Dear Parents, Friends and Students of Trinity College,

William Penn stated that "True silence is the rest of the mind; it is to the spirit what sleep is to the body, nourishment and refreshment". Amidst the very busy programme of this past term and with the coming mid-winter break, we are reminded once again of the importance to take time away from the busyness of life to reflect on that which is truly important to us.

Various groups in our school will have the opportunity this coming week to ‘retreat’ from the rather frenetic pace of school life to enjoy the privilege of some ‘quiet’ time. Our Year 11 and Year 12 students will be taking time to retreat on Wednesday and Thursday this week. They will step away from the busyness of daily life and spend time in reflection on that which is important to them, as well as ways they can take positive control of their future. We ask all in the College community to remember our senior students in prayer and thought this week and we thank the families of our senior students, the staff and the students for supporting the Retreat programme in our College. Thank you to the many staff that make such a retreat possible for our students.

The Work Experience that is offered to our Year 10 students is another example of an opportunity to leave the familiar behind and to be involved in that which is new. We trust that our Year 10 students enjoy the opportunity of being placed in full-time employment this week and that they develop new skills and a greater insight into their future goals. Trinity College sincerely thanks the many businesses both locally and around Victoria that provide such worthwhile opportunities for our students to further their employability. We also thank Mrs Julie Demasi, our Careers Officer, for her work in coordinating this experience for our students. A group of our Year 10 students will also be participating in the Mindshop Excellence Programme this week and we thank ALC for hosting our students throughout the week. May these students all appreciate the ‘retreat’ from their timetabled days at Trinity College and enjoy their time in the workforce.

This coming Friday, our staff will ‘retreat’ from the demands of bells and timetables to spend the day in reflection. Staff members will devote time to their ongoing professional development, focussing particularly on meeting the needs of students with special needs as well as examining the importance of student and staff wellbeing in the teaching and learning process.

Joyce Rupp & Macrina Wiederkehr
Last Wednesday saw the culmination of many months of hard work for the Trinity College Parents and Friends. Whilst there is a frenetic pace in bringing together all the arrangements for both the Car Raffle and the Trivia Night, the actual night was one of ‘retreat’: a time of fun, laughter, healthy rivalry and intense anticipation. The evening was a great success and we thank Mr Peter Hanlon for being such an able and entertaining ‘Master of Ceremonies’. For the first time in memory, the winners of the car were present at the Trivia Night and were able to hear the announcement of their special prize: great excitement indeed!

The prize winners are as follows:

**First Prize:** Daniela and Terry Kavenagh, who won the Nissan Pulsar ST Sedan, purchased by the Parents and Friends and supplied by the Colac Motor Group.

**Second Prize:** Brendan Reidy won a Toshiba Touchscreen Ultrabook, kindly donated by Harvey Norman

**Third Prize:** L. Smart won an Otway Fly Family Zipline Pass, kindly donated by Otway Fly Treetop Adventures.

**Earlybird Prize:** Mr Sean Trevaskis

Thank you to the executive of the Parents and Friends, led by Julie Demasi, and to the wider group of parents who assisted in many ways to ensure the success of the raffle and the Trivia Night. A number of parents and staff members were involved in the ‘behind-the-scenes’ organisation of the event and we offer a very special thank you to each of them. Many in our community sold tickets down the street and tickets were also sent to each family and to staff members of the College. In addition, tickets were dropped in at local business houses and others were sent to Old Collegians and to various members of the community who just wish to sell some tickets. A very special thank you to each of these people and to Blane’s Newsagency, Woolworths Colac, the Colac Motor Group, Harvey Norman and Otway Fly Treetop Adventures. Thank you also to the Austral Hotel and to other local businesses who supported the Trivia Night.

Finally, a big thank you to the local community for once again supporting the Trinity College P&F Car Raffle, without whose support this event would not be possible. Our students will benefit from this support and, while a final profit is yet to be fully tallied, all proceeds this year will be directed towards the Multi Function Synthetic Oval. Congratulations once again to our hard-working P&F members.

