHOLARSHIP

The Captain of our College in 1998 Lisa de Haan received a farewell present on Thursday the 12th November when she was awarded the Sir Ernest Lee-Steere Scholarship from the Agricultural Educators Association. The Scholarship is for \$1000 to be recouped from costs associated with going to Muresk. Lisa has indicated her desire to study at tertiary level and become an Agricultural teacher. "Congratulations Lisa and well done!

CALENDARS INTERNATIONAL SERVICES

Mrs Maureen Callendar was on site recently to conduct a seminar for our students and members of the local community recently on the impact of cultural diversity on management and marketing decisions and the challenges facing Australian business in the global market place. Sometimes it

is easy for us to feel cocooned from the global economy in Australia, but it becomes an all too real situation at the saleyards when prices for our steers destined for Indonesia or demand for our horticultural produce into Malaysia is reduced. Special thanks to Mr Slee for his undying effort to bring to our students attention a look at the marketing world in which we find ourselves.

Year 12 Farm & Manual Arts Clothing
A respectable set of farm uniform is required throughout the two year course for wearing off campus eg Field Days, Shows, Excursions. Year 12 parents - please assess your child's current farm uniform in terms of size and suitability to wear on show.

OPERATING PROCEDURES AND COMMENCEMENT OF SCHOOL YEAR 1999

Please read the attached information package regarding the 1999 school calendar, commencement dates, times, school uniforms, timetable, fees etc.

In short,

9 th December 1998:	2:00 pm End of School Assembly 2:30 pm Afternoon tea and students depart.
11 th December 1998:	Reports posted home 3:30 pm Teachers Depart for Xmas Holidays College Admin open.
14 th -16 th December 1998:	3:30 pm College Administration office closed. Please contact the Farm on 9729 1205 in emergency.
16 th December 1998:	8:00 am College Admin Office staffed.
18 th January 1999	8:00 am Teaching staff resume (School Development day)
27 th January 1999	9:00 am Year 11 Enrolment Day and Orientation.
29 th January 1999:	5:00 pm Year 12 students should return to the College for tea.
31 st January 1999:	NORMAL TIMETABLE.
1 st February 1999	

COLLEGE EMBLEM

When it comes to choosing a College emblem, it appears that the old saying, " you can please some of the people some of the time, but you can't please all of the people all of the time....," is especially true.

From the 9th December through to the 16th December, four different emblems will be placed on the reception counter all in different stages of design. To enable some public consultation, you are invited to inspect these possibilities with each person who requests a say to be given three coloured dots in order to vote for your preferred option. At the end of the school year, based on the opinion of the majority, the Principal will declare the College emblem official.

Finally, I take this opportunity of thanking all staff, students and parents for their continued support of the Harvey Ag College throughout 1998 and wish you all a very happy Christmas and a successful 1999. I look forward to an invitation to the 1999 Graduation Day to observe the successes of every student and to wish Miss Sonia Hueppauff our resident house person, a very enjoyable year off touring the world. Thank you and good luck.

Neale Armstrong
(PRINCIPAL)



CURRICULUM SNIPPETS

We are coming to the end of a great year, but it's been a year of dramatic changes. Much of the change is a result of the colleges split with the town school and with our independence has come the need to evolve a curriculum program which fulfils the needs of our students.

KEY COMPETENCIES

In line with this change is the implementation of the Curriculum Framework document and the key competencies. The vehicle by which students achieve the key competencies is through an outcome - focused approach to the curriculum.

This outcomes focus has already been discussed in previous newsletters and newsheet articles. Basically this new curriculum initiative places the focus on the student. The Curriculum Framework and the outcomes and standards framework provides the college with the structure around which we can establish individual and group programs to ensure that all students optimise their achievement of the outcomes.

TIMETABLE FOR 1999

The current format created difficulties in establishing a cross-curriculum - outcome based approach required in the new curriculum structure. Increased student outcomes through motivation by changing the length of the period, making efficiencies with cross-curriculum assessments, less time in class, study group of enterprise approach and integrating farm and class learning experiences are curriculum priorities in 1999. Much of the student learning will be achieved through "enterprise education".

