

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2024



# From the Principal

I would like to acknowledge the land on which we learn, Nyoongar Ballardong country and pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging in our journey toward reconciliation.

2024 was yet again another year of student achievements and success, for which all of our Year 11 and 12 students should be very proud. Our results year-in-year-out speak for themselves, and our College continues to prepare our graduates for employment, apprenticeship, training or university pathways, as they are highly sought after by industry and employers.

Some of our notable achievements include (but not limited to):

- *Finalist WA Education Awards – Excellence in Teaching and Learning (Secondary)*
- *45 Certificate III Qualifications successfully attained*
- *42% of students attained at least one (1) Certificate III Qualification each*
- *The average number of full qualifications attained per graduating student in 2024 was 4.31 each*
- *98% of all Year 12 students attained a minimum of X3 full Qualifications each*
- *One student graduated with a total of seven (7) Certificate II and III Qualifications, with three (3) students attaining six (6) full qualifications each*
- *100% achievement rates for Certificate III Pork Production, Certificate III Advanced Wool Handling and Certificate II Furniture Making*

- *2023 SCSA Awards:*

- ◊ *Kayla de Villiers—Certificate of Merit*

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2024. I wish you all the best in your future pathways and I have no doubt you will all make a valuable contribution to the agriculture and allied industries for many years to come.

*Jonathon Arnott, A/Principal*





# 2024 Highlights



## Finalists

Excellence in  
teaching and learning (secondary)

# WA Education Awards 2024

# School Pathways and Transition

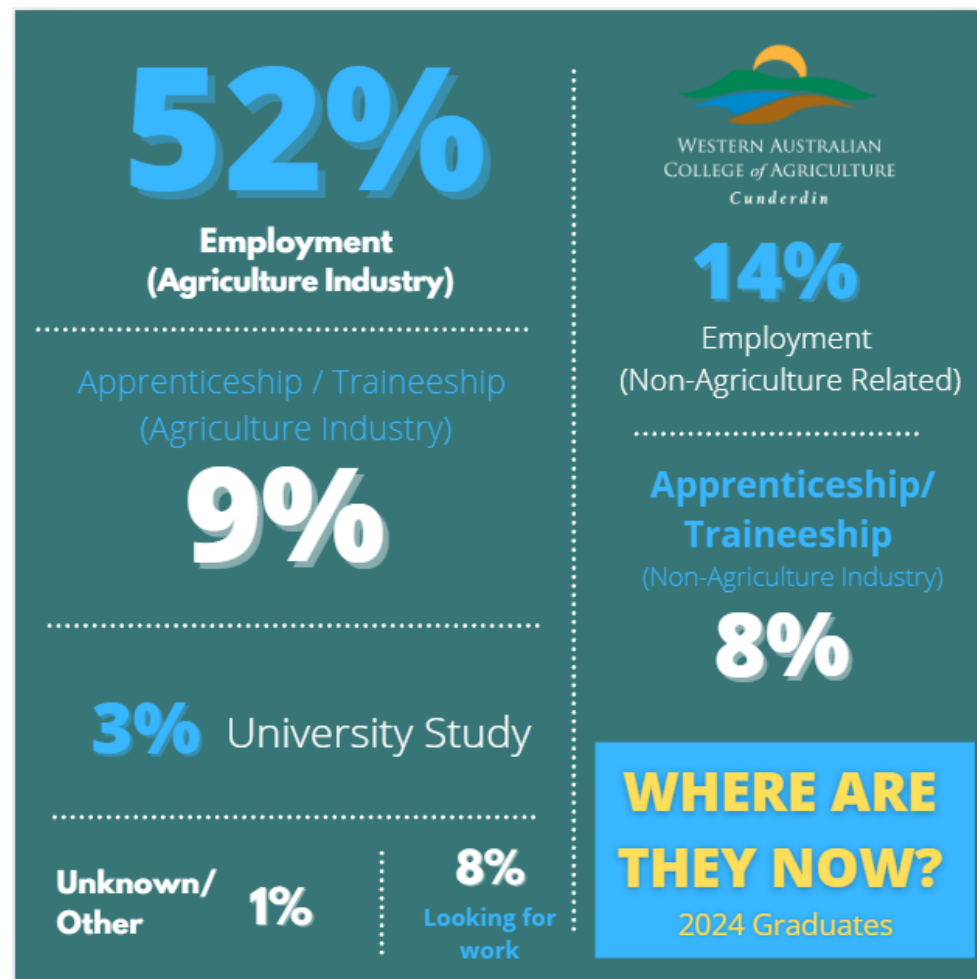
## Retention

2024 saw 4 out of 68 students (6%) in the graduating cohort depart school early for an apprenticeship or full-time employment, compared to 11% in 2023. The college has embedded a number of strategies to address retention concerns that were at their peak in 2021 (19%), which occurred during COVID and workforce supply issues that captured many students to return to the family farm, or take on apprenticeship opportunities created by industry to address staffing concerns. The college is pleased to see a downward trend to post-COVID retention statistics.

6 YEAR SUMMARY TABLE School: WA COL OF AGRI - CUNDERDIN (4201)						
STUDENT NUMBERS						
Number of students						
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
School Semester 2 Census	64	61	63	60	60	62
School Semester 1 Census	65	67	66	67	67	63
Students reported to SCSA	65	65	63	61	62	63
Students in the cohort	68	71	76	73	69	68
Alternative pathways (Students in the cohort)						
Year 11 repeat						
Left school – NOA	4	8	11	11	6	5
Left school – other verified				1	2	1
Left school – unverified			2	2		
Total (%)	4 (6%)	8 (11%)	13 (17%)	14 (19%)	8 (12%)	4 (6%)

## Post-School Transition

The College is renowned for exceptional, ongoing post-school transition outcomes. Our data indicates that 91% of our 2024 graduates have successfully transitioned into employment, apprenticeships, or university study as of February 2025. 61% of graduates are currently working in the agriculture industry or completing an agriculture-related apprenticeship or traineeship. Employment on farms and mechanic-based apprenticeships continue to be popular pathway choices for graduates.





# WACE Attainment

## 2024 WACE Analysis

WACE attainment rates remain high at the College, with 92% of Year 12 students achieving WACE in 2024, remaining consistent with 2023 attainment. The College’s WACE attainment was slightly lower than that of Like Schools (93%) but greater than the State average (90%). The continuation of Learning Area SAER reviews and referrals to Student Services has assisted by identifying students at educational risk across multiple areas of the College and providing support in areas of need.

## 2024 Highlights

- 92% of Year 12 students achieved WACE in 2024 63 students (maintained from 2023 where attainment was 92%)
- 100% of students meet C grade requirements (increased from 98% in 2023).
- 100% of students meet the English competency requirement (increased from 98% in 2023).
- 98% of students completed at least 3 Certificate II qualifications

## 2024 Challenges

8% of Year 12 (5 students) did not achieve meet all 2 OLN standards (did not achieve WACE as a result). These 5 students met all other WACE requirements. All students achieved Band 3 in at least 1 strand and Band 2 in at least 3 strands.

