



Newsletter

P O Box 496 HARVEY 6220
Ph 97 291302 Fax 97 293 364

Edition 2

March 1999

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

With the first term drawing to a close, I am generally pleased with the way most students have settled in to a new routine at Harvey Agricultural College. A few students have had their share of difficulties and found the college less than tolerant in some cases. No student has an excuse to be still coming to grips with classes, rosters or routines because they have all had exposure to all aspects of the college program. Students will find that next term class work will increase and the expectations for all students will rise. Those students having difficulties will need to discuss issues with their tutorial group leaders in class or residence to ensure students get the most out of what is offered at Harvey.

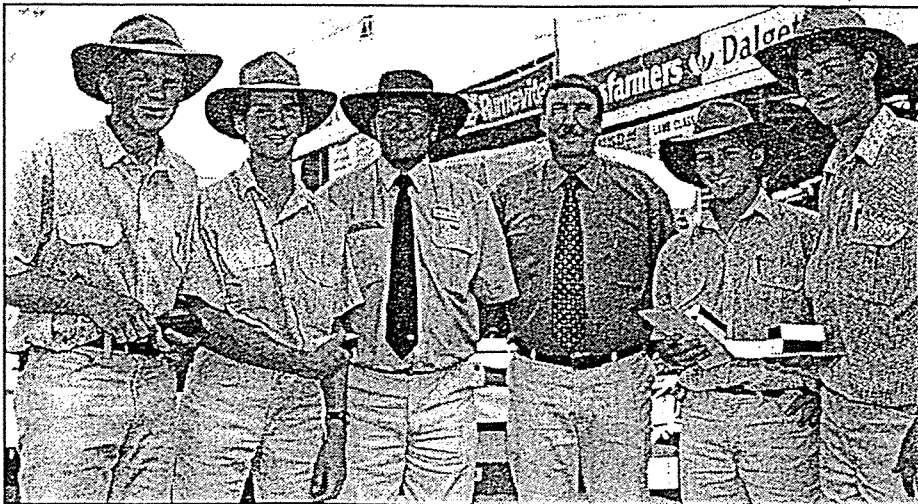
Parents with queries about their son's or daughter's performance are welcome to call the college at any time and speak to the relevant staff member. If you are not sure who that relevant staff member is, start off with me and I can find out for you.

YEAR 11 PARENT SURVEY

Recently I sent a questionnaire to all parents of year elevens in an effort to assist us in improving our service. Please take the time to complete these and return them to me as soon as possible. It is only through this type of feedback from parents that we find out what we are doing right and what we need do better. Your responses can be anonymous or you may like to discuss issues with me at any time.

COMMENDATIONS

Congratulations must go Troy Hornby who won first prize in individual ram judging at Wagin Woolarama earlier this term. Likewise congratulations to Troy Samwell, Jordan Clemons, Troy Hornby and Danny Hartnup for coming first in the team ram judging event. I am very proud that these students who took on a training programme and committed their time were rewarded in a competition that pitted their skills against students from other colleges and the industry. Thank-you also to all the other students who took part and got involved. Despite the fact that they might not have won, their involvement and participation showed that they are serious about taking advantage of opportunities presented.



■LEFT: Harvey may be a region more synonymous with beef cattle but students from Harvey Agricultural College showed their prowess in the Merino judging ring at Wagin Woolarama, capturing their first win in the schools teams junior Merino judging event. At the awards presentation were team members Troy Samwell (left), Jordan Clemons, Wesfarmers Dalgety livestock sales manager Dennis Roberts and Stud Merino Breeders Association president Peter Ralston, who were both major sponsors of the event, and fellow team members Troy Hornby and Danny Hartnup.

ANZAC DAY

The ANZAC day long weekend this year occurs on the first weekend back into term two (Sat 24 - Mon 26 April). Because students would only have been back in residence for one week, to send students home for a closed weekend would be unnecessarily disruptive. Instead it has been decided to work that weekend and Monday 26th April on normal timetable and add the public holiday to the closed weekend in the middle of the term for Foundation Day. Students at the college on Sunday April 25th will have the opportunity to be involved at the Harvey Anzac ceremony. Please check the amended calendar of events to keep up to date and don't hesitate to contact the college if you have any concerns over the timing of events.

DRUGS, ALCOHOL, BULLYING, SEXUAL ACTIVITY

It is timely to remind parents of the types of behaviours that will lead to suspension or expulsion from the college. I would ask parents to be aware of these situations and discuss them with your son or daughter. When a student is suspended it means that they are not behaving in an appropriate manner or are at risk to themselves or other students.