ENTERPRISE EDUCATION - A DEFINITION

Perhaps the most authoritative definition to the meaning of enterprise is found in the 1989 organisation for economic co-operation and development (OECD) report entitled "Towards an Enterprising Culture - a challenge to education and training", which distinguishes between a 'narrow' definition of enterprise which sees promotion and development of enterprise within education and training systems enabling young people to learn, usually experimentally, about business startup and management. A 'broad' definition of enterprise regards it as a set of qualities and competencies that enables individuals, organisations, communities, societies and cultures to be flexible, creative and adaptable in the face of change. This approach is based on the belief that an enterprise involves using imagination, being creative, taking responsibility, identify ideas, organising for action, making

decisions, managing, dealing and communicating with others, assessing performances and the like in a wide range of living and working contexts.

STUDENT ENTERPRISE CHOICE

Students have been canvassed as to what enterprise projects they wish to be involved with next year. Small groups of 5 - 6 students would choose their enterprise, write a research brief, allocate a budget, program operations, allocate tasks, complete the work, report on either in the written, oral or video form for different audiences, analyse results and make a paper profit and loss statement on completion of the project. The project maybe completed in a 6 months or 12 months period, generally using group work and involving on and off site human and physical resources.

Some examples for student centred enterprises have already been voted on by our students. I have listed them for your perusal.

Plant Production	Animal Production
Citrus	Calf rearing
Table grapes - red globe	Poultry for egg/meat
Wines - grapes	Bees
Floriculture	Feed lot sheep/cattle
Vegetables	Q-lamb/prime lamb
Pasture	Worms
Herbs	Aquaculture
Hydroponics	Pigs
Permiculture	Mushrooms

If parents have some further ideas, please talk them over with your child for next year.

I would like to wish students and parents happy holiday break and we look forward to closely working with them through the improvement in 1999. The Principal Neale Armstrong is going on leave of 12 months and we welcome Steve Watt to the position of Relieving Principal. For staff on leave next year, have a happy break and we will see you on your return.

Jeff Whittock
HOD (Curriculum)



SECOND HAND SHOP - UNIFORMS

A reminder that there is a good range of sizes available at very reduced and reasonable prices.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

At the end of the year it is nice to look at the past achievements and to look forward to the new years plans and expectations. The graduating Year 12 group enjoyed their time spent in the workshops and displayed an average degree of ability and aptitude for the subjects we were able to offer. I have included the results of a survey I conducted at the completion of the year 12 course that indicates the value students believe they are receiving from Design and Tech and the courses they would elect to study if they had to make a choice.

I have conducted a similar survey with my Year 11 Metals Technology class. I am impressed with the current Year 11 students' ability in the workshops and I am anticipating a very good year for 1999.

There are major timetable changes in Design & Tech for 1999 and I am sure the reasons for the changes will be explained elsewhere in this newsletter.

For the first time in a number of years it appears that we will begin 1999 with the same D & T staff as 1998. Mr Bylund will take responsibility for Automotive Workshop and I will teach all Metal and Wood aspects of Building and Construction. Mr Patroni will be seconded to the D & T team for two days per week and will be in charge of the building sections of the B & C course.

Students in Year 12 will again have the opportunity to undertake major projects in Metals and Wood. I encourage parents to discuss this with their sons and daughters and make some decisions about what you would like them to make. Some planning and discussion with you and some design alternatives will be helpful when the students come to draw up their design and cost the project prior to manufacture. With reduced workshop time available in both Metal and Wood it is imperative that project work is underway at the start of the year.

I would like to wish all students and their families a very safe and pleasant holiday period and look forward to meeting you again next year.
David Webster

RESULTS OF YEAR 12 COURSE		
EVALUATION 1998		
METALWORK AND WOODWORK - David Webster		
ITEM	COMMENT	%
Students finding Metalwork and Woodwork enjoyable	A unanimous vote for this item. Most students enjoyed both with emphasis on Metalwork. Woodwork is a big factor for the more "artistic" students.	100
Students considering these items useful for employment	Students all find D and T subjects useful for employment. Metalwork is high on this assessment. Mechanics is low on enjoyment but moderately high on employment potential.	100
Number of students who would choose;		
METAL AND WOOD		52
METAL AND MECHANICS		28
MECHANICS AND WOOD		20

Results are taken from a study group of 25 graduating students in 1998.