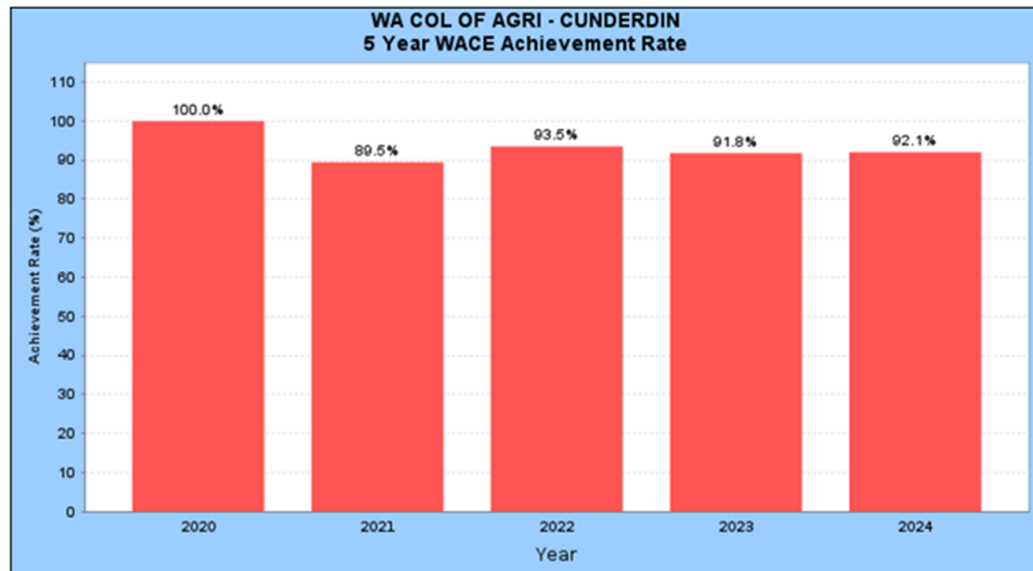
## Future Focus

Improving the literacy and numeracy skills of students continues to be a focus through additional EA support, targeted intervention programs and access to OLN support subscriptions. The College will also continue to focus on identifying SAER students earlier within Learning Areas and providing earlier intervention to reduce the number of students referred to Student Services.

*Kelsey Berbari, Associate Principal*

83% of parents surveyed in 2024 ‘Agree’ or ‘strongly agree’ that “I am satisfied with the

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION (WACE)						
Number of Students Eligible for WACE: count (%) Source: SCSA data files						
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
School	63 (93%)	61 (86%)	62 (82%)	57 (78%)	59 (86%)	62 (91%)
Like Schools	78%	79%	71%	85%	77%	86%
State	69%	68%	64%	70%	70%	65%
WACE Achievement Rate: count (% of eligible students) Source: SCSA data files						
School (WACE eligible)	58 (92%)	56 (92%)	58 (94%)	51 (89%)	59 (100%)	62 (100%)
Like Schools (%)	93%	91%	92%	90%	92%	88%
Public Schools (%)	90%	90%	89%	89%	89%	89%
School (Cohort)	58 (85%)	56 (79%)	58 (76%)	51 (70%)	59 (86%)	62 (91%)



overall standard of education achieved at this school”.

# ATAR Review

## 2024 ATAR Review

In 2024, we had eleven (11) Year 12 students completing full pathway, up from eight (8) students in 2023 and five (5) in 2022. Our students take four (4) courses: English (ATAR), Mathematics Applications, Plant Production Systems (ATAR) and Animal Production Systems (ATAR). With the cessation of PPS and APS in the ATAR space, our incoming Year 11 student are studying Agricultural Science and Technology (ATAR) and Agribusiness (ATAR) in their place. The engagement in course materials is supported by practical investigations, excursions to industry and tertiary institutions. The 2024 Year 11 group remained strong throughout the year, finishing with 13 students.

## 2024 Highlights

- One student awarded Certificates of Merit
- Increased numbers in Year 11 ATAR (13 students)
- Staff with experience teaching ATAR plus international recruit in English with extensive expertise
- Industry and tertiary institution visits of high quality and relevance to students
- Links to farm through scientific investigations (APS and PPS) and practical applications
- Successful introduction of Agricultural Science and Technology and Agribusiness courses

## 2024 Challenges

- Large percentage of students attaining an ATAR score of <55
- Students not utilising pathway for university entrance and hence not placing value on the final outcome
- Supporting study time in a busy and varied school schedule
- ATAR student's desire to engage in additional Vocational and extra-curricular programs (substantial study load), limited by current WACE requirement structures

85% of students Agree and Strongly Agree that 'My school gives me opportunities to do interesting things'

## Future Focus

- Increasing students participating in after-hours study
- Private study and wellbeing sessions for Year 12 support
- Introduction of new ATAR courses to Year 11: Agricultural Science and Technology and Agribusiness
- Ongoing training of staff
- Review and update the college 'ATAR Improvement Plan'

Sarah Aynsley, Head of Curriculum

AUSTRALIAN TERTIARY ADMISSIONS RANK (ATAR)						
ATAR Participation Rate: count (%) Source: SCSA data files and Department calculations						
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
School count (% Cohort)	11 (16%)	8 (11%)	5 (7%)	9 (12%)	11 (16%)	10 (15%)
Difference From Expected			-6%	-3%	-4%	-6%
School (% WACE eligible)	17%	13%	8%	16%	19%	16%

ATAR performance – count of students (% of ATAR students)						
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
99+						
90-98.95						
80-89.95	1 (9%)	1 (13%)	1 (20%)			2 (20%)
70-79.95		1 (13%)	1 (20%)	2 (22%)	2 (18%)	1 (10%)
55-69.95	1 (9%)	1 (13%)	1 (20%)	4 (44%)	2 (18%)	3 (30%)
<55	9 (82%)	5 (63%)	2 (40%)	3 (33%)	7 (64%)	4 (40%)





# OLNA Review

## 2024 OLNA Review

Of our eligible students, 92% passed the necessary Numeracy and Literacy standards to achieve their WACE. The number of students achieving success in the Reading component remained the same at 98%, with the Writing component remaining at 97%, and the Numeracy attainment decreasing to 95%. Overall, student OLNA attainment remains very high.

## 2024 Highlights

- High level of success for our Year 12 cohort
- Common goal amongst staff to achieve positive OLNA outcome for students
- EA support in the GEN3 classrooms
- Tracking of students via tiered support document and regular learning area reviews

## 2024 Challenges

- Student buy-in for small group withdrawal
- EA funding and training to support group work
- Uptake of in-class delivery to support those with low level literacy skills

## Future Focus

- Further development of programs to assist learners in the classroom space whilst also providing small group withdrawal with EA support to focus on specific skills.

