

PROSPECTUS, RULES & REGULATIONS

of the

SCHOOLS OF AGRICULTURE

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
PERTH . WESTERN AUSTRALIA

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



PERTH, W. A.

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Minister for Education :

THE HON. W. HEGNEY, M.L.A.

Director of Education :

T. L. ROBERTSON, M.A., PH.D., DIP.ED.



NARROGIN AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL.

NARROGIN is on the Great Southern Railway, 162 miles from Perth, being midway between that city and Albany. It is the most elevated town on the Great Southern Railway (1,114 feet above sea level), and enjoys a healthy climate. The warm summer has characteristically cool nights, and the winter is most invigorating. The school farm (the agricultural wing of the High School) is situated five miles from the township.

The school farm is 2,200 acres of typical mixed farming country. Some hundreds of acres of subterranean clover pastures have been established.



DENMARK AGRICULTURAL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL.

DENMARK is in the centre of a very important dairying area, and its ideal climatic conditions permit of operations being carried on in the cultivation of all types of fodder crops, in fruit growing, dairying, and the development of pastures. The area is particularly suited to the production of stock of all kinds, thus making it possible for the students to receive instruction and practical experience in all branches of animal husbandry. The school has been built beside the main Denmark-Albany road, the Denmark River, close by, affording excellent facilities for aquatic sports. The Denmark Research Station, where extensive work is done on pasture species and soil types, is used for practical farming.



HARVEY AGRICULTURAL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL.

HARVEY is situated in the centre of the State's most extensive irrigation area. A warm climate, coupled with irrigation, makes the area ideally suited to dairying, beef raising, vegetable and citrus growing.

The proximity of drier hill country affords an opportunity for the study not only of permanent pastures, as in the irrigation area, but also of the use of subterranean clover for sheep farming. Extended tours will be made into other areas for aspects of farming not seen in Harvey.

Aim of the Schools

These Schools have been established for the purpose of affording boys in rural districts greater facilities for education, along the lines which will be of most value to them as primary producers. An object of the Schools is thus to produce intelligent farmers of an active, enquiring mind, who are prepared to experiment and make themselves acquainted with modern agricultural trends. Whilst providing a sound general education, they at the same time give an opportunity to acquire technical skill and knowledge in the handicrafts which are so necessary to a man isolated in the country.

The practical work has been arranged to give students the maximum instruction in subjects not taught on the home farm. Part is experimental and technical. The agricultural practice centres on work carried out on the farms, and the technique underlying good husbandry is thus forcibly impressed on the students.

The course extends over two years, the age of admission being from 14 to 17. It aims at equipping the students with the knowledge and skill necessary to make them efficient farmers.

Students are not prepared for external examinations because their work aims at the School Certificate in Agriculture. This Certificate will be issued to those students who complete the full course at the School, pass a satisfactory examination in the subjects prescribed for study, and also satisfy the examiners with regard to their skill in practical work.

Curriculum

The curriculum includes not only the theory and practise of agriculture and its kindred activities, but other subjects which form the basis of a broad general education.

English, social studies and activities such as debating are included mainly for their cultural value, but in the English course commercial correspondence bearing on the operations of farm life is of importance.

Mathematics includes simple arithmetic, but considerable emphasis is placed upon applications to farming. These include farm mensuration, elementary surveying, farm bookkeeping and commercial practice in interest, banking procedures and mortgages.

The instruction in agricultural subjects is extensive and covers the principles of agricultural science, crop production, animal husbandry, veterinary science, fruit growing, sheep, poultry and pig production, farm improvement and rural economics. Power farming is essential in modern life and instruction is available in the types, uses, care and maintenance of modern machinery.

All schools have well equipped workshops and courses are available in woodwork, sheetmetal work, blacksmithing, welding, building construction, concrete work and general repairs to farm equipment.

It is compulsory for students to participate regularly in physical training and recreation. There is a consequent striking development in physique, confidence and poise. Organised sport includes football, cricket, hockey, tennis, athletics and a wide range of indoor games.

Senior Cadet Detachments, on a voluntary basis, have been formed at Narrogin and Denmark.

Students are encouraged to qualify for the St John Ambulance Association Certificate.

General Regulations

Students must attend Field or Class Work as directed by the Headmaster.

The Headmaster may suspend all normal activities in order to cope with rush of work during the harvest or any other busy period.

Each student is required to take turn periodically in all departments of technical and practical work.

Students required to take charge of working horses or other stock must attend where directed at the time appointed. They must attend to such stock during the day and at the conclusion of the day's work, and must at all times treat animals in a humane and careful manner.

On Sundays every student, according to his religious belief, will be expected to attend Divine Worship when such is available within a reasonable distance.

Visitors shall not inspect the School nor attend any meals without permission from the Headmaster.

Leave of absence, except the Holiday Leave provided by the regulations, will be granted only by the Headmaster. Any student leaving without permission will forfeit the right of returning to the School, and also any fees paid.

Smoking is absolutely prohibited.

