During July, Tocal students commenced breaking in about 20 young horses. This is one of the most important activities in the Horse Breeding course and students gain a lot of confidence and skills from being involved in horse breaking.

Tocal has the advantage of breeding its own replacement horses. Sires and dams that are selected on conformation, ability and temperament.

A lot of ground work is done with the breakers to get them ready for the saddle. By the time the students ride them, they are so quiet they very rarely buck at all.

This makes the horse breaking activity much safer than it could otherwise be.

The outcomes of the Horse Breaking course are quiet, well trained stockhorses ready for work and students who have gained a great deal of experience in horse handling and training.
BRANGUS AI PROGRAM

As part of a Certificate IV elective on animal breeding, the college has selected an elite herd of 49 Brangus cows to be bred to top bulls through AI.

The aim is to improve the breeding program by breeding high quality bulls and heifers as replacements.

The students select the bulls to be used for each cow using Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) and physical traits.

The cows are synchronised and students are involved with heat detection and preparing for the insemination of each cow.

The elective also includes visits to Tony Elton’s Brangus Stud at Mendooran and Ram Station at Dungog which has Angus and Brangus cattle, to hear experienced managers talk about breeding and selection of cattle.

The aim of the elective is to help students breed high quality heifers and bulls to use in the Tocal breeding program.

The college sells excess heifers at the Tocal Field Days and also plans to breed quality bulls for sale in the future.

CURRENT STUDENT
TYAAN TUCKEY

Tyaan comes from Darwin and gained direct entry into the Certificate IV in Agriculture.

She previously completed the Horse Husbandry Course at Longreach and a Certificate III in Agriculture at Dalby Agriculture College in 2010.

She is interested in beef cattle and was part of the Tocal team that did so well in the Australian Intercollegiate Meat Judging competition in Armidale.

Tyaan is also completing a Diploma of Agriculture and plans to travel and work in the USA next year. Upon her return to Australia she plans to complete a University degree.

Tyaan has promised to come back to Tocal next year to be part of our 2012 Meat Judging team.
SIR HARRY JOINS THE TOCAL TEAM

Tocal recently bought a new Clydesdale to replace aging patriarch, Bill. While Bill is only 18 and still has a lot of life in him, he needs a successor to take over when it’s his turn to retire.

The new addition, known as Sir Harrison or Harry, was bred in Mudgee and takes his place at Tocal Homestead with Bill and 2 other Tocal draft horses.

Harry will be trained by Bob Dunn and students to pull a range of implements and wagons. He will then be able to take people for rides during Homestead Open Days.

Clydesdales were once the most popular horses in Australia and were often described as ‘the horse that built Australia’. They did most jobs that are now done by tractors and utes on Australian farms.

Although they are strong and powerful horses, they are gentle and friendly.

Harry has settled into life at Tocal very well and has made friends with the other Clydesdales. You can often see them grazing contentedly in front of Tocal Homestead when you drive past.

QUAD BIKE SAFETY

A recent quad bike accident at Tocal has highlighted the importance of training in safe riding practices.

This and the high incidence of quad bike accidents has reinforced the need for students to be proficient in quad bike safety including the use of helmets for protection in the event of a rollover.

Tocal had roll bars installed on all its quad bikes and this saved one student from serious injury.

This is a very important part of the course to ensure Tocal graduates maintain health and safety throughout their working life.

Tocal also runs quad bike safety courses for farmers and others who use these vehicles.

NSW Farmers and Workcover are promoting the use of these quad bars on all farm quad bikes due to the number of deaths which occur on farms each year.

TOCAL MEAT JUDGING TEAM

A group of Tocal students volunteered to be involved in the Intercollegiate Meat Judging competition at the University of New England during the July holidays.

Competing with University students from Australia, Japan and the United States, Tocal students performed very well with 2 of them placed in the top 15.

The uni students were a bit put out that all their training didn’t help them beat the practical expertise of the Tocal team.

Tocal student, Mel Adams, was selected in the top group to go to Brisbane in October for further training.

Mel is expected to be part of the Australian team that will travel to the USA in January to compete in the American Intercollegiate competition. This will be a great experience for Mel and we all wish her well.

Mel is the current holder of the University of Newcastle Scholarship. I am sure they will be very pleased with her progress and her successes so far at Tocal.
‘H’ JOB PROSPECTS

Horse Breaker
This is an experienced person who makes a living breaking in young stock horses, thoroughbreds and horses to be used for events or shows.

Horticulturist
An intensive crop farmer who cultivates such products as fruit, vegetables and flowers. In some case he/she may be involved in hydroponics or the use of modern technology for growing and supplying seasonal vegetables or flowers.

SPOTLIGHT ON NEW STAFF

Simone Harvey
Simone was recently employed to replace Lyn Walsh who retired after 27 years at Tocal.
Lyn coordinated the Horse Husbandry course and Simone has taken over this role.
Simone’s father runs a beef property at Bulahdelah and she has grown up around horses and cattle.
Simone has been competing in campdrafting for many years and has been the Australian National Campdraft Champion.

Her Honours Degree in Education from The University of Newcastle and extensive experience with stockhorses are great assets to the college.

Steph Teterin
Steph went through Tocal in 1992/93. She then worked on cattle properties around NSW and set up her own fencing business with her partner who is also a Tocal graduate.
The business was very successful and gave Steph a great deal of experience in managing a business, dealing with clients and constructing a wide range of farm fences.
Steph then joined a local Maitland firm, Farmers Warehouse, which she managed for over 6 years until her appointment at Tocal.
Steph is now teaching students a range of units in general agriculture, animal husbandry and fencing.
Her industry experience is invaluable in this role and she is enjoying this new challenge and loves helping students to learn and develop their confidence and skills.

CAREER SPOTLIGHT

Tocal Brochure Out Now!

OPEN DAYS

The next Tocal Open Days will be held:
10am-3pm, Friday 30 September 2011
10am-3pm, Friday 7 October 2011
Prospective students and their families are encouraged to come to one of these open days that include a tour of the college campus, student residences, college farms and the historic Tocal Homestead.
If you haven’t been to Tocal, Open Days are a great time to do so. It also gives you a chance to find out more about courses available and options for gaining credit at university.

More Information
P: 1800 025 520