*Sarah Aynsley, Head of Curriculum*

*83% of students surveyed in 2023 'Agree' or 'Strongly Agree' that teachers expect me to do my best; This was supported by staff with 81% also rating this in the top two categories.*

ONLINE LITERACY AND NUMERACY ASSESSMENTS (OLNA)						
WACE: Literacy and numeracy standard – Number of students who met the standard: count (%) Source: SCSA data files						
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Literacy and numeracy requirement met WACE eligible	58 (92%)	57 (93%)	58 (94%)	52 (91%)	59 (100%)	62 (100%)
Number of students who met the standard: count (%) Source: SCSA data files						
Reading						
School (WACE eligible)	62 (98%)	60 (98%)	59 (95%)	54 (95%)	59 (100%)	62 (100%)
School (Cohort)	62 (91%)	62 (87%)	60 (79%)	59 (81%)	61 (88%)	62 (91%)
Writing						
School (WACE eligible)	61 (97%)	59 (97%)	58 (94%)	53 (93%)	59 (100%)	62 (100%)
School (Cohort)	61 (90%)	61 (86%)	59 (78%)	58 (79%)	61 (88%)	62 (91%)
Numeracy						
School (WACE eligible)	60 (95%)	59 (97%)	59 (95%)	54 (95%)	59 (100%)	62 (100%)
School (Cohort)	60 (88%)	61 (86%)	60 (79%)	59 (81%)	61 (88%)	62 (91%)



# Vocational Education and Training

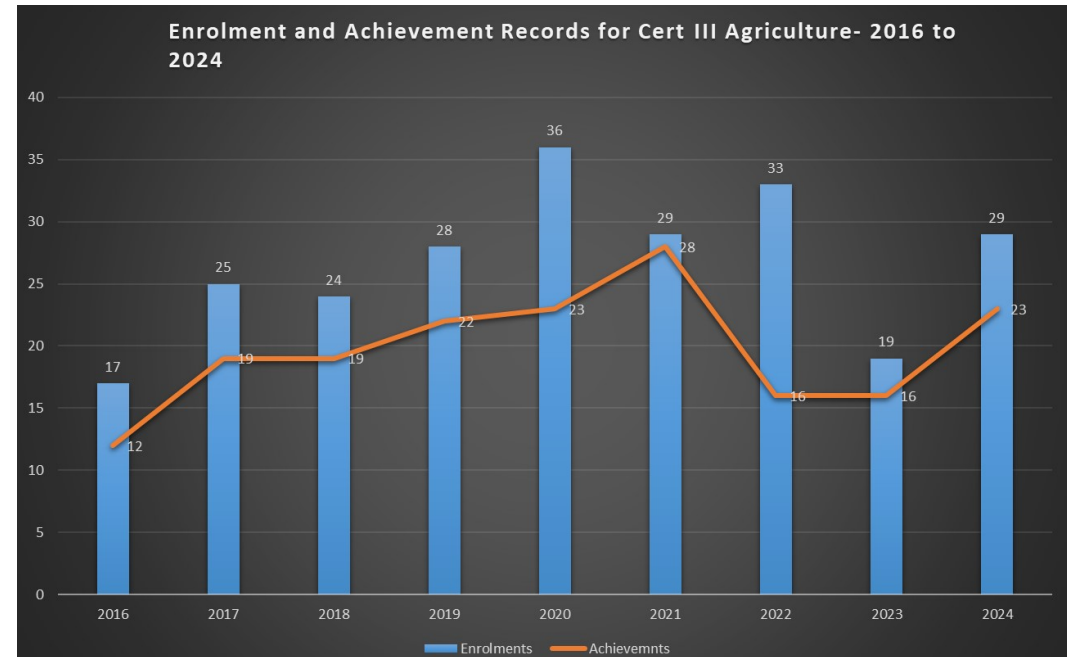
## 2024 VET Report

Cunderdin Agricultural Colleges' Registered Training Organisation (RTO-50505) has built up an excellent reputation in Vocational Education and Training for preparing young men and women to go into the work force. The College ensures an on-going commitment to making sure that training and learning programs reflect changing trends and emerging technologies in both the agricultural and trades fields.

The VET results achieved by students at Cunderdin Agricultural College in 2024 were again solid and in total, sixty-four (64) graduating Year twelves achieved 276 Certificates. Congratulations to all the students for their terrific achievements, and equally, many thanks to the training staff that have supported the students to realize their learning goals.

## 2024 Highlights

- 100% achievement of enrolled students in Certificate II in Furniture Making Pathways
- 100% achievement of enrolled students in Certificate III in Pork Production
- 100% achievement of enrolled students in Certificate III in Advanced Wool Handling
- 98% achievement of enrolled students in Certificate II in Engineering Pathways
- 96% achievement of enrolled students in Certificate II in Construction Pathways
- 95% achievement of enrolled students in Certificate II in Agriculture
- 86% achievement of enrolled students in Certificate II in Automotive Vocational Preparation
- 79% achievement of enrolled students in Certificate III in Agriculture
- 78% achievement of enrolled students in Certificate II in Wool handling
- 1 student achieved 8 Certificates (Isaac Childs awarded VET Dux for his achievements).
- 3 students achieved 7 Certificates.
- 10 students achieved 6 Certificates.
- The average number of full qualifications attained per graduating student in 2024 was 4.31.
- The % of total Year 12 graduating students who attained a Cert III (Ag/Pork/Advanced Wool handling) = 42%





# Vocational Education and Training

## Analysis of the 2024 VET data (Trades and Farm)

The Trades area qualification achievement rates were very sound once again, reaffirming a consistently strong trend in terms of achievement over many years. Achievement rates for Furniture Making Pathways and Engineering Pathways being the standouts with 100% and 98% respectively. Similarly, the quality of work projects produced by the students in the Trades sections is to be commended.

On Farm, the overall achievement rate for Certificate II in Agriculture in 2024 was 95% with 3 students out of the 64 graduates not achieving the full Certificate. Certificate II in Wool handling results (78%) were down a bit from previous years' trends and an achievement rate of 41% was recorded for Certificate II in Shearing. The lower achievement rate for shearing is not altogether uncommon in certain years, and there seems to be some correlation with larger shearing group sizes and lower achievement rates. For instance, in 2021 there were 20 students enrolled in shearing with 55% achieving. This is in direct contrast to 2022 (9 students- 100% achievement), and 2023 (15 students- 80% achievement). I think we also need to appreciate that learning to shear sheep is not the easiest thing to do and the benchmark standard for an individual (novice) to achieve the

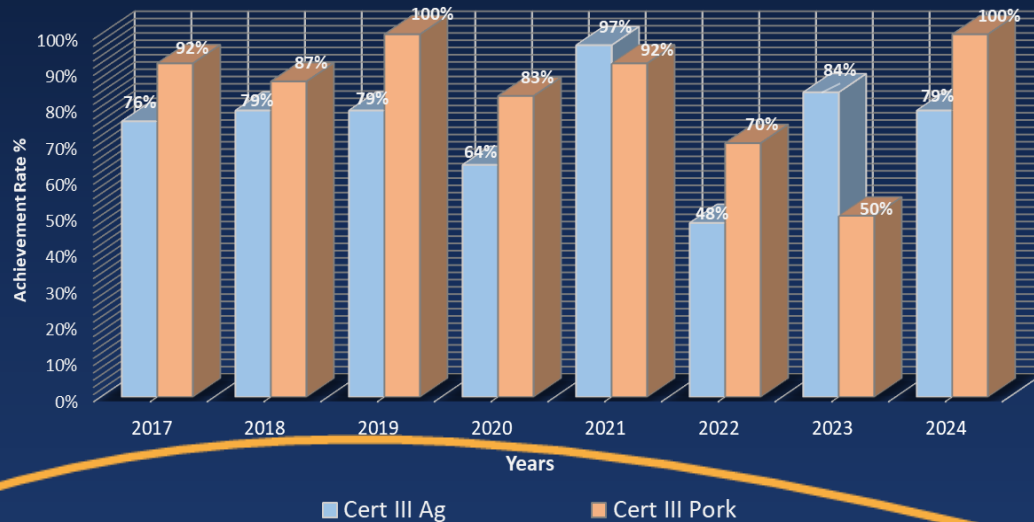
Certificate II in Shearing requires them to be able to competently shear either 40 adult merinos or 50 adult crossbred sheep in one day. Additionally, over many years, Cunderdin Agricultural College students with a strong passion for shearing have performed extremely well gaining considerable success in organised state and national shearing events and country show competitions. I would also like to make special mention of retiring sheep/wool trainer Wayne Laird for his excellent contribution to training generations of Cunderdin Agricultural College students spanning nearly 30 years in teaching them how to manage and class sheep, become wool handlers and shear.

