MEDIA RELEASE

Future Farmers Day at Tocal

About 70 year 9 and 10 students from Dungog High School, Berkeley Vale High School and Terrigal High School are booked in to a Future Farmers Day at Tocal College to be held on Friday 3 August 2012. The day focuses on safety on the farm and it has been developed in association with the Australian Centre for Agricultural Health, Farmsafe NSW, Hunter New England Health and WorkCover. Tocal lecturer Bob Dunn has been convening the day for eleven years.

Topics covered will be farm quad and motor cycle safety, manual handling on farms, electrical safety on farms, chemical safety on farms, handling livestock and many others. Tocal second year students enrolled in the Certificate IV in Agriculture will do the teaching and give presentations to small groups of high school students.

‘This is a case where youth are teaching youth about best practice for farming in the future, Dr Cameron Archer’, Tocal Principal said. ‘Tocal students are well trained in farm safety and risk management in the workplace and are ideal mentors for others young people interested in agricultural careers.’

‘This is a great training activity which brings Tocal students together with those who are also interested in agricultural studies. The College appreciates the support of a wide number of individuals and agencies in putting the day on. Far too many people are killed or injured on Australian farms and we believe time spent in a day like this is important for the future of our agricultural industries’, Dr Archer said.

It is important that people see a farm as a work place and not somewhere to not be careful. Today’s farms have large and often unwieldy equipment that is built to do a particular job, not to be played around with.

‘The support and interest in the day has been strong over the years and I am sure it will continue into the future’, Dr Archer said.

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