- Students involved in the consumption of alcohol or illegal drug taking or possession of implements for illegal drug taking will be immediately suspended and possibly expelled from the residence.
- Bullying is regarded as an imbalance of power that negatively impacts on another person. Students found to be involved in bullying will be suspended. Ongoing bullying will lead to expulsion.
- Students found to be involved in sexual activity will be suspended and are likely to be expelled from the residence.
- Students found to be absent without leave from the dorms at night or the general residential area are likely to be suspended.

In situations where expulsion is a likely outcome, an exclusion panel will be formed consisting of the school psychologist, Principal and another non-involved adult to ensure that the student is treated fairly and without staff personalities having an impact.

SCHOOL DECISION MAKING GROUP

In the first newsletter of the year I invited interested parents to form part of a college decision making group. This group will have a real influence in procedures around the college and is an opportunity for parents to become involved in assisting with the development of college policy. I would like to hold an initial meeting to discuss how the group will be made up and how it would function in relation to other groups at the college. If you are interested in being part of this group the meeting will be at 4.00pm Sunday 18th April and following the meeting you are welcome to stay for tea. Please RSVP to the college to assist with catering and photocopying purposes.

INTERIM REPORTS AND AFTERNOON TEA ON LAST DAY

On Thursday 1st April at 2.15pm parents are invited to an afternoon tea and the opportunity to meet with individual staff members to discuss the performance of their son or daughter. Interim reports will be handed out to parents which will give an outline of student performance and discussions with individual staff will enable parents to get a much better picture of how well their son or daughter is progressing at Harvey.

HARVEY RTO PROCESS

Many parents would be aware that we are currently going through the process to become a Registered Training Organisation in conjunction with the other residential agricultural colleges. RTO status enables schools to deliver, assess and certify nationally recognised qualifications which give far better recognition for the skills and competencies students have developed. Our plan is that by the end of this year, students will have the opportunity of graduating with Certificate II from the agriculture training package. It is also our intention that from 2000, year elevens will work towards Certificate II general (a range of farm industry areas) and year twelves will be able to specialise in an area of interest and work towards Certificate II in that specific industry area.

The advantage of students achieving nationally recognised qualifications is that the qualifications are valid all around Australia and they also link with further training at TAFE and other institutions.

This year students are also developing competencies in the Design and Technology areas that integrate with apprenticeships. This means that students will be given recognition for competencies gained at school which will count towards certain apprenticeships. Not only will this give our students a greater chance of employment, but they should receive time off their apprenticeship in recognition of competencies they have already developed.

FOOD SERVICE ASSESSMENT

Deb Brealey (BSc Grad Dip Diet) a nutritionist and recently a member of the Southern Public Health Unit (Health Department of WA) visited the College for a day and produced a detailed 'food service assessment report'. She saw the meals for the day being prepared and served and also conducted a thorough investigation of the equipment, facilities and menus. The Assessment Summary is reproduced below for your information.

ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

The menu provides a good variety of food types and textures. The diversity of meats, fruits and vegetables used on the menu is exceptional. Students are provided with adequate meal options, and there is ample opportunity for eating outside of set meal times. Nutrient requirements are met, though ideally meat serves should be slightly decreased, balanced by an increase in vegetable serves. There is the opportunity to further refine the menu by reducing the fat and salt, and increasing the fibre content of some of the ingredients used to produce the meals.

The kitchen staff are very aware of hygiene issues in the work environment. Staff personal hygiene is of a high standard. There are some structural issues that should be dealt with and policies and procedures to be initiated.

In summary, the menu and kitchen environment are sound. Several small changes to current practices will result in an excellent food service. I have provided suggestions to help you achieve this, and am available to work through these with you, if desired. It is very encouraging that the college staff are committed to providing their students with tasty, nutritious and hygienic food.

The small changes to current practices offered to in the final paragraph of the summary include reducing the amount of meat offered, increasing the vegetable serves, offer margarine instead of or as well as butter, use low fat/low salt products and ensure soup is not offered too often during the summer menu.

The freezer temperatures are required to be below -18°C and on the day in question the upright freezer recorded -18°C , the chest freezer -17°C and the walk in freezer -19°C . The dishwasher temperature gauge was out of order at the time of assessment but this has been addressed since.

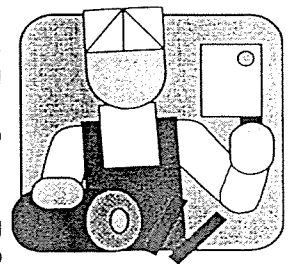
At the moment our summer menu is in operation ie. meals are planned in 4 week blocks so at the end of week 4 it starts at the beginning of week 1 again. As the weather changes a winter menu will be in place.