Last Friday, our students had a ‘retreat’ from the daily ‘normality’ of wearing a school uniform and students enjoyed the opportunity to wear ‘comfy’ casual clothes, all with the ultimate purpose of raising an awareness of homelessness within Australia and to raise money for the Mercy Foundation, a Sydney-based charity that is primarily concerned with the causes and consequences of homelessness. Thank you to Mr Daniel Rodway and his student group for their valuable work in raising student awareness of such an important community issue.

With the retreat of our mid-winter holiday fast approaching, please note the following administrative arrangements:

- Student reports will be released via the Parent Access Module (PAM) on Thursday this week. A reminder that comments for any assessment tasks conducted over the course of Semester One can be found on PAM, which can be read in conjunction with the reports. The comments provide feedback to the students regarding areas of achievement and suggestions regarding areas for improvement.
- Classes for the start of Term 3 will resume for all students on Monday, 11th July. The College Reception will be closed for the duration of the holidays and will reopen on Monday, 11th July.
- Students in Years 7 to 9 will commence their holidays at 3.20pm on Thursday, 23rd June. Our Year 11 and Year 12 students will also begin holidays upon return from their retreats this Thursday and, as advised previously, our Year 10 students are on Work Experience and will begin their holidays when they finish work on Friday.

Thank you to all our students and staff for the many ways that they have contributed to the College community over the course of the term. As we approach the coldness of mid-winter, may we enjoy our break from the routine of the ‘normal’ and appreciate the hiatus of our various retreats. May you be warmed by the love of your family and friends during the coming holiday.

Virtus Nobilitat!
Mrs Cheryl Pefanis
Acting Principal
COLAC AREA HEALTH DENTAL SCREENING
A big thank you to Colac Area Health for the screening of around 60 students that took place last week. Thank you to the teachers for accommodating the minor interruptions to classes and to the front office staff who worked closely with the Colac Area Health Dental Team. If further treatment is required, Colac Area Health will be in contact. This is another great initiative that the College offers to support students and their health.

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY
The 2015 Annual Report to the School Community has been uploaded to the School website and it is available for parents to view. Please go to the following [http://www.tcc.vic.edu.au](http://www.tcc.vic.edu.au) and choose ‘Parents’ - Annual Report to the School Community.

A hard copy can be obtained from College Reception.

MISSION AUSTRALIA YOUTH SURVEY
The Mission Australia Youth Survey will be launched early in Term Three. The Youth Survey allows Trinity College students to have a voice on issues impacting them.

Last year, almost 19,000 young people aged 15-19 years old were involved in the survey, with Trinity students forming a part of that 19,000. The survey is focussed on hearing the concerns of today’s young people across a broad range of issues from mental health to career pathways and beyond. The data collected assists us as a school in ensuring the Pastoral Care program we offer is working to meet the needs of our students.

The consent form will be sent home in Week One of Term Three and needs to be returned to the Student Reception as soon as possible to ensure your son/daughter can participate in the survey at school. On Thursday, 28th July, Year 10, 11 and 12 students will be provided time in Pastoral Care to complete the survey, as long as they have returned the consent form. Please keep an eye out for the form early next term and we thank you in advance for you allowing your son/daughter to participate.

Mr Brad Smith
Director of Students

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR ST.MARY’S MASS MINISTRIES
With long term Ministers retiring after decades of service, there has become a critical shortage of Ministers to assist with mass at St. Mary’s Church. St. Mary’s Church is seeking volunteers to assist with readings, providing special ministries (especially communion for house bound members to be delivered after the 9am mass), the offertory processions, commentating and computer projector operations.

If you would like to volunteer for one of these positions or you would like further information, please contact the Parish Office on 5231 2177 or by email colac@ballarat.catholic.org.au.

SENIOR BALL DANCE PRACTICE TIMES
The Senior Ball preparations are underway with several dance practices coming up.

- Wednesday, 15th June 2.00-3.20pm
  Recall is withdrawn for Year 12 students while Year 11 students come out of normal classes.

- Wednesday, 13th July Lunch time
- Thursday, 23rd July 12.00-1.20pm
  This is during Pastoral Care and the Skills period.

More details regarding the Senior Ball will be mailed to parents prior to the end of this term.