No student is allowed to bring any horse, dog, or other animal to the Farm.

Students are forbidden to enter the kitchen, laundry, servants' quarters, or any cottage or premises occupied by persons employed on the Farm, except under directions from, or with the permission of, the Headmaster.

Students using tools and failing to return them to their proper places will be held responsible, and any student causing damage to implements, harness, gates, or other property on the Farm and School through carelessness or neglect, will have to make the same good at his own expense ; the amount of damage to be determined by the Headmaster. All such losses or breakages must at once be reported to the Headmaster.

No student will be permitted to enter the orchard unless directed to do so on duty.

Students are cautioned against interfering with any domestic arrangements and finding fault with the staff. Should there be any cause for complaint the matter must be referred to the Headmaster.

Any student who is guilty, either within or without the School or Farm, of profane, immoral, or insubordinate conduct, or who, after admonition, wilfully breaks any of the rules, or persistently neglects his studies, is liable to instant expulsion.

Betting, gambling, and playing games of chance for money render a student liable to dismissal.

The Headmaster will have complete disciplinary control over all students under his charge and the right to dismiss instantly a student for bad conduct, laziness, or inefficiency. In such cases no refund of fees will be made.

The School colours are compulsory for all students.

Health Regulations

No student may absent himself from meals or duty without special permission. In the event of indisposition the Headmaster or House Master must be advised immediately. They will decide whether absence is justified.

If any student is incapacitated by illness and is absent from his work for more than two consecutive days, the Medical Officer will be called in. If he certifies that the student is in a fit condition to be removed he must go home to his parents or guardians, or to hospital, or to some other suitable place, for the purpose of obtaining proper attention.

Although every care will be given to sick students in cases of sudden illness, it must be distinctly understood that the Education Department does not bind itself in any way to provide nursing or medical comforts. Should these be necessary they will be provided by the Headmaster and charged to the parent or guardian.

Owing to amendments in the Federal Hospitals Benefits Act, students, when admitted to hospital, will be charged full rates by the hospital authorities.

This Department strongly recommends that parents become members of some recognized Hospital Benefit Fund. The Insurance Scheme conducted by the Parents and Citizens' Association offers further protection in the event of accident.

Covered by a fee of £1 10s. per annum, minor cases of ordinary or epidemic illness and accident receive medical attention by arrangement between the Education Department acting for the parents, and the local Medical Officer of each School. This fee is not necessarily applicable in all Schools and parents should consult the Headmaster, subsequently advising the Education Department whether they will enrol in the Scheme.

This fee is paid by all students who are not covered by membership of a recognised Hospital Benefit Fund, whether attendance is required or not. Medical Fees may be considered as insurance premiums and, until they are paid each term, students are unable to obtain medical benefits for less than ordinary fees. Each term, parents should make certain that the fees are paid as soon as a student takes up residence at the School.

Payments for medicines, prescribed by the Doctor and dispensed by the Chemist, will be the responsibility of the individual parent, when such prescriptions are not covered by the benefits of the Commonwealth free medical scheme.

Arrangements have been made for free dental examinations.

Unless parents of students notify this Department before the beginning of term that they are members of an approved society for medical benefits, and will take full responsibility for all medical treatment required, the usual full term's school medical fee will be charged.

Conditions of Admission

1. Students are eligible for admission between the ages of 14 and 17 years, provided they have passed the sixth standard in a State school or have reached an equivalent standard elsewhere.

2. Physique and general aptitude for farm work will be considered, in conjunction with the candidate's educational attainments.

3. Each candidate must produce—

(a) satisfactory testimonials, as to character and education from his last teacher, and persons of standing in his district to whom the candidate is personally known. These should give a brief outline of the boy's life, aptitude for farm work and fitness for an agricultural education;

(b) a medical certificate, on the prescribed form, from a duly qualified and registered medical man as to his state of health. Applicants may be required to submit themselves to examination by the School Medical Officer.

4. Parents or guardians of students will be required to give an undertaking that students will at all times conform to the rules and regulations of the School and Farm.

5. Applications for admission will be received up to November 1st in each year.

6. No student will be admitted at any period other than the commencement of the School year.

7. While a preference will be given to the sons of farmers, in the event of there being more applications than vacancies, consideration will also be given to other well-qualified lads.

All applications are placed before a Selection Board, which selects the students.

Outfit

Students must provide themselves with the following minimum outfit :—

✓ 1 best suit, dark grey.	✓ 1 pair shoes for ordinary wear.
✓ 1 woollen pullover (school colours).	✓ 1 boot polishing outfit.
✓ 1 school suit or sports trousers and coat.	2 laundry bags.
✓ 1 school badge, obtainable at the school.	✓ 4 towels.
✓ 1 pair of school trousers.	Underclothes, pyjamas, shirts, socks, handkerchiefs, etc., to last two weeks.
✓ 2 sets working clothes for field work.	✓ 1 dressing gown.
✓ 1 pair dairy overalls, white or khaki.	4 single sheets.
✓ 1 overcoat (warm).	3 pillow cases.
✓ 1 raincoat for outdoor work.	✓ 1 pair blankets.
✓ 1 pair best boots or shoes.	✓ 1 rug.
✓ 1 pair of slippers.	✓ 1 half-pint enamel mug.
✓ 1 pair working boots.	✓ Usual toilet requisites.
	Serviettes and ring.
	✓ 2 pairs shorts.
	✓ 1 pair rubber boots.

