MEDIA RELEASE

Tocal Waiting List

There is a waiting list on all of Tocal’s courses for 2013.

“The demand for Tocal courses this year has been extremely high,” Dr Cameron Archer, Principal said. “We look like having the highest number of students in residence for many years. The quality of applicants and interest and commitment to study in agriculture and horse husbandry is second-to-none. We are very pleased to have this level of interest and it augers well for the future.

“Staff have worked hard over the years in promoting courses but it is difficult to predict the demand for training, however, it is pleasing to see such strong interest. Certificate IV in Agriculture students will be commencing their studies on Monday, 4 February and Certificate III students will be commencing studies on Monday, 11 February.

“Students will be enrolling in Certificate III in Agriculture and Horse Husbandry and Certificate IV in Agriculture. A number of students continue on to undertake a Diploma in Agriculture with subsequent studies at degree level. We are finding students often leave school and like to gain the practical experience before embarking on university studies in agriculture,” Dr Archer said.

“The employment rate for past graduates remains strong and there are about three jobs available for each graduate we have produced in 2012. I see that continuing in 2013 because of the ongoing demand for skilled personnel to work in our agricultural industries,” Dr Archer said.

Tocal students undertake theoretical and practical studies throughout the year and also work on commercial farms. The Certificate III students have work experience of one week at a time at local farms; however, Certificate IV students undertake two four-week blocks of experience at farms across the country and in New Zealand. This gives them a great insight into the diversity and opportunities in agriculture,” Dr Archer said.

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