Mr Noel McKay and Ms Leesa Sharkey
Year 12 and Year 11 Coordinators

CAREERS NEWS

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE
Our Year 10 students will be participating in their Work Experience Placements this week and into the school holidays. We wish them well and also wish to thank all employers in our local and wider community who are ‘employing’ one or more of our students. Without their support, opportunities such as these could not be offered to our students.

Mrs Julie Demasi
Careers Officer
HELPING THE HOMELESS DAY- FRIDAY 17TH JUNE

“I would like a world without poverty. We must fight for this.”

Pope Francis

Last Friday, 17th June, the Trinity College community wore ‘comfy’ casual clothes to school in an effort to raise awareness of homelessness within Australia and also to support the work of the Mercy Foundation. The Mercy Foundation is a Sydney based charity that is primarily concerned with homelessness and its related causes and consequences.

At lunchtime, a ‘below the line lunch’ (a cup of soup and a roll) was held in the canteen for staff and students to show solidarity with our fellow Australians who are without shelter and a regular meal this winter. It was wonderful to see so many members of our school community prepared to live out our core value of a commitment to social justice.

My thanks go to the Social Justice Team for spearheading this fantastic initiative and to the Year 12 Food & Technology class for preparing four delicious types of soup.

Mr Daniel Rodway
Social Justice Facilitator

NARRATIVE WRITING EXAMPLE: ‘THE SIGN SAID’

Last week we had an example of a sizzling start for the 2016 NAPLAN Years 7 and 9 writing task. This exemplar was written by Jen McVeity, creator of the Seven Steps to Writing Success and the author of over 20 books.

The entire piece is attached at the back of this week’s newsletter for those interested, including the NAPLAN assessments for the piece.

Mrs Caroline Grist
Learning Enrichment

CAR RAFFLE AND TRIVIA NIGHT 2016

After weeks of selling raffle tickets and another successful, fun-filled Trivia Night, the winners of the car raffle have been announced. Thank you to Harvey Norman and Otway Fly Treetop Adventures for donating the prizes and to Colac Motor Group and the Austral Hotel for supporting our Raffle and Trivia Night.

The Parents and Friends would also like to express our thanks and gratitude to the Trinity College and Colac communities for their support; to all the people who sold raffle tickets in the street, to the families and staff who bought and sold tickets, to the people who helped with the mailing out, organising the roster, distributing tickets to businesses, collating money, making phones calls and assisting at the Trivia Night. A tremendous effort and a great result for all involved.

We would also like to thank the businesses listed below who donated prizes for the Trivia Night raffle.

- Oz Trees
- The Cartridge Man
- The Farmers Son
- The Foot Man
- Geelong & Colac Art Supplies
- Hickey’s Central Meats
- Country Provedore

Mrs Julie Demasi
P & F President

EVENTS

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 20th June</td>
<td>Year 10 Work Experience Program</td>
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<td>Saturday, 21st June</td>
<td>Year 9 Mindshop Excellence Program</td>
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<td>Wednesday, 22nd June</td>
<td>Year 11 Retreat, Anglesea</td>
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<td>Thursday, 23rd June</td>
<td>Year 12 Retreat, Beaufort</td>
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<td>Friday, 24th June</td>
<td>Term 2 Concludes for students, 3.20pm</td>
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<td>Year 7 – 12 Reports released</td>
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<td>Friday, 24th June</td>
<td>STUDENT FREE DAY</td>
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PUT THIS on YOUR CALENDAR!
THE SIGN SAID

Sizzling Start

The sign said: No dogs, cars, bikes or horses – just in case I was thinking of smuggling one of those hidden in my rucksack. It should have said no flies too, because they were everywhere – in our hair, eyes and face.

‘Marvel Park,’ said Trent in his usual ultra bored voice. ‘Guess we’re expecting to meet Captain Marvel here, right?’

I wish the sign had banned everything else too. I would have traded a thousand more flies not to hear him for the day.

Backfill

I saw Mum sigh, and straighten up under her rucksack.