Stephen Watt Principal

HARVEY AG SLAUGHTERING/MEAT PROCESSING

Harvey Ag Slaughtering/Meat Processing section is currently working closely with E.G. Green & Sons export beef abattoir and processing works in the training and employment of Harvey Ag College students. This Industry/College liaison is working extremely well with twelve Yr 11 students and eleven Yr 12 students registering interest in the Meat Industry. I am pleased to report a further College/Industry Training and Employment arrangement with Fletcher International Sheep Processors and Exporters W.A.

Because Fletcher International has RTO status, Harvey Ag Slaughtering/Meat Processing Section can now deliver and assess the Mintrac Modules giving our students the opportunity to achieve the Certificate Meat Processing. Both E G Green & Sons and Fletcher International have shown a strong interest in employing graduates who have completed our Meat Processing Course.



CURRICULUM COMMENTS

Since our first newsletter in February, students and staff have been involved in the process of getting down to the core curriculum aspects for all their subjects. Most students are enjoying the program and they are involved in a variety of enterprises for Plant and Animal Production.

ENTERPRISE OPTIONS

In Animal Production and Marketing students have selected their two (2) enterprise choices from the following

- Calf rearing
- Poultry and egg laying
- Beef feedlot
- Q-lamb
- Aquaculture
- Pigs for breeding and meat

Students in their groups outline what aspects they wish to consider in their chosen area, design a trial, collect financial and physical records and compile and report outlining their conclusion and recommendations.

A great advantage from the technique is that the cross curricular links minimise the repetition of similar assignments ie. Management and Marketing, Vocational English, Maths in Practice and Farm Practice all have a direct link to the enterprise, where a number of teachers are able to use the one item of student work. A definite bonus to our students.

EXCURSIONS

To enable students the opportunity to appreciate a large scale operation students have already made visits to several off-site businesses. The information from these excursions is invaluable for students as a basis for achieving the outcomes and incorporating in the assessment tasks.

Kevin Armstrong from Bengier has a successful buying and selling cattle operation. Annually he would turn over 3000 - 4000 head, with many shipped live to Indonesia and the Middle East. To alleviate the down turn in the beef industry Mr Armstrong initiated an ovum implantation operation where he supplies the surrogate cows. Clients bring their eggs along for implantation with Mr Armstrong rearing the young. After weaning they are returned to the owner.

We also visited Phil & Sue Hall's dairy operation recently. Two key areas discussed were succession estate planning and deregulation of the dairy industry. Already one of our Yr 11 students, Scott Bolton has found weekend work with the Hall's.

FARM TO PLATE TOUR

Twenty nine Year 12 students under the guidance of Mr Whittock, Ms Sim, Mr Taylor and Mr Devenish completed a successful metropolitan tour recently. Highlights of the visit were the tour of Market City, Agriculture WA, Peters Browns, Casa Dairy Products, Aquaculture and Custom Composts.

In summary students visited 7 different industries in the two days, saw two films and drove about 500 kms. The main theme espoused by all speakers was the requirement for safe food; the need for HACCP and the requirements for SQF 2000.

The bottom line, being that if the producer or processor doesn't Quality Assure then their product will not be sold in many of the major supermarkets.



INTERIM REPORT

Staff have passed some judgments on students in their interim reports. If you have any concerns or just a positive reply, please ring the appropriate subject teacher. The interim report is a very good indicator of success. It also aids in making parents aware of at risk students and the need for strategies that will assist a child's learning. If you have any concerns please ring me during work hours on 97291302.

Jeff Whittock HOD Curriculum



RESIDENTIAL UPDATES

We are nearing the end of a very busy term which has included such major events as the Yr 11 team building camp, sheep judging at Narrogin, Wagin Woolorama, Farm to Plate Tour and the Sports Carnival.

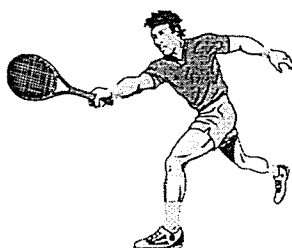
Term one in any new school is always an exhausting one coming to terms with the new situations, rules, expectations and warmer weather. When we add the major/special events as well it's not surprising that students (and staff) are feeling weary and looking forward to the holidays.

