**Inside This Issue**

1. Picasso Cows
2. RYDA
3. Principal’s Column
4. Past Student Becomes MD
5. Career Markets
6. Building Works on Campus
7. Tocal Field Days
8. Beginner Horse Riding
9. Ex-Student Olivia Pisani
10. 2010 Open Days
11. Careers A - B

**PICASSO COWS**

The Picasso Cows Competition is a program run by the dairy industry to educate young people about agriculture. Schools can join in and support their students’ involvement in this excellent program.