Here’s the picture. A national Park in the middle of no-where. The happy family gathered to hike and bond. Missing one member – Dad. Last year Dad, Mum, Trent and I had gone to Bali for the holidays, we’d swum in pools, explored the towns, learn to bargain in the markets and laughed a lot. Then came The Divorce...the smaller house, lots of mince meat for dinner and the visits to Dad only every second weekend. Not to mention the no expense spared family trip to Marvel Park for the holidays.

The main problem is introduced

‘Come on,’ said Mum and set off along the trail. ‘You can navigate,’ she called to Trent. He had his tablet out as always. He was checking Facebook and I wondered how long his reception or batteries would hold out under all the trees. It was hot and I was glad to get under the shade of the gums. You could feel the calm as you walked. Trees are my thing. Something living, breathing, replacing human Co2 with oxygen and beautiful. The ones over us must have been over a hundred years old. How did they always manage to grow so gracefully?

‘Where are we headed?’ asked Trent.

‘Wilson Falls,’ said Mum. ‘We are staying there the night. It’s a cabin run by some friends of mine.’ Mum did a lot of hiking and had this network of friends around the world. This holiday was her way of connecting with some of them.

Only trouble was, no-one had really consulted us.

Trent was plugging it into his tablet. Really? There was only one trail. Hard to get lost on the only path in town.

I should never, ever have thought that. You walk under the sanctuity of trees, smell the spice of leaves under foot, talk random stuff. ‘Remember’ was Mum’s favourite word.

‘Remember the school concert when...’

‘Remember when you fell off your bike and...’

‘Do you remember the Christmas when we...?’

Good memories. Somehow it was easier to laugh under the trees. Even Trent was smiling.

‘Which way now?’ asked Trent. We had come to a clearing and two paths out. No sign. We picked the most trodden path.

‘And now?’ The next clearing was more overgrown, the paths narrower. I saw Mum bite her lip, look worried and glance at Trent’s tablet. He shook his head.

‘No connection,’ he was looking slightly worried too. ‘Nix.’

‘Maybe we should go back?’ I said.

Mum did the straightening of the shoulders thing again. ‘No, it’ll be fine,’ she said. She had hiked the Grand Canyon, twice. But I suddenly remembered there were no trees in the Grand Canyon.

More complications and more problems

There were scratches on my arms, bushes all around us and sweat on my face and back. In front I could see the back of mum’s shirt wet with sweat and her face when she turned around to check on us was hidden in tension. The lines above her eyes were getting deeper and her voice was too bright and cheery.

‘Mum.’ Trent’s voice stopped us. ‘We’re lost.’ His voice was flat. We had headed to the top of the mountain, an hour of scrambling and sweat in the hope we could get a view of where to go. But mountains are old in Australia, worn down, not tall – and the trees still grew there, taller than ever. High and graceful – and hemming us in. We could see nothing.

Mum shook her head. Somewhere there was determination, denial and fear in that one small movement. I stepped forward instinctively. Were those tears in her eyes? Mum, who was always so brave, knew all the answers. Now her hands were shaking.

‘It’s getting late,’ was all she said. And suddenly I felt fear too. I looked at Trent. It was long in the afternoon, the air was getting cooler...and that meant night was on the way. How long would it take to walk to someplace, anyplace that had shelter? I looked down at the ground, the leaves that had padded our walk, the trees that had shaded us, these were the only things that would be there in the night to keep us warm...Not much warmth at all.

The tension scene

‘Here!’ Trent suddenly thrust his tablet into my hands and started scanning the trees around us. ‘You’re the tree person.’ He kept scanning. Then he fastened on one tree, tall and high above the others. ‘Climb up to top.’ Was he crazy? It was huge.

‘Why?’ At least if I was going to risk my life I wanted to know why.

‘Take photos,’ he said. ‘All around – 360 degrees. We can find some path or this place we’re supposed to stay. You might even get internet access.’
I looked over at Mum. She just nodded slowly, the lines above her eyes were now deep and black. We were really in trouble if she was relying on a tree hugging daughter and a mainlining techno son permanently attached to his tablet to help out.

‘It’s getting dark,’ was all she said. I took Trent’s tablet, stuffed it into my shirt and started to climb. Strange how many times I had climbed trees and loved them.

Strange how in the sunlight trees were warm and safe and welcoming.