## 2024 Challenges

One of the main issues presently facing our RTO is replacement of qualified staff for both Trades and Farm enterprise positions. In this current job market, it is obviously very hard to attract qualified training staff to smaller country centres. Some of the reasons for this may include the following:

- Salary (competing with other employers who offer higher wages)
- Recognition of qualifications (level progressions) *i.e.*, farm trainers starting on low level salary packages- also linked to achievement of Cert IV in Training and Assessment credential before next level progression.
- A lack of suitable accommodation (including family residences) at the college and in town.

Comparative Achievement Rates: Cert III Ag and Cert III Pork Production 2017-2024



# Vocational Education and Training

<b>VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VET)</b>						
VET Participation Rate (count; enrolled in VET as % of Cohort) Source: Department data						
	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
School VET enrolments	64 (94%)	63 (89%)	65 (86%)	62 (85%)	63 (91%)	63 (93%)
Funded VET students		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Level of highest qualification achieved (of VET enrolled students)						
Diploma						
Certificate IV						
Certificate III	27 (42%)	20 (32%)	19 (29%)	28 (45%)	25 (40%)	25 (40%)
Certificate II	37 (58%)	40 (63%)	45 (69%)	29 (47%)	34 (54%)	37 (59%)
Certificate I						
No certificate completed		3 (5%)	1 (2%)	5 (8%)	4 (6%)	1 (2%)
Students with more than one qualification (% of VET enrolments)						
3+ qualifications	63 (98%)	60 (95%)	62 (95%)	55 (89%)	56 (89%)	62 (98%)
2 qualifications	1 (2%)		1 (2%)	2 (3%)	3 (5%)	
Endorsed programs unit equivalents achieved						
Number	252	155	126	199	195	



# Trade Training Centre

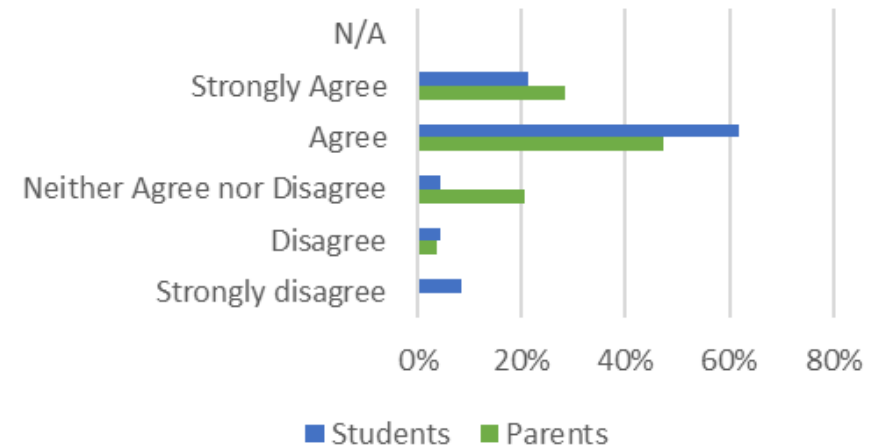
## 2024 Trade Training Centre Review

The Trade Department continues to deliver outstanding outcomes for students in 2024, with a 96% success rate. A total of 146 Certificate II qualifications were completed across Automotive, Construction, Engineering, and Furnishing disciplines. This great result reflects our ongoing commitment to maintaining high standards and supporting student success.

## 2024 Highlights

- This year, we achieved excellent certificate completion rates, with only two students not completing their certificates—a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students and staff.
- Trade Tours continue to play a pivotal role in connecting students with the industry, offering them valuable insights into potential career paths. This year, students had the opportunity to visit prominent sites such as Bruce Rock Engineering, Mader, and several local businesses, broadening their understanding of real-world applications and industry expectations.
- The Learning Management System (LMS) has been a major focus throughout this year, with significant progress made in preparation for its implementation across the Construction, Engineering, and Furnishing sections in 2025.
- WACOA Cunderdin has successfully developed the Engineering certificate, while WACOA Narrogin has taken the lead in creating the Furnishing and Construction certificates. This initiative highlights the strength of collaboration between the Agricultural Colleges, pooling expertise and resources to achieve a shared goal.
- Projects remain a standout feature of our trade programs, enhancing student learning and engagement. Each department has showcased remarkable efforts to enrich the curriculum, including:
  - Engineering and Furnishing: Personal projects tailored to individual interests.
  - Construction: The highly anticipated Cubby House projects, blend creativity and craftsmanship.
  - Automotive: The development of Project Vehicles, providing hands-on, practical experience.

## Trade Staff prepare me well for Industry Employment.



# Trade Training Centre



## 2024 Challenges

- Staffing has been an issue for 2024. Replacement permanent staff has been challenging, resulting in high relief teaching loads. With limited relief teachers available, this has placed an extra workload on contact staff.
- Technology trends in industry. Budget constraints make it challenging to keep up with new technologies available in industry. This is increasingly impacting students as we are outsourcing work to complete student projects.

## Future Focus

Moving forward with the Learning Management System (LMS) in 2025, will be about implementation and ensuring a smooth transition into it being utilised for our certificates. Initially, Construction, Engineering, and Furnishing will implement LMS with Automotive to follow in 2026.

*Stephen Prangnell, Head of Trades*

82% of students agreed or strongly agreed that trade staff effectively prepares them for industry employment.





# Farm (Cropping)

## 2024 Cropping Review

The College currently has approximately 2500 hectares of arable land that is used for a mixture of cropping and pasture manipulation. The cropping program operates to provide high quality produce for the open market and for the other college enterprises to use for stock feed. The College grows varying rotations of wheat, barley, oats, triticale, lupins, and canola. The cropping enterprise also sows, maintains, and manipulates pastures, including clovers, serradella, saltbush, vetch and cereals for cover crops. We also bale hay, straw, and silage for the ovine, bovine, porcine enterprises and for student's horses on agistment.