I believe quite a lot has been achieved this term and hopefully some wrinkles ironed out. As always there is room for improvement and we will continue to work in those areas to make our school environment a healthy and pleasant one.

Mr Watt said in his initial 'words of wisdom' at the beginning of the year that this would be a three way process - parents, staff and students and I have appreciated the cooperation I've received so far. We are all concerned with enabling our young people to achieve at the highest level they can socially as well as educationally and if we all work together we have a better chance of reaching that goal. Have a happy and safe holiday.

AUTUMN SPORTS CARNIVAL

Students performed well at the recent 'carnival' held in Narrogin. Harvey teams were very competitive and the fact that we finished runner up reflects this. Narrogin won the 'shield' with 44 points and Harvey came second with 38 points. Individual honours were won by our students in netball: Cain Davidson - fairest and best and Marie Clarke - shared in runner up fairest and best.



LAUNDRY REQUESTS

Could parents please check all articles of winter clothes and tracksuits which are coming to the College to be clearly labelled with names or laundry number.

Allen Isaac Residential Supervisor

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

\$1000 AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE SUBSIDY

Forms will be sent to parents during Term 2. Once parents have signed and returned forms to the College, Centrelink will check records on behalf of the Education Department to verify eligibility.

Any student not receiving Austudy at the Away from Home rate or Isolated Childrens Allowance should be eligible for the \$1000 Ag College Subsidy.

(Families who receive **Austudy at the Away from Home rate or Isolated Childrens Allowance** will be eligible for the \$600 Boarding Away from Home Allowance - Forms should have been forwarded to these families by Centrelink).

YOUTH ALLOWANCE CAPS

Changes to Proof of Enrolment for Youth Allowance

The College has recently been advised there is no longer the requirement for continuing secondary students on Youth Allowance to provide proof of enrolment. This does not apply to new claimants who will still need to provide proof of enrolment as part of the Youth Allowance claim procedures.

Margaret Angel Registrar

YEAR 12 WORK EXPERIENCE

31st May - 4th June

All Yr 12 students will be able to do work experience for the week 31st May to 4th June.

I will ask students for their thoughts and plans for work experience on week 1 of 2nd term.

I would invite parents to discuss the work experience with their children who can indicate any specific employers to be considered.

Thank you for your cooperation.

David Webster TIC Design and Technology

FARM REPORT

As the end of first term draws to a close one looks at how quick the term has gone, and what achievements the students have achieved.

Firstly, for most of the Yr 12's it did not take long for the students to realise that extra responsibilities for their own performance were required not only on the farm but at all times. With the Yr 11's even though a large percentage of them had attended as 'try outs' working in a more consistent practical work mode was a new experience.

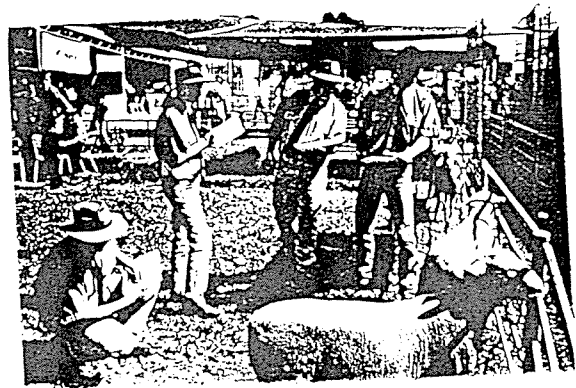
Within a couple of weeks, training the students in the art of cattle and sheep judging was commenced on site. This was supplemented with extra training out of school hours and included visits to various outside stud properties. Some of these visits were optional and some compulsory. All students were invited to compete in all the junior judging competitions at the Wagin Woolorama. In some classes there was only restricted numbers of competitors allowed to compete. This necessitated some inhouse selection of students. As I mentioned to all of our students 'all were winner' because they were learning added skills and if they actually won then this was a bonus. All students performed creditably with our 'Harvey No 1' team winning the Junior Ram Judging competition inter Agricultural College competitions.

Our number 1 team included Troy Hornby and Troy Samwell both from Bridgetown, Danny Hartnup from Capel and Jordon Clemons from Bunbury who all came home with extra money in their pocket as well as individual trophies. Troy Hornby doing extra well gaining the highest individual score in the inter College division. Congratulations one and all.

This term sees additional assessments in all sections of the farm. The additional assessments include competency assessment in the national training package in Agriculture and some units in Horticulture and the National Meat Industry Mintrac unit. This is as well as the Curriculum Council subject Farm Practice and Structured Work Place Assessment.

