EX-STEMENT REUNION

Tocal will celebrate 45 years of agricultural education with an ex-students reunion in October. The 30-31 October weekend will see hundreds of former students return to celebrate their time at the college and to catch up with friends. The reunion will involve a formal dinner/dance in the college hall on the Saturday evening. On the Sunday, students will be shown around the campus and farms to see the developments that have occurred since they were at Tocal. They will be particularly interested in the construction of the new buildings and those buildings in progress. Tocal has a strong Ex-students Association and they provide a great deal of support to the college through scholarships and employment opportunities for graduates.

2010 OPEN DAYS

10.00am - 3.00pm Friday 1 October
10.00am - 3.00pm Friday 8 October

Prospective students and their families are encouraged to come to either of these days. These include a tour of the college campus, student residences, college farms and the historic Tocal Homestead complex.

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: 1800 025 520

Inside This Issue

Ex-Student - Dave Farmer

Dave was at Tocal in 1987/88. For the last 10 years, Dave Farmer has been employed as Territory Manager for mid NSW and Tasmania by Croplands Equipment Pty Ltd. Prior to this, he managed an 8,500 acre property for Universal Press at Bathurst. This was a mixed farming enterprise with sheep, cattle and cereal crops.

Croplands is the leading manufacturer of Agricultural Sprayers in Australia and New Zealand, having brands such as the Quantum Mist vineyard sprayer and Pegasus range for Broadacre.

It is the largest self propelled dealer in Australia, selling brands such as the Spra Coupe and RoGator ranges.

Tocal Prospectus Out Now!

2011 JAPAN TOUR

Tocal has a close relationship with Gifu Agricultural College in Japan. During November, second year students from Gifu visit Tocal to learn about Australian agriculture. They also like to mix with Tocal students and local farmers to learn about Australian culture.

During their Tocal stay, they are involved in horse riding, whip cracking, sheep shearing and a variety of other typical Australian farm activities. Tocal students get an appreciation for the Japanese culture which is quite different to our own.

In 2011, Tocal students plan to visit Gifu College which is near Nogoya. This is a great opportunity for interested students to see Japan, visit farms and stay with a farm family.

CAREER SPOTLIGHT

‘C’ JOB PROSPECTS

Cotton Farm Manager
Manages the day to day operations of a cotton farm including ground preparation, planting, irrigation and harvesting.

Consultant
Provides advice to farm managers on the operation and financial performances of the farm. The best consultants have tertiary qualifications as well as practical farm experience.

‘D’ JOB PROSPECTS

Dairy Farm Manager
Manages the day to day operations of a dairy farm that include pasture improvement, cattle breeding, feeding, milking and calf rearing.

Drover
Responsible for taking large mobs of cattle or sheep overland to market or, in times of drought, tailing them in the ‘long paddock’ looking for feed until the drought breaks.

As a professional, they need to have a good understanding of the farming industry, be able to work well under pressure, have good communication skills and be able to manage staff effectively and efficiently.

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For Your Free Copy
Ph: 1800 025 520

2010 Open Days Tocal Brochure Out Now!

BUILDING WORKS ON CAMPUS

An investment of $5.5 Million from the Australian Government Education Infrastructure Fund has seen a number of buildings constructed or renovated during this year.

The works on the College kitchen and Residential Supervisor’s flat have been completed. The extension to the Multi Purpose Skills Training Centre, College Dairy training room and improved accommodation for visiting school groups are underway.

Tocal has a strong Ex-students Association and they provide a great deal of support to the college through scholarships and employment opportunities for graduates.

To stay up to date with the latest news and events, please visit the Tocal website:

www.tocal.nsw.edu.au

For More Information:
Ph: 1800 025 520
Fax: 02 4938 5549
info@tocal.com

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By 2011, Tocal will be 50 years of age. It is a key trading partner and an appreciation of their agricultural practices and culture is important for those planning to work in agriculture in Australia.
LANDLEARN

The LandLearn website www.landlearnnsw.org.au has lots of information and resources for students and teachers interested in agriculture. If you are looking for information for an assignment or school project, careers advice, downloads or events, then this site will be of great assistance to you.

LandLearn was set up to promote the important role agriculture plays in the community. There is material available on sustainable farming, climate change, agricultural production matters and other topics of interest to students and teachers.

If you need some info or a photo for a class project or if you want to know where your food and fibre comes from, check out the LandLearn site.

SPOTLIGHT ON TOCAL STAFF

Warwick Lawrence

Warwick is involved in running the Horse Husbandry course. He is one of Australia’s best riders and has been very successful in many campdraft and other stockhorse competitions.

He has been the World Campdraft Champion and was heavily involved in setting up The Man from Snowy Stockhorse Spectacular which was introduced to the Royal Easter Show (RAS) a number of years ago.

