



Government of Western Australia
Country High School Hostels Authority



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Narrogin Residential College

College Manager's Newsletter (Term 1, 2010)

Welcome to the term 1 Manager's newsletter.

2010 is the 50th Anniversary year of the Country High Schools Hostels Authority. Thousands of West Australian students have been accommodated and cared for by the Authority over the decades and has also provided families across the state with affordable boarding close to home and access to regional high schools. So it is a year of reflection and also a year to look forward to the future. Although there will be a need to board students for years to come, the need to evolve and adapt to future needs and trends will be a key area of focus for the Authority and the College.

On the College front, we have had another smooth start to the new year with 165 students turning up on day 1. We are down 10 students from our 2009 projections of 175 enrolments. With the year 7 half cohort and the tail end of poor economic down turn, we expected a lower turnout for the year. Last year we had 32 year 8s enrolling. This year has seen only 13 year 8s being enrolled. Next years enrolments for year 8s is very promising and will hopefully see our numbers back up over the 180+ mark. In comparison with school year 8 numbers, Tim Martin the school Principal stated that a large high school in Perth have no year 8s for this year.

For all NEW parents, the College Manager's Newsletter comes out mid term with the College Newsletter at the end of each term. The content of the Manager's newsletter is comprised of mainly administrative and policy statements whereas the College newsletter is more student based and a lot more colourful than what I have to offer. These will be emailed to approximately 2/3rds of parents with the remainder being posted out to parents. Obviously to keep costs down we would prefer to email our newsletters, so if you have not provided an email address or you have changed your address, please contact the College.

New Staff

We have 4 new staff for 2010. Our new Senior Supervisor in the Boys Wing is Mr Brian Williams (Acting Katanning Manager). We also have two new female Supervisors, Mrs Vivian Strickland and Ms Simone Mahoney (ex-Head Girl from 2005). We also have Mr Rhys Gibbens in the boys wing. Mrs Strickland is an additional staff member who will assist with our busy Hockey and Netball season and with general Supervision in the boy's wing.

Term 1, 2010.

Please note that there will be only one "Closed Weekend" in term 1 as you will notice that the school holidays will be one week closer than last year. End of term 1 is the **THURSDAY 1st April**. There will also be an ANZAC day long weekend immediately after the school holidays in Term 2. Students will have an extended weekend at the College that will include the public holiday, Monday 26th.

College Open Days

There will be two College Open Days this year. The first will be held on the FRIDAY 12th March starting with a tour at 9:30 and another at 11:00am. Morning tea will be at 10:15 for all guests. Another Open Day will be on a weekend. This will be on the Saturday 14th of August with the same time structure as above. Please feel free to invite any family and friends who may be interested.

Yourtutor.com

All students have been provided with a yourtutor.com account and now have unlimited access to real-time online tutoring with real tutors. I would hope that all parents would have a look at this site and see what is on offer as there is a page for parents and new users. Also take the time to see the actual cost charged for this service for the general public.

P & C Meeting

The next College P&C meeting will be on **Thursday April 1st, 2010** at 1:30pm (Last day of term 1). New members are more than welcome to be a part of this group. We have had a good turn out for the first meeting of the year, with our regular attendees and a few new faces. New office bearers have been elected as we see off our past P&C President Deb Gillett, who was very emotional about her last day with the P&C. The committee's first big spend for the year has seen the approval to purchase 10 new 3 seater lounge seats (\$3,000) for the student dorm recreation rooms. This is very much appreciated by the College and I am sure the students will be very pleased with this decision.

New College website

This is now operational and can be accessed by using the current web address www.narroginresidentialcollege.net.au. We have added a page for ex-Boarders or "Old Collegians". We hope to maintain a register of ex-students with the intention of hosting student reunions from time to time. Any ex-students out there who may want to get involved with this can call me to discuss this idea. We are also adding pictures of the actual dorm areas and facilities. This will be a sub-page of "The College".

Singapore Visit 2010. Host Families.

Dunman High School in Singapore will be visiting us in JUNE from the 16th to the 23rd. There will be a contingent of 25 students and 3 staff. We are looking for College host families to accommodate these students over the weekend of the 18th and 20th of June. Families who have farms or rural properties are welcome to apply. The students will be in pairs, so two beds are needed. Please call me to register your interest.

Mobile Phones

Please be reminded that mobile phones are not permitted at the school. Students have been instructed to keep their phones at the College either in their rooms or in their lock box in the office. Support from all parents with this would be appreciated.

Hair Colour

As stated in the Handbook, students can not colour their hair, this includes using peroxide. Hair must be in their natural colour and kept tidy. Part shaved heads, rat tails, spiked up hair etc is not permitted. Support on this policy would also be appreciated. Professional salon hair designs (in line with policy) for school balls is permitted for these special events.

Closed Weekend and Holiday return times

Just a reminder to parents that on Closed Weekends and school holidays students are not permitted to return to the College until late afternoon. For Closed Weekends, it is after 4:00pm and after School holidays, it is after 3:00pm. On the start day of each new year students can arrive from 9:00am.

College Jackets are once again on offer.

The College jackets are \$55 each and can be worn for general use around the College and for all our sporting events. These are optional to purchase but represent good value for money. 100 plus students now have the jackets and it's great to see students wearing them around the College. All students are aware of this offer.

College Newsletter

The College Newsletter will be delivered to you at the end of each term along with your students Boarding report. (Reports issued: Term 1, year 8s, 9s and 12s and Term 2, years 10s and 11s and then repeated in semester 2) Parents are more than welcome to contribute to the letter, so if you have something for sale or something to report then contact myself by email or phone. In this newsletter you will read about our Annual Swim Carnival held in February. We have divided the College up into 3 factions and will offer 3 large sporting carnivals this year. Our next event will be the 22/22 Fun Cricket Carnival, which will be held over 4 weeks. We will also have a Fun Athletic Carnival later in the year. Student participation and a mixture of some serious events and more importantly some not so serious events has been the aim of setting up the faction system.

Mythbusters NRC

Student- "We don't have to tuck our school shirts in anymore" Busted – The school uniform policy stands and has not changed. The correct use and wearing of the school uniform must be adhered to. The College will enforce this policy. The school will expect shirts to be tucked in and collars turned down. This has come from the school Principal. So parents, be warned of students bearing gifts of rumour and misinterpretation.

Dorm Refurbishment Update

The girls wing dorm refurbishment/ upgrade is past the drawing stage with construction consultants visiting to measure up aspects of the refurbishment. I have been in email contact with the architect finalising the plans. With all large projects an exact commencement date is dependant on a number of issues, however, we are looking at a term 2 start.