It has been a long dry summer and most stock are now receiving supplementary feeding of either hay, silage, haylage and or grain. This year we had no rain damage to our export grapes so have had a good clearance of them. To obtain the best value for them we had to change our marketing strategy and this meant we have been bagging small amounts of grapes individually into 8.2kilo boxes which increased returns by up to 50 cents a kilo. Mr Foster reports that the Imperial Mandarin crop looks promising and is disappointed that he is not to be around at picking time. He starts his long service leave on the first of April and we look forward to his safe return at the end of July. Mr Robins and Mr Trigwell also commence their long service leave during second term. Mr Bolton is getting married at the end of April so we wish one and all, the best in their vacations. We all wish the students an enjoyable vacation so that we all can eagerly look forward to a busy and fruitful term with lots of best personal achievements.

Paul Egerton-Green Farm Supervisor



Harvey Agricultural College

TERM TWO, 1999

CALENDAR

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| April 19 th College commences 8:00 am | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 ANZAC DAY |
| 26 | 27 Harvey P.S Watt 1pm | 28 | 29 | 30 | May 1 st | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 ADVISORY MEETING 10 AM | 6 SOUTH WEST CAREERS EXPO | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 "Q LAMB VISIT" | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 NEWSLETTER | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 FARMER'S DINNER | 29 YR 12 WORK | 30 EXPERIENCE TRYOUT 5PM |
| 31 YR 12 WORK TRYOUTS | JUNE 1 EXPERIENCE | 2 | 3 Yr 11 students depart at 3:00 | 4 Day in lieu of Anzac Day Community Booking G/Retreat 4-6/6 | 5 CLOSED WEEKEND | 6 |
| 7 FOUNDATION DAY HOLIDAY | 8 Staff Development Day | 9 Students return 8 am CHEMICAL | 10 USERS | 11 COURSE YR 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE | 19 | 20 TRYOUTS |
| 21 TRYOUTS | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 REPORTS POSTED | 26 | 27 COUNTRYWEEK |
| 28 COUNTRYWEEK | 29 | 30 AIMNG FOR RTO BY NOW | JULY 1 st | 2 STUDENTS DEPART 3:00 | 3 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS | 4 |



How is this managed?

The Education Department of Western Australia and the WA Department of Training formed an alliance in 1997 to streamline support services for students moving from the education and training environment to the world of work. Our school supports this initiative by working with local organisations called Joblinks who deliver the School Leaver Program in our community. These organisations receive funding from the WA Department of Training.

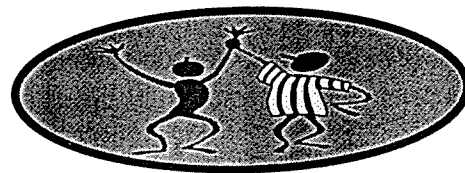
How does it work?

The local Joblink organisation contacts the school during August/September and conducts a survey of all Year 10, 11 & 12 students to see what they hope to do the following year. As part of this survey, your child will be given details of the Joblink organisation so that they can contact staff for more information regarding career choices, further training or employment guidance. The following year, Joblink staff will contact those school leavers who have not found a placement to offer employment and training assistance. As part of the 1998 School Leaver Program survey, it was identified that over 30% of Year 10 & 11 students were considering leaving school in 1999 who could benefit from this service.

The **School Leaver Program** assists school leavers to make the important move from school to work by providing guidance and advice on a wide range of employment, further education and training options. The program is funded through *Access All Areas*, a State Government Youth Initiative of the Western Australian Department of Training, working in partnership with the Education Department of Western Australia. *See information sheet attached

The forms of assistance available to school leavers include;

- ◆ Job Search & interview tips
- ◆ Career advice
- ◆ Resumes
- ◆ Training options - including information about apprenticeships and traineeships
- ◆ Work experience placements



Parental Support

Today's world of work is changing and both the Government and schools recognise that parents play a major role in assisting their children to make the career choice that is right for them. The School Leaver Program seeks to support you in this role by providing relevant advice and information to help you and your child make these decisions. To provide this service, we need to have your cooperation for your child to participate in the program. However, if you wish, you do have the option to decline the services offered to your child by simply completing the tear-off below and returning it to the school.

SCHOOL LEAVER PROGRAM **SCHOOL:** _____

NAME: _____ YEAR: _____

NAME: _____ YEAR: _____

I do not wish my child(ren) named above to be included in the School Leaver Program.

SIGNATURE: _____ Parent/Guardian

Further information about the School Leaver Program can be obtained by contacting Ms Chris Farley on (08) 92356208.