Warwick grew up on farms in the Hunter and has bred and trained horses almost since he could walk. At Tocal, he supervises and trains students to ride and handle horses and to break in and train Tocal’s 2 year olds.

Lyn Walsh

Lyn has been at Tocal since 1983. She grew up on a farm at Mangrove Mountain and worked as an agriculture teacher around NSW before coming to Tocal.

She has trained students in sheep production, farm butchery, natural resource management, organic farming, a range of livestock units and horse husbandry. She now coordinates the livestock units and horse husbandry.

For the last 12 years, Lyn has run the Food Farm Pavilion at the RAS and camped at the showground with students for the full 2 weeks of the show. Now that’s a dedicated staff member.

Jill Clayton

Jill has been at Tocal since 2003. She gained her practical experience with dairy cattle and horses in the Camden area and worked for the DPI at Elizabeth Macarthur Institute before joining Tocal.

She teaches a range of units including horse production, animal nutrition, animal breeding and genetics and organic farming. She also trains students in practical skills such as calf marking, cattle handling and horse riding.

NORTH AUSTRALIAN PASTORAL COMPANY (NAPCO)

Tocal has a close relationship with NAPCO and Kidman Pastoral Companies. Certificate IV students are placed for one month’s work experience on their farms.

Those interested in working in the pastoral industry can spend time on one of the NAPCO or Kidman properties in Western Queensland or Northern Territory.

Some of these properties are in remote areas. However, the company pays to fly students to Brisbane, then to Mt Isa and then on the mail plane out to the property. This is a great experience for students, especially if they haven’t travelled to these areas.

Work on the properties involves mustering cattle on horseback or motobike, working cattle in yards, checking bores and windmills and general station work.

The North Australian Pastoral Company (NAPCO) owns Alexandria Station and 13 other stations in Queensland.

Other students are located around New South Wales at enterprises from broadacre cropping to feedlots and cattle studs and mixed farming properties. Students can also travel to farms in New Zealand for work experience.

BRANGUS AI PROGRAM

As part of a Certificate IV elective on animal breeding, the college has selected an elite herd of 40 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 Turanville Shorthorn Stud near Muswellbrook and Waverley Station which has Angus cattle, to hear experienced managers talk about breeding and selection of cattle.

The aim of the elective is to help breed high quality heifers and bulls to use in the Tocal breeding program. The college already sells excess heifers at the Tocal Field Days and we also plan to breed good quality bulls for sale in the future.

FERAL ANIMAL CONTROL AT THE TOCAL PROPERTY

Since January 2007 records have been kept of the number of feral animals killed on Tocal and on neighbouring farms. From this date, due to the high number of attacks on sheep and the lack of success with our baiting programs we undertook a shooting strategy in addition to baiting.

To date, the shooting tally is; 48 wild dogs, 59 pigs, 21 foxes and 1 deer. Yes one deer! The deer had gone through Tocal disturbing sheep and was chased down in a neighbouring property.

Ian Crouch from Peterson is one of two shooters trusted with keeping feral animals under control on Tocal. The other is College Lecturer Bob Dunn.

These shootings are having an impact on animal populations. During the last twelve months, 4 wild dogs have been shot and the sheep mortality is the lowest it has been for 4 years - more than half of what it was at the height of the wild dog attacks in 2007.

Pig numbers have gone up though, according to our sightings. This indicates that shooting alone is not controlling these so now our beef manager, Mal Burke is reverting to trapping with the help of the local Livestock Health and Pest Authorities.

These findings highlight the need for multiple strategies to control the feral animal population.

TRAINEE SHIPS

Tocal has a traineeship program for people who want to work on farms and rural businesses. This course involves blocks of training at Tocal while being employed on a farm somewhere in NSW.

Students gain a Certificate II or III after 1 year and can then progress to a Certificate IV with another year of training.

Trainees with previous experience can be accelerated through the program by starting at Certificate III and gaining credit for previous training or work experience. Traineeships cater for the needs of people on a range of different enterprises including beef, dairy, horse, cropping and mixed farming properties.

If you prefer to work and train part-time rather than do a full-time course, contact Tocal staff and they may be able to assist you to find a suitable position.

CURRENT STUDENT – REES POWELL

Rees is an elected representative on the Tocal Students Association. He started the Certificate III in Agriculture this year and plans to continue at Tocal in 2011. He comes from Newcastle but has spent a lot of time on his grandparent’s Goulburn farm.

Over the last few years, Rees has competed at a national level in archery. He has been in the Hunter Institute of Sport Archery Squad since 2007 and has competed in competitions all around NSW. He was placed second in the National Archery competition in Mildura in 2009.

Rees has his archery equipment in safe storage at Tocal and practices regularly. His aim is to get into the Commonwealth Games team and we all wish him well. Wouldn’t it be great to have a Tocal graduate representing Australia in the Commonwealth or Olympic Games?