In the slowing dimming light of late afternoon, I felt fear of climbing huge heights, of the slipperiness of the branches...yet somehow the security.

As the first of the twilight took hold, I reached the top of the tree and grazed out over the valley. There was one bar of internet access. I hit Google Maps and Trent’s incessant digital fingers and mind had stored the memory. Wilson Falls. I watched as the slow digital access unrolled the blue line of safety under my eyes.

Then just for double safety, I took photos of every mountain and every valley in every direction. Somewhere under all that we might find a way.

**Ending with Impact**

We did. Two hours can mean the difference between tears and fears – and triumph. In the very last of the daylight we made it to the camp of Mum’s friend. We stumbled out of the bush, cold and scratched and frightened. It was dark, we were shivering and I know all of us had tears in our eyes.

Ahead of us there were bright lights, laughter and music. We should have run ahead to safety and warmth. Burst through the door. Yet strangely we stopped, and Mum was holding our hands.

‘Remember this...’ said Mum. And she gathered us all close. I felt Trent nod. I did too. We would not forget.

Mum did her straightening stand tall thing and Trent was by her side. They were heading into the light.

By the door of the cabin was a small gum tree, a tiny seedling. I had just a few drops of water left in my water bottle and I unscrewed the lid and leant over and trickled it onto the tiny seedling.

‘Thanks tree,’ I said. Then I walked forward smiling into the bright lights.

**Marked Results**

2016 NAPLAN writing task (Years 7 & 9), Narrative Genre. Marker: Natalie Gleeson, English Learning Area Leader (St Bede’s College)

1. Audience (possible score: 0 – 6) – Score given: 6
   Comments: The writer has skilfully orientated the reader with an entertaining introduction. A comedic narrative voice is sustained thus contributing to overall engagement. There is a sustained use of literary devices that also engage the audience.

2. Text Structure (possible score: 0 – 4) – Score given: 4
   Comments: All structural elements are controlled and well-developed. The narrative contains a cumulative plot with interesting points of tension that build to an exciting climax. The resolution has impact.

3. Ideas (possible score: 0 – 5) – Score given: 5
   Comments: Sophisticated ideas have been skilfully selected and crafted. Themes of family conflict and survival underpin the entire narrative. Ideas of family conflict have been elaborated on.

4. Character and setting (possible score: 0 – 4) – Score given: 4
   Comments: Characters are well-developed. The identity of each character has been revealed through the use of purposeful dialogue. Character attitudes can be inferred via their actions. Setting has been well-developed and used to efficiently advance the plot.

5. Vocabulary (possible score: 0 – 5) – Score given: 5
   Comments: Language is well suited to the narrative. Language has been used with precision and in places, language achieves a comedic effect. Figurative language paints the picture of setting and characterisation – ‘sanctuary of trees’, ‘her face...hidden with tension’, ‘eyes getting deeper’.

6. Cohesion (possible score: 0 – 4) – Score given: 3
   Comments: A range of cohesive devices have been used with accuracy. Lexical cohesion has been achieved via the repetition of words, synonyms and ellipses. Time and cause connectives contribute to the cohesiveness of structure, however, in places some addition connectives would have been more effective.

7. Paragraphing (possible score: 0 – 2) – Score given: 2
   Comments: Paragraphs suitably match the pace of the plot. As the tension increases, the paragraphs shorten for effect.

8. Sentence Structure (possible score: 0 – 6) – Score given: 6
   Comments: There are a range of controlled sentence types in the narrative. The three types of clause structure are present and have been controlled successfully.

9. Punctuation (possible score: 0 – 5) – Score given: 5
   Comments: There is a controlled use of correct and appropriate punctuation to aid reading of the text.

10. Spelling (possible score: 0 – 6) – Score given: 6
    Comments: There is accurate control of simple and common words, with minimal incorrect spelling of some difficult and challenging words.

Total Score 46 out of 47 – Band 10
**Focus on Careers in Agriculture**

**Agriculture isn’t just farming.**

It is focussed on “the entire food chain, managing the
environment and minimising the impact of human
endeavours on natural resources”.

