



Government of **Western Australia**
Country High School Hostels Authority



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Narrogin Residential College

College Managers Newsletter (Term 4, 2009)

Welcome to the term 4 Manager's newsletter.

Well another year is about to end and the College is now getting ready for another year.

Our enrolments for next year are close to our expected turnout of 170 to 175. The year 7 half cohort transition has had an affect on our usual numbers. Last year we took in 32 year 8s. This year we are currently at 13 year 8s. (this may increase over the holidays). The school had 160 year 8s this year and next year will see this number halve. This has been expected for a few years now, but will have an impact on the numbers none the less.

You will have heard by now that Swanleigh Residential College (Middle Swan) has made a public announcement that they will close in a year or two as they have lost a significant amount of funding from the government. This equates to a financially unsustainable operation. This is a sad and unfortunate event, but high lights the diminishing pool of boarding candidates out there in the region and the cost of providing boarding to families in general.

Overall this year has been a good year with College life going full steam ahead with its activities, parental events and programs. However, I will not pretend that there have not been some issues and concerns that have had to be resolved over the year, from maintenance to student and parent issues. This is what goes with the ebb and flow of operating a large boarding facility and working with 180 teenagers. What I hope to achieve is parents being satisfied (and if not fully satisfied, understanding) with the responses to situations given by the College. I get phone calls once in a while from parents who want clarification, answers and resolutions to their issues and I welcome this, not that I'm a sadist, but feel parents issues must be aired and addressed in an open manner. I also get parents who are not shy in showing their appreciation and thanks for what is happening at the College. The half a dozen or so letters and cards received in the last few weeks attests to the Colleges strengths.

We have secured the funding for the girls wing refurbishment and have also secured the funding to pull down and rebuild a new Recreation shed. This money is hard to come by, so we are pleased the Authority has answered the call. We will soon have a new entry statement to the College on the corner of Hansard and Grey St. This should enhance a part of the College that is not too pleasing to the eye.

Start of next year dates

- **The College is closed from after FRIDAY 18TH DEC. Staff return to work on WEDNESDAY 27TH FEB AFTER 12:00 NOON and then all day Thursday and Friday.** All staff will be in Perth prior to the College opening on the Monday 25th and the Tuesday 26th at a 2 day training seminar.
- **College Administration** - will be available on Sunday 31st from 10:30am to 6:00pm. During the holidays Alice (Admin) will be in periodically to check emails, mail and phone messages (so please leave a message).
- **College Opens at 9:00am on Sunday 31st January.** Students can arrive any time after 9:00am. Please note that **NO LUNCH** will be provided, however, we will drive students to town to purchase their lunch if needed. An evening meal will be served at 5:40pm in the dining room.
- **School starts Monday 1st February.**

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. There will also be an ANZAC day long weekend after the school holidays in Term 2. Students will have an extended weekend at the College that will include the Monday 26th. I am planning to take a group of students to the ANZAC day city march and possibly even participate in the march as a College. So if you have war veteran relatives who have medals that can be worn by your son or daughter, then let me know.

P & C Meeting

The next College P&C meeting will be on **FRIDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2010** (1st Closed long weekend). New members are more than welcome to be a part of this group. The Raffle this year raised \$2000 for your students and will be spent on ideas raised by staff, students and the P&C.

Presentation Day and the Schools Graduation

This year's Presentation Day, once again, received positive feedback and it was great to see our students recognised for their achievements, in particular, the introduction of the Boarder of the Year and Student Talent awards. We recognise that the Presentation Day should not be purely a sporting award event and that other aspects of College life should be acknowledged. On attending the school Graduation presentation event, it was heartening to see the amount of awards taken by our Boarders. 21 of the 27 prizes went to NRC students. In particular the parents of Thomas Wilson, who will be very proud of their son's many achievements. Thomas took the coveted Dux title for 2009. Likewise Ashlee Taylor and Tory Gleeson's parents should also be very proud. Congratulations also to Alison Gillett for being awarded the Valedictorian for 2009. Congratulations also goes to all our Graduating year 12's with a special mention to all our school award winners. A lesson in hard work paying off!

Staff movement

Regrettably we will be losing 3 staff next year. Tony French has taken up an offer to be Senior Supervisor at Broome Residential College. Likewise, Jill Bossinga successfully applied for the Female Senior Supervisor position and was selected for this position. This will be a positive career move for Jill as she steps into her new role. Alex Bossinga will depart Narrogin to move with his wife Jill. Alex and Jill had recently re-applied to stay on in their contract positions in Narrogin, however, Jill could not let an opportunity pass her by and reluctantly applied for the post. We are losing quality staff but wish them all the best in tropical Broome. (Tony will now invest in some decent fishing equipment).

The College has interviewed new staff and has selected two new Supervisors. They will be introduced once the formalities of their appointments have been approved. A new Senior Supervisor position is currently being advertised.

New College website

This is now operational and can be accessed by using the current web address www.narroginresidentialcollege.net.au . The site will be fully managed from my desk rather than going through a third party. If you feel something is missing or any other feed back then please do not hesitate to get back to me. The idea is to keep it simple but provide existing and any new parents (or students) with the initial information about the College. I will upload newsletters to the site and you can make contact with me or other staff at anytime.

Singapore Trip 2009. Finally!

We finally made it to Singapore during the first week of the last school holidays. As with previous trips the entire venture was a great success. Dunman school staff were brilliant. They really know how to host visitors. The program of activities and events were varied and included class time in the school doing Asian cooking lessons, traditional Malay music lessons and Chinese Calligraphy. Overall a very worth while experience. The school will visit us in 2010 in June or July.

On behalf of the College Board, staff and myself, I wish all our Parents, Students and Associates of the College all the best for the year and a very merry Christmas. I look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year. To those parents and students who leave us this year for the Agricultural College or are on the move elsewhere, I wish you all the best for the future.

Take Care, Steve Lally.