Students require a School blazer. These are obtainable on order from the Headmaster; from Parry's, Narrogin; Malone's, Harvey; A. & E. Nicholas, Denmark.

All wearing apparel and linen must be distinctly marked with the name of the student. It is suggested that each student should provide himself with a bedside mat.

Bicycles.—If students possess bicycles, they will find them useful at the School.

The School Year and Course

The course extends over two years.

The School year comprises three terms of fourteen weeks each. The first term commences in February, the second term near the end of May, and the third term approximately about the middle of September.

Students *must* be in residence on the day appointed for the opening of term.

Scholarships

Scholarships of the value of £40 per annum are available to students of country schools who wish to attend the Schools of Agriculture. These are awarded on the recommendation of District Superintendents of Schools and may be extended for a further two years to Scholarship holders who attend Muresk Agricultural College.

Scholarship applications should be made through the Head Teacher of the school the boy is attending at present.

Living Away From Home Allowance

Resident students receive an allowance which is paid to all children who have to live away from home in order to obtain specialized education. Application forms for this allowance will be given to students by the Headmaster.

The allowance will not be deducted from the fees due. The amount approved will be forwarded by cheque after the completion of each term.

Scale of Fees, etc., Payable to Education Department, Perth

(a) *Deposit*.—A deposit of £3 is required, within fourteen days of advice from the School Selection Board that the applicant has been selected for admission to the Schools. This deposit is an acceptance of enrolment and a guarantee by the parent that the contract of admission will be observed. This sum is held in trust by the Treasury and, about three months after the completion of the Course, is refunded subject to the payment of all outstanding commitments. Should any student be withdrawn or expelled from the School before the expiration of his two-year course, the deposit may be estreated at the will of the Hon. the Minister for Education, and any deposit thus estreated shall not be deemed a payment for any outstanding accounts for laundry or breakages.

(b) *Maintenance* is £90 per annum, payable at the commencement of each term.

(c) *Medical Fee*.—A fee of £1 10s. per annum for medical attention by the local medical practitioner is charged. (See Health Regulations.)

New and altered arrangements are now in operation throughout the Commonwealth for Commonwealth Government financial assistance towards the cost of medical treatment.

The Schools' Medical Officers will continue to carry out their agreements as set out in the Prospectus at an annual fee of 30s.

Unless parents of students notify the Department before the beginning of term that they are members of an approved society for medical benefits, and will take full responsibility for all medical treatment required, the usual full term's school medical fee will be charged.

(d) *Laundry*.—Accounts for laundry are rendered four times per year and are as actually incurred by each individual student. On receipt of the account, early payment should be made.

Scale of Fees, etc., Payable Direct to the School

Amenities Fee.—An annual fee of £2 is made to cover expenses in connection with general sport and recreation.

Pocket Money.—No money or valuables should be kept in the students' rooms or dormitories. Banking facilities are provided at the School and parents should send all money to the Headmaster to be banked for the boys. £6 to £8 per term should be ample for all ordinary requirements (camera club; library fees; occasional visits to picture shows; purchase of commodities such as soap, tooth-paste, etc.).

School Books.—These are obtainable at the School and cost approximately 55s. to £4 per year. Students should have the necessary money available when first term commences.

Transport

Transport.—The Education Department does not accept responsibility for transport between the School and the railway or townships. At the beginning and end of each term the students, when they arrive or depart in groups, are given transport to and from the School on the School truck. Should a special car be required, then or at any other time, a charge of 5s. will be made.

Rail Concession Fare.—Students travelling to School for enrolment, travelling during vacation, or returning home at the completion of the course, may obtain tickets at greatly reduced fares providing that, before travelling for enrolment, the necessary signed concession forms are obtained from the Education Department and from the Headmaster for holiday and end of School journeys.

These tickets are issued on the understanding that the journey is made by the most direct route and by the first connecting train at the Junction.

Special permission must be obtained through this Department either to travel by an indirect longer route, or to break the journey in Perth. In the latter case a break of not more than three days after arrival would be permitted.

Notice of Leaving School of Agriculture

If a parent or guardian desires to remove a student from the School, he must give one month's notice in writing to the Education Department. No fees can be remitted for any unexpired portion of a term.

Notice

The Prospectus, Rules and Regulations are published for general information and as a guide to the class of instruction imparted at the Schools of Agriculture, but the Minister reserves to himself the right to alter or vary the same from time to time, as circumstances may require, and is not bound thereby to carry out the full course of instruction in every detail.