About 50% of all jobs in the agriculture industry are in
capital cities. These jobs include environmental
management, research, development, agribusiness
and education.

The demand for agricultural science graduates is
growing. Enrolments in agricultural courses rose
between 15 – 20% nationwide in 2014 demonstrating
an increased interest in the industry.

There is also an ongoing demand for agricultural
science graduates with economics and management
training, source: [http://bit.ly/1F3tP0](http://bit.ly/1F3tP0)

With four jobs for every graduate, 1 in 6 jobs in
agribusiness and a starting salary on average of
$50,000, studying agriculture is a very attractive option

**Experts are needed in the areas of:**

- Sustainable farming practices
- Land management
- Land conservation
- Climate change practices
- Food security
- Agricultural research and policymaking

**Students can specialise in areas such as:**

- Economics
- Marketing
- Animal and plant biotechnology
- Catchment management
- Climate change impacts
- Crop management and production
- Plant and soil science
- Nutrition and feed production
- Sustainable production and consumption
- Water management and
- Rural business practices

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**Courses:** The following are examples of agriculture
courses you can study:

- **La Trobe University:** You can study Agriculture
and Technology, Agricultural Sciences, and a
double degree in Agricultural Sciences and
Commerce, [http://bit.ly/1F3tP0](http://bit.ly/1F3tP0)

- **University of Melbourne:** You can study the

- **University of Tasmania:** You can study
Agriculture and Business, Agricultural Science,

- **Charles Sturt University:** You can study
Agriculture, Agricultural Science, Agricultural
Business Management, and Ecological

- **University of New England:** You can study
Agribusiness, Agricultural and Resource
Economics, Agriculture, Agroecosystems,
Animal Science and Rural Science,

**Resources**

- **Career Harvest, [http://bit.ly/1f0mDjW](http://bit.ly/1f0mDjW)**

**Download the Science:** Taking you places
resource, which has a focus on primary
industries: [http://bit.ly/1Hm0jIc](http://bit.ly/1Hm0jIc)
**FOCUS ON CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE**

**Meet Shaun Darmody**

2nd year Bachelor of Agriculture Business Management, Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga

Subjects studied in the VCE: English Language, Mathematical Methods, Further Mathematics, Physics, and VET Engineering.

Why did you want to study agriculture? I completed the VCE in 2013 then took a year off and worked on a sheep and beef property in North East Victoria. It wasn’t until later during my gap year I realised I wanted to study agriculture and make it my career. Until that moment it was a passion for me that I did in my recreational time.

Like all Ag students say ‘we do it because it’s in our blood’. So I am currently studying what I love and am making a future out of something I love doing. Does it get much better?

What is your course like? Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga is a fantastic place to be studying agriculture. There are endless amounts of opportunities in the local area; this means lots of field days out to talk to farmers and those involved in the industry. It also allows students to undertake placements throughout their studies.

Why should young people consider studying agriculture/agribusiness? As I like to say, if farming stops, the world stops. Agriculture is the backbone of the country. For that reason it is an exciting industry to get involved in. It is rapidly changing and young people are the ones who need to be aiding the innovations in the industry.

Below: A picture of Shaun’s family property

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**Meet Monica Ley**

Bachelor of Agricultural Science, Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga

Subjects studied in the VCE: English Language, Media, French, Further Mathematics, Outdoor and Environmental Studies.

Why did you want to study agriculture? Why not? I am a fourth generation farmer who could not spend a day working indoors to save my life. It’s all I’ve wanted to be since I was around five years old and I haven’t dreamt of doing anything else.

Creating new life is also a beautiful thing, both animals and plants. Going into agriculture during my VCE years and in tertiary education also is a way of being able to care for the environment and be sustainable at the same time.

What is your course like? It’s challenging but broad in terms of being able to specialise in a particular sector of the agricultural industry, covering both management and finance, livestock and pastures, cropping, and weed and pest control.

What subjects and experiences have you enjoyed the most? I have enjoyed the more practical subjects such as crops, pastures and weeds, with a high focus on plant identification and what affects growth and yields. Having little to no experience in anything other than livestock and machinery when coming to university, I enjoyed expanding my knowledge on agriculture as a whole. I have enjoyed the experiences of networking through career expos, attending conferences and networking through being on committees for events such as the Women in Ag Day.