The cropping enterprise offers students the opportunity to gain experience and operate large machinery used throughout the growing season including seeding equipment, harvest equipment, hay-making equipment, and spraying equipment. The enterprise gives the students exposure to chemical safety, storage, handlings, and application. Cropping offers the students the opportunity to gain many Units of Competency towards their Certificate II and III in Agriculture, several directly relating to cropping, chemical application, vehicles and machinery, as well as some storage, reporting and fencing competencies.



## 2024 Highlights

- Commencing harvest early with a combine harvester on hand allowing more students to have the opportunity to harvest at the College.
- Sowing 368ha Wheat, 463ha Barley, 134 ha Oats, 42ha Triticale, 330ha Canola, and 139ha Lupins.

*89% of Students 'Agree' or 'Strongly agree' and 90% of Parents 'Agree' or 'Strongly agree' that "Farm staff prepare me well for industry employment"*

- It was a very tough start to the year with the whole program seeded dry and only getting enough rain to start germination in the first week of June. But we received 285mm of growing season rainfall all the way into October. Canola yielded an average of 1.4t/ha which is well above our long-term average of 1t/ha.
- 92% of students achieved their Certificate II qualification, which encompassed one or more cropping-focused units of competency.
- 71% of cropping-focused Certificate III in Agriculture students were successful in achieving the full qualification.

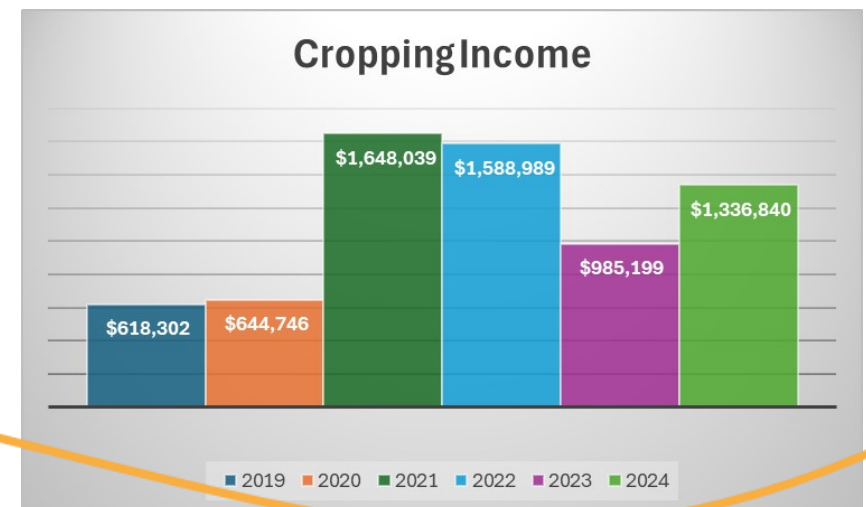
## 2024 Challenges

- providing more students more time on machinery.
- Seeding all our crops dry and then had a delayed harvest due to rain.
- Updating machinery in a technologically fast-moving industry.

## Future Focus

- Keep improving our student rostering system to maintain student achievement in cropping units.
- Maintain our seeding program finishing in a timely manner before the 10 June.
- Maintain our rental program to keep the core machinery up to date and keep our machinery replacement plan for the next 15 years updated as well as managing our financial reserves to help replace machines in a timely manner.

*Daniel de Beer, Farm Manager, Jon Kelly, Cropping Technical Officer*





# Farm (Cattle)

## 2024 Cattle Review

Our goal at WACoA - Cunderdin is to train students in industry best practises relevant to the units of competency provided. This year the College had 30 of the 46 mated cows and heifers pregnancy tested in calf (PTIC) in January. From this we welcomed 30 healthy calves. These animals are predominantly Black Angus. For the breeding program this year we used natural mating and Artificial Insemination (AI) with 25 cows and heifers AI'd, and 21 naturally mated to our registered Black Angus bull, Quantum and the 5 new heifers to Harvey Ag's new bull Lazarus. Working with Farmwest and Northam Vet Clinic, we AI'd heifers using Angus semen and older cows with Charolais, Murray Grey and Angus semen from bulls from across the world. Pregnancy test results for 2024 unfortunately showed a low success rate with the artificial insemination. Calving season 2024 saw 31 calves drop on ground, with 1 of these calves lost due to calving complications. Students toured Muchea Sale yards in November and experienced the cattle sale, also having the ability to speak to auctioneers.

## 2024 Highlights

- Copious amounts of hay cut and baled for 2025 usage / reserves in case of adverse conditions.
- 100% calving from heifers purchased from Harvey Ag.

## 2024 Challenges

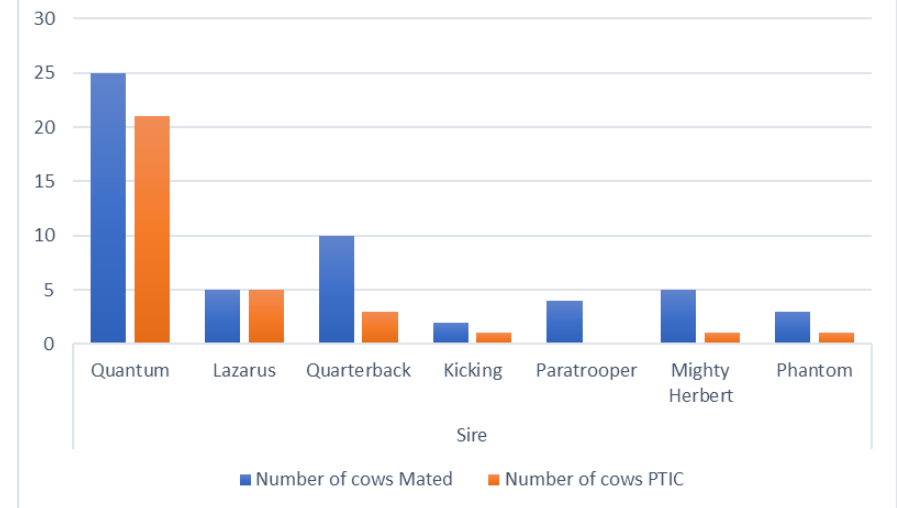
- Lack of hay led to rationing of supplementary feed throughout 2024.
- Underconditioned animals before mating may have led to poor conception rates (pregnancy testing in January 2025 to confirm numbers).
- Without an experienced cattle Technical Officer available for the day-to-day operations, animal handling and the ability to effectively manage the enterprise was limited.

## Future Focus

- Continue to produce 250 round bales of hay (minimum) to support the cattle enterprise.
- Ensure suitable condition of animals prior to mating through feed rationing and paddock rotations.
- Update fencing to allow increased paddock selection for cattle – this process has already commenced.

