



NEW SOUTH WALES

MEDIA RELEASE

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Ian Macdonald

Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy,
Minister for Mineral Resources, Minister for State Development

Tocal College bucking the trend in agricultural education

Full time student numbers at Tocal College are running at capacity while other agricultural education institutions continue to struggle to find enough students, NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Ian Macdonald, said today.

“More than 100 students are enrolled in full time courses at Tocal, making it the only agriculture campus in Australia I am aware of that is not struggling to fill courses,” Mr Macdonald said.

“Some institutions are finding the age demographic has moved from school leavers to people in their thirties and forties, but most Tocal students continue to be school leavers.”

Minister Macdonald said scholarships awarded for Tocal students and workplace demand for Tocal graduates helped encourage high numbers of school leavers to enrol.

“A number of letters have recently been received from new scholarship recipients expressing appreciation in receiving their award,” he said.

“All expressed their enormous gratitude in receiving the scholarship, with some acknowledging it was the deciding factor in their family being able to afford sending them to college.”

Minister Macdonald said three scholarships of \$2000 are awarded each year to needy Tocal students to cover tuition fees.

“Scholarship recipients are selected by an independent panel of sponsors from industry. Scholarship sponsors include Widden Thoroughbred Stud, North Australian Pastoral Company, The Australian Stock Horse Society and the Tocal Ex-Students Association,” he said.

“All Western Division and Riverina students also receive a \$2000 scholarship to assist with travel costs to attend Tocal.

“Tocal’s reputation in producing enthusiastic and hard working farm workers with practical skills means Tocal graduates are in great demand with employers.

“Every year some students have more than one job offer to consider.”

More information is available at www.tocal.com

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