



## Collaborative Learning

The students at the Western Australian College of Agriculture – Morawa are privileged to be able to participate in authentic learning that complements and enhances all subject areas.

In Automotive students learn in an environmentally aware workshop that meets regulation standards. Students perform 'live work' on both College vehicles and for community members. This in turn flows through to Vocational Maths where examples of tasks undertaken include finance; buying a car and 4WD within a budget, measuring and designing a workshop or equipment storage shed, using graphs and ratios from the Mid West Drag Racing Club and calculating the time, distance and cost to travel from Perth to Cairns and back.

Students are also involved in the motor bike program where students are supported by allowing them time for regular servicing, adjustment and minor repairs to their machines.

Year 12 Small Business Management completed a small business plan for the College Automotive Program appraising all aspects of the business side of the program.

In Construction students have participated in various projects that have made improvements to the College site. A major project has been the construction of the Student Common Room on the College site. This project is near completion and is being enjoyed by the students.

As part of their authentic learning during Construction students make and produce terracotta slabs to order or sell on. Funds from the enterprise are injected back into the program to buy materials and improve equipment. During Small Business Management students devise ways of promoting the sale of the slabs.

Students also construct several small projects to learn a wide range of techniques working with metal and wood. Maths is used in practice to design, calculate and budget for individual and group projects.

On Farm students cover the whole animal production chain from artificial and natural insemination through to birthing and butchering.

Technical Officers specialising in agriculture, cattle, sheep and pigs immerse students in all aspects of the farm so they obtain a holistic farming experience.

Skills learned on farm are caring for the health and welfare of livestock, providing feed, mustering, to identify and mark livestock, assist with feeding in an intensive production system, monitor livestock to parturition, caring for pigs in the pig pen, recognising plants, agricultural crop establishment and harvesting, grain storage and horticulture.

Horticulture and Plant and Animal Science is learned in the classrooms and put into practice on the farm providing authentic learning opportunities.

All aspects of English, both written and verbal, are put into practice on a day to day basis while completing subject tasks and assignments as well as learning communication skills necessary for future workplaces.

The College offers a free try-out week for prospective students. Places in Years 10 and 11 are still available for 2009 but filling fast. For more information visit the website [www.morawaag.wa.edu.au](http://www.morawaag.wa.edu.au) or phone 99711158.