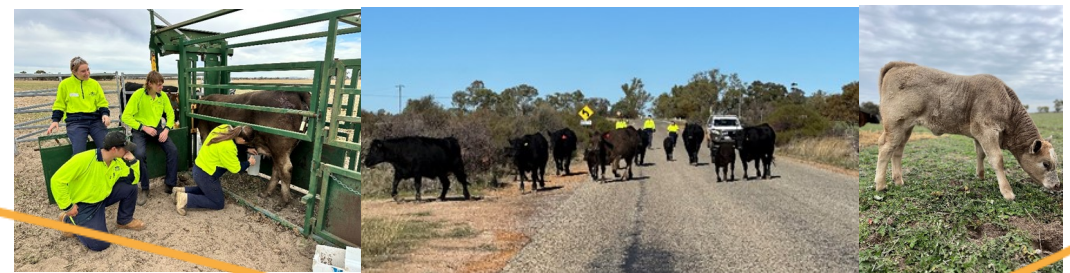
*96% of Parents 'Agree' or 'Strongly agree' that "This college fosters opportunities for students to develop knowledge, skills and values within the context of rural industries"*

## Mating outcomes for 2024



- Creating sheltered areas through planting of trees. Fencing off required until completely established.
- Continue high standard of health and welfare for all animals – (College cattle often referred to as “in great condition” by vets and industry representatives)
- Pasture establishment in set paddocks as a long-term goal
- Training in the cattle area for inexperienced Trainers so that they are more equipped to deal with the day-to-day running of the enterprise.

Kylie Iles, Assistant Farm Manager



# Farm (Piggery)

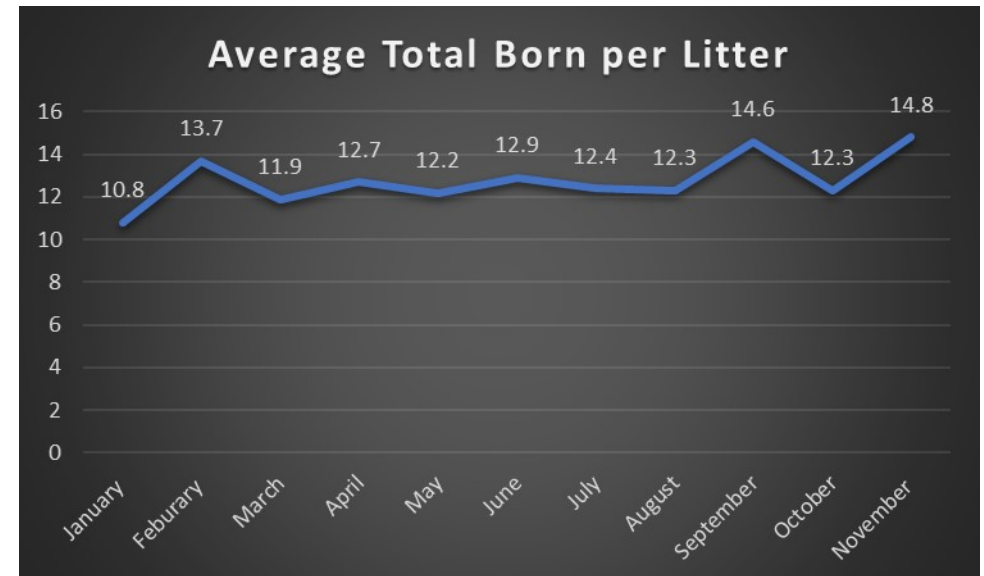
## 2024 Piggery Review

Students enrolled in Certificate II in Agriculture, have started working on their piggery units. Feedback from the pork industry and producers regarding student performance was positive.

Pigs and students from the College competed at the Perth Royal Show for the first time with positive results. Cert III students took part in an industry related camp for the first time, which included 2 farm visits. We now have batches farrowing monthly rather than fortnightly to benefit both pig production and student learning opportunities.

## 2024 Highlights

- Zero Erysipelas related pig deaths.
- Grower pigs reaching market weight within 16 weeks.
- Use of Regumate to synchronise oestrus in gilts and sows to reduce unproductive gaps.
- Sow replacement rate up 3.2% compared to 2023.
- Percentage bred by 7 days up 9.8% compared to 2023.
- Conception rate up 0.4% compared to 2023.
- Average total born per litter 12.6 (target 11.5).
- Average pigs weaned 10.1 (target 9.5).
- Trialled PCAI catheters with students learning to use them.
- Blood tests for Influenza returned a negative result for the farm.
- Plans in motion to install 2 additional eco shelters to house grower pigs
- APIQ Audit: zero follow up corrective actions required.
- APIQ Audit successfully retained “Gestation sow stall free” status.
- Cat problem rectified, zero cat related piglet deaths since “cat proofing” farrowing shed and extensive trapping.
- Consultation with Altech nutritionist to implement improved diets.
- Good control of fly infestations reflected in vet reports.



*96% of Students "Would recommend this college of agriculture to other friends and family"*



# Farm (Piggery)

## 2024 Challenges

- Infrastructure damage and ongoing maintenance.
- Rodent population significant, subsequent infrastructure damage and feed contamination.
- Increased workload of weekend staff while the batching system transitions to 4 weeks (Regumate).
- Day one piglet care not happening as farrowing occurs on a weekend resulting in higher stillborn rates, lay overs, chilled piglets, and low attention to sow health post-farrowing.
- Piglets born alive down 0.5% compared to 2023.
- Blood test results returned positive for Mycoplasma.
- Several cases of greasy pig in farrowing unit.
- Increased welfare issues over weekends.
- Summer infertility dropping conception rates below target.

## Future Focus

- Switch from DSM to Altech to better support our herds' needs.
- Focus gilt selection of maternal lines for litter size and lactation performance.
- Phase out the use of Duroc lines as replacement sows (unless used in student learning).
- AI gilts as part of new batch system.
- High focus on post-weaning care.
- Implement “feed-back” routinely to gestating sows to reduce medication use and improve progeny performance.
- Increase industry involvement and excursions for cert III Pork students.
- 100% pass rate for Cert III Pork students.
- Installation of eco-shelters for grower pigs and phase out the need to tail dock piglets.
- Controlling the rodent population.

- Investigate the possibility of farrowing during the week rather than the weekend to better perform day-one care.
- Increase training of weekend staff to better identify and report welfare issues.

*Jemma Read and Melissa Davenport, Piggery Technical Officers*





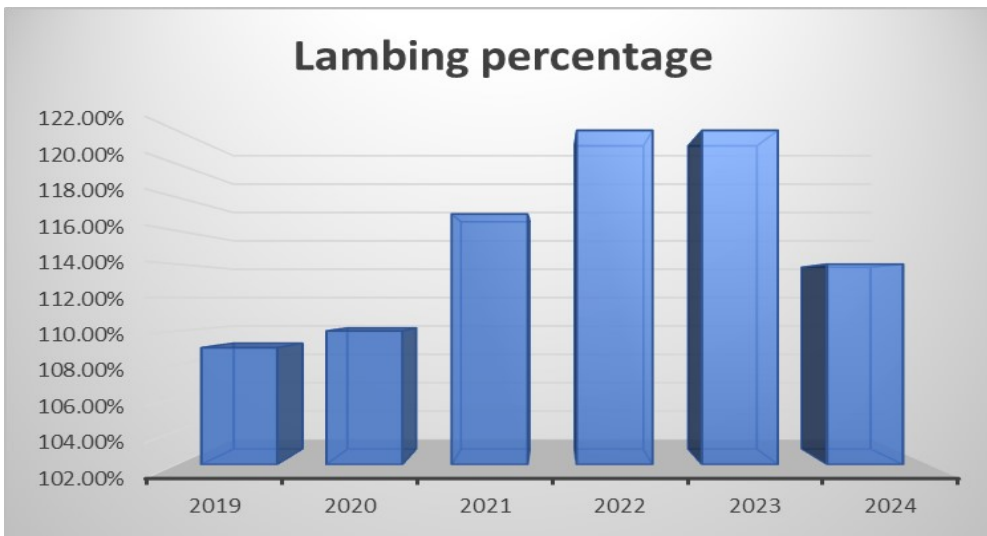
# Farm (Sheep)

## 2024 Sheep Review

The College runs approximately 1500 head self-replacing Merino flock of AMS bloodlines, as well as a 55 head Poll Dorset Stud. The Sheep enterprise delivers multiple Certificates namely, Certificate II in Shearing, Certificate II in Wool Handling and facilitate Certificate III in Advance Wool Handling, these Certificate are delivered by South Regional TAFE as well as multiple competencies for Certificate II in Agriculture.