Why should young people consider studying agriculture/agribusiness? With a rapidly increasing population, farmers will still need to feed and clothe the world. Studying agriculture can also open up many more doors. You don’t just have to be a farmer. Career opportunities include property development, management, finance, research, agronomy, extension, consultancy, teaching and many others.
FOCUS ON CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE

Meet Jaimi Brown
Bachelor of Agriculture Business Management, Charles Sturt University.
Agribusiness Analyst, National Australia Bank

Subjects studied in the VCE: English, Mathematical Methods, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Product Design and Technology.

Why did you want to study agriculture? Because it promotes a healthy life work balance whilst working in small rural communities with lots of networking opportunities. I believed in studying a degree that could not only help myself forge a career but also help people in communities. Without agriculture, we wouldn’t have food and fibre to feed, live and grow. I believed and still believe agriculture in Australia still has a lot of growth in it. It is no longer about the mining boom in Australia - it is the agricultural boom.

What was your course like? I loved my course. Whilst my class was small with 10-15 people in each subject, you engaged in proper discussions. Lecturers were so supportive and had an open door policy, they were always there to bounce ideas off and guide you in your learning. I was fortunate enough to travel with the University to China, and study the agricultural industries and techniques in a developing country.

The theoretical knowledge I absorbed helped me to gain an understanding of the development we as a country have made in agricultural techniques. But, the cultural experience I received was invaluable. We are continuing to grow our agricultural trade with China and I now understand all the difficulties we experience as exporters to such a closed economy like China.

I engaged in livestock management, plant growth, cropping, finance & economics and human resource subjects. The education I received in my degree made me a well rounded graduate. It also provided me with all the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in any career within the agricultural industry.

FOCUS ON CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE

Meet Luke Visser
Bachelor of Agriculture, University of Melbourne.
Agronomist, Murray Goulburn Co Operative Co.

Subjects studied in the VCE: English, Mathematical Methods, Specialist Mathematics, French, Chemistry, Outdoor Education and Environmental Studies.

Why did you want to study agriculture? I was pretty unsure exactly what I wanted to do. I had always worked on farms while I was at school and was always interested in the industry but I think the main thing was I didn’t want an office job but still wanted to do something where I’d use my brain.
FOCUS ON CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE

What was your course like? I enjoyed the spread of practical and theory based work. However, one of the best things about the course was the small circle of people and therefore the social aspect.

What is your graduate position like? I work for Murray Goulburn Co-Operative Co. as an agronomist. I enjoy being out and about talking to farmers and helping them solve problems in their paddocks on a day-to-day basis and helping them to achieve their goals and improve productivity.

On a typical day, I visit a number of farmers to look at paddocks and find solutions to crop/pasture selection and weed/pest/disease identification. Basically my role is to try and get dairy farmers to grow as much grass as efficiently as possible to best achieve productivity.

Why should young people consider studying agriculture/agribusiness? The industry is growing short of younger people. There is an incredibly broad range of careers possible after graduating and there is a huge potential to swap and change between pathways. For example, within the company I work for alone there are Field Officers, Agronomists and Nutritionists and it's not uncommon to switch between.

After studying agriculture, you can go anywhere from big offices in the cities, to scientific research, to on-farm advisory roles to farm management itself. It is very important to think of the industry as being far greater than farming alone.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE

JULY
- 2 – 3: Indigenous Leadership Excellence and Achievement Program (i-LEAP), University of Melbourne, http://bit.ly/1Yn1WBj
- 4 – 8: Medical Laboratory Visits, RMIT, Melbourne, http://bit.ly/1Rlzwi
- 6, 7, 8: Experience La Trobe University, Bendigo (6). Melbourne (7). Mildura (8), http://bit.ly/1Rihtxz
- 20, 22, 23: Nursing and Midwifery Information Sessions, Deakin University: Melbourne and Geelong (20, 23) and Warrnambool (22) campuses, http://bit.ly/23zLDcN
- 20, 27: Health Sciences Information Sessions, Deakin University: Geelong (20), Melbourne (27), more information to come.