ENROLMENTS OPEN
FOR MURESK DEGREE

The Muresk Institute is again to be the centre of excellence in agribusiness education in Western Australia.

Enrolments are officially open for a bachelor of agricultural business management degree to be delivered by CY O’Connor Institute in collaboration with Charles Sturt University with lectures set to resume in late February 2014.

On September 24 Chair of the CY O’Connor Institute Governing Council, Eileen O’Connell and Institute Managing Director, John Scott, counter-signed a formal agreement with Charles Sturt University, signed earlier by the university’s Vice Chancellor, Professor Andrew Vance.

The three year bachelor degree course will be delivered under the leadership of Dr Christine Storer, who previously led the team that delivered the agribusiness degree offered at Muresk by Curtin University.

The CEO of the Wheatbelt Development Commission and Chair of the Wheatbelt Workforce Development Alliance, Wendy Newman, supported by the CEO of the Avon Community Development Foundation and Alliance member, Paul Tomlinson, congratulated the CY O’Connor Institute governing council for striving to re-establish agribusiness higher education at Muresk for the benefit of the agricultural sector in WA. “The central wheatbelt is the state’s largest producer of export grain and a skilled, well educated workforce is essential to the future of the industry,” Ms Newman said.

Mr Scott emphasised that the agricultural business management degree program would not replicate the animal and crop based university courses already offered in WA. “It will have strong links to the farm at the Muresk Institute as well as exemplary commercial farms and agribusiness enterprises. “Studying and living at the Muresk Institute will foster an affinity for living and working in rural areas. “It is clear that Muresk Institute graduates are proud of their association with the Muresk Institute. "All are very pleased with the education they received and the life-long network of friends they formed at Muresk,” Mr Scott said.

“We are starting an intensive marketing phase to attract and enrol students. “Since April we have registered more than 70 expressions of interest on our database. Of these, 28 are considered likely to enrol in the degree course next year. “An independent study conducted in 2011 concluded that between 30 and 40 enrolments could be expected, so we are over half way there,” he said.

Mr Scott acknowledged the support of government for the re-commencement of a degree level program at Muresk and from the Department of Training and Workforce Development with whom he had worked closely on the project. He also paid tribute to the Institute’s Governing Council and Agribusiness Industry Advisory Committee for their vision and advice during the prolonged and complex negotiations.

“I am encouraged by the response from industry. “So far we have agreements with four major trading banks and negotiations are continuing with a further two relating to their formal support for the degree program. “This is complemented by support from several industrial enterprises and associations, in particular the Farm Machinery and Industry Association "I expect this support to grow, including the provision of industry-funded study scholarships, once the course is up and running,” Mr Scott said.

Prospective students can gain more information about the degree at www.cyoc.wa.edu.au/Courses/AgriculturalBusinessManagement/ or from the Marketing Manager, Daisy Bulloch, on 0427 440 371.

Caption
Chair of the C Y O’Connor Institute Governing Council, Eileen O’Connell and Institute Managing Director, John Scott, during the signing of the formal agreement with Charles Sturt University.