## 2024 Highlights

- 114% Lambing percentage in the merino mob.
- One of our year 12 students Cooper McCuish chosen for the Novice Shearing Development Squad representing WA in the national competition.
- Winning AWI Future Breeders Challenge at the Royal Show.
- Selling 60% of our saleable stock before the price dive.
- Sold all our on farm bred Poll Dorset Rams during the Open day auction.
- The students selected the fleece that won the Reserve Champion wool fleece at the Perth Royal show.



## 2024 Challenges

- Break of the season rain only started in early June which meant a lot of supplementary feeding and a slight drop in our lambing percentages.
- Improving lambing percentage of our embryo transfer program.
- Maintaining our lambing percentage in the Merino flock.
- Increase student interest in livestock areas of the Farm enterprise.
- Maintain student interest in shearing and wool handling.



## Future Focus

- Ensure we have 60 tonnes of oats, 30 tonnes of Lupins and 110 large round bales available for supplementary feed.
- More intensely monitor the conditions of recipient ewes from transfer date to pregnancy testing.
- Provide better protection by increasing the hectares of saltbush establishment by 5% in suitable paddocks and buy five more Alpacas to protect lambs from fox predation.
- Tag all lambs born in 2025 with electronic NLIS tags and use the scanners and scales at the College to start monitoring growth rates and introduce the use of an auto drafter to draft weaner lambs into different weight ranges.
- Attending shearing competitions and shearer training days.
- Continue with AWI and AWET funded external professional shearing and wool handling trainers at the College.

*Marika Martini, Sheep Technical Officer*

# Student Wellbeing

## 2024 Student Wellbeing Review

The Wellbeing Coordinator role saw a change in staff mid 2024. The Wellbeing Program has been enhanced this year through the regular weekly meetings of the Student Services Team, lead by the Wellbeing Coordinator and consisting of the School Psychologist, Associate Principal, Residential Manager, Student Wellbeing Officer, Assistant Farm Manager, and a representative from both Class and Trades areas.

In 2024 we introduced a Wellbeing Officer role with Lola Slocombe. Lola was in this position two days a week. Her roles ranges from one-on-one meetings with students through to restorative meetings with students and staff. Her role was invaluable to the school with ensuring student's needs are being heard and met along with providing positive cultural and wellbeing throughout the school. This additional support enabled the college to reach more students and focus on preventative strategies.

## 2024 Highlights

- Introduction of Wellbeing Officer Role
- Wellbeing and Cultural Appreciation Day
- Teen Mental Health First Aid and PARTY program
- Growth Hunting Incursions and Leadership Camp (Year 11s)
- Survey Results – Staff – What we do well at the college is ‘Wellbeing of students’
- Check ins with Wellbeing Officer and School Psychologist



- Introduction in Term 4 of “What’s on Wednesday?” (WOW)

## 2024 Challenges

- Changes of staff throughout the year in the role.
- The increase in the amount of students needing extra support.
- Age-appropriate content for Wellbeing classes to have a meaningful impact.

*Kylie Squiers, Student Wellbeing Coordinator*





# Student Wellbeing



## 2024 Student Wellbeing Survey Results:

Thriving	Coping	Struggling
My teachers expect me to do my best	Teachers at my school treat students fairly	My school takes students' opinions seriously
My school gives me opportunities to do interesting things	I feel safe at my school	Student behaviour is well managed at this school
	My teachers motivate me to learn	
	My school looks for ways to improve	
	My teachers provide me with useful feedback about their schoolwork	
	My school is well maintained	
	I can talk to teachers about my concerns	
	I like being at my school	
	My teachers are good teachers	
	My teachers care about me	

### Key

Improved from 2023/2024	Stayed same 2023/2024	Declined 2023/2024
-------------------------	-----------------------	--------------------

## Future Focus

- Continue weekly meetings with Wellbeing Coordinator and School Psychologist
- Establish a Staff Wellbeing Committee and review and modify 'Whole School Wellbeing Plan'
- Expose students to age appropriate and relevant content in Wellbeing Classes. (Survey main student responses were: "Wellbeing classes not interesting enough")
- Continue WOW – What's on Wednesdays? Run by student councillors. Planned activities from 7:30-8:30pm. Introduce another activity on Monday's from 4:30-5:30pm on grassed area. Survey – Parents – What we can improve – 'Students not engaged in activities after school'.
- Liaise with student council to organise events to promote Act Belong Commit. Encourage students out of rooms. (Breakfast on BBQ Saturdays, Spike ball on the grassed area, minute to win it activities).

*Kylie Squiers, Student Wellbeing Coordinator*



*81% of parents surveyed in 2024 'Agree' or 'Strongly Agree' that "The college encourages students to take responsibility for their own behaviour".*



# Residential

## 2024 Residential Review

The Residential Program (Boarding) continues to work closely with the students, parents and school to improve the residential experience of the students who choose to board with us while undertaking their studies. We believe that the social and emotional growth as well as friendships formed are the main take aways from the residential experience. Increased communication from Residential staff to parents, school staff has continued being the focus for 2024. With another increase in the reporting on Compass this year communicating student wellbeing, communication with parents, behaviour and participation.

## 2024 Highlights

- Student engagement has slowly increased in post school activities such as special dinners, fund raisers and staff /student activities due to greater support to Student Councillors.
- Feedback from students has been exceptional this year regarding the quality of food and service in the dining hall.
- The change in the student carpark area to the front of the College has been a success.
- Update to Weller bathrooms and carpet to rooms has seen increased pride in the rooms by students resulting in less damage.

## 2024 Challenges

- Students not engaging in residential activities on the weekend due to low interest and low numbers staying in boarding. This is despite changing the activities continually and seeking feedback from students.
- Parents reported that the Residential dorms were high on the list of what we can improve on. “Better upgraded boarding facilities”

## Future Focus

- Residential Mentoring Project 2025
- Building student involvement in activities after school either community or in house and working with student councillors to improve student buy in into weekend residential activities
- Focus on all students returning Sunday evening to boarding to take the time to be

prepared for school on Monday.

- Greater array of short courses on weekends to engage young adults eg. Surf Rescue, Skippers ticket, coaching etc.

*Kristine Van, Residential Manager*



Close to 80% of parents either strongly agreed or agreed that “Residential Staff equip me with relevant life skills required post school”.

# College Board Report

## 2024 in Review

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Jonathon Arnott and all the staff at the WA College of Agriculture, Cunderdin, for another successful year. My sincere thanks to the board members for your input and support during 2024.

The College continues to achieve outstanding academic and training results. This year's Year 12 cohort will graduate with an average of 4.31 Certificate II or III qualifications, a fantastic result. The valedictory highlighted and celebrated the individual and collective successes for 2024. Additionally, the college's exceptional reputation for quality education and training programs was acknowledged via the 2024 WA Education Awards as a finalist in the 'Excellence in Teaching and Learning (Secondary)' category, for the second consecutive year.

The College Open Day was very successful, with many visitors and industry exhibitors. College participation at the Royal Show, involved students competing in a range of competitions, with the College taking out several sheep and wool ribbons. Students attended and competed at a variety of rural shows during the year.



The College continues to consult with industry to ensure programs are aligned with industry needs, and develop the knowledge and skills required for students to successfully transition into the agriculture and related industries.

There are several infrastructure projects that have received funding for upgrades, including the piggery eco shelters and effluent pond upgrades, butcher shop upgrades, new classroom demountable, with toilet block, and solar panels. The residential boarding area has had funding allocated to a much needed upgrade to the communal bathrooms in Weller and How dormitories, along with external painting and new carpet in Weller dorms. It is my objective as board chair to pursue political support to provide funding for a significant improvement for residential boarding and staff housing.

My thanks to Jonathon Arnott for acting in the Principal's position for 2024, and welcome back to Matt Dowell as college Principal.

*Graham Cooper, School Board Chairperson*



# Financial Summary

ONE LINE BUDGET - Dec 2024 ( Verified Dec Cash)		
	Current Budget (\$)	Actual YTD (\$)
Carry Forward (Cash):	515,490	515,490
Carry Forward (Salary):	660,620	660,620
<b>INCOME</b>		
Student-Centred Funding (including Transfers & Adjustments):	6,132,117	6,132,117
Locally Raised Funds:	2,443,406	2,443,406
<b>Total Funds:</b>	<b>9,751,633</b>	<b>9,751,632</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Salaries:	4,604,351	4,604,351
Goods and Services (Cash):	3,472,163	3,472,163
<b>Total Expenditure:</b>	<b>8,076,514</b>	<b>8,076,514</b>
<b>VARIANCE:</b>	<b>1,675,119</b>	<b>1,675,119</b>

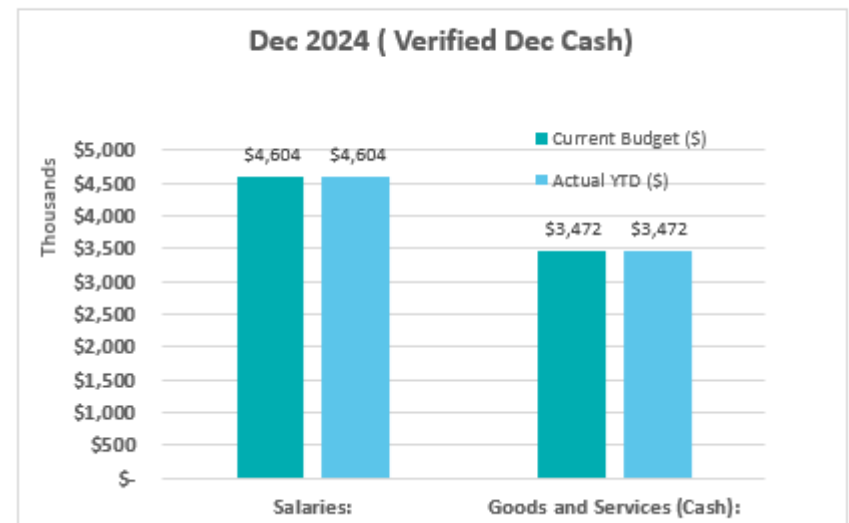
INCOME - Dec 2024 ( Verified Dec Cash)		
	Current Budget (\$)	Actual YTD (\$)
Carry Forward (Cash)	515,490	515,490
Carry Forward (Salary)	660,620	660,620
<b>STUDENT-CENTRED FUNDING</b>		
Per Student	1,462,877	1,462,877
School and Student Characteristics	1,116,145	1,116,145
Disability Adjustments	11,722	11,722
Targeted Initiatives	230,909	230,909
Operational Response Allocation	3,730,215	3,730,215
<b>Total Funds:</b>	<b>6,551,868</b>	<b>6,551,868</b>
<b>TRANSFERS AND ADJUSTMENTS</b>		
Regional Allocation	0	0
School Transfers – Salary	(125,102)	(125,102)
School Transfers - Cash	125,102	125,102
Department Adjustments	(419,750)	(419,750)
<b>Total Funds:</b>	<b>(419,750)</b>	<b>(419,750)</b>
<b>LOCALLY RAISED FUNDS (REVENUE)</b>		
Voluntary Contributions	0	0
Charges and Fees	385,946	385,946
Fees from Facilities Hire	19,415	19,415
Fundraising/Donations/Sponsorships	46,425	46,425
Commonwealth Govt Revenues	19,294	19,294
Other State Govt/Local Govt Revenues	0	0
Revenue from CO, Regional Office and Other schoo	838	838
Other Revenues	188,293	188,293
Transfer from Reserve or DGR	229,537	229,537
Residential Accommodation	0	0
Farm Revenue (Ag and Farm Schools only)	1,553,658	1,553,658
Camp School Fees (Camp Schools only)	0	0
<b>Total Funds:</b>	<b>2,443,406</b>	<b>2,443,406</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,751,634</b>	<b>9,751,634</b>



# Financial Summary

<b>EXPENDITURE - Dec 2024 ( Verified Dec Cash)</b>		
	<b>Current Budget (\$)</b>	<b>Actual YTD (\$)</b>
<b>SALARIES</b>		
Appointed Staff	4,477,962	4,477,962
New Appointments	0	0
Casual Payments	108,599	108,599
Other Salary Expenditure	17,790	17,790
<b>Total Funds:</b>	<b>4,604,351</b>	<b>4,604,351</b>
<b>GOODS AND SERVICES (CASH EXPENDITURE)</b>		
Administration	89,336	89,336
Lease Payments	227,407	227,407
Utilities, Facilities and Maintenance	614,544	614,544
Buildings, Property and Equipment	18,629	18,629
Curriculum and Student Services	337,043	337,043
Professional Development	12,899	12,899
Transfer to Reserve	0	0
Other Expenditure	69,126	69,126
Payment to CO, Regional Office and Other schools	12,338	12,338
Residential Operations	283,371	283,371
Residential Boarding Fees to CO (Ag Colleges only)	0	0
Farm Operations (Ag and Farm Schools only)	1,325,598	1,325,598
Farm Revenue to CO (Ag and Farm Schools only)	481,871	481,871
Camp School Fees to CO (Camp Schools only)	0	0
<b>Total Funds:</b>	<b>3,472,162</b>	<b>3,472,162</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,076,513</b>	<b>8,076,513</b>

## Goods and Services vs Salary expenditure





WESTERN AUSTRALIAN  
COLLEGE *of* AGRICULTURE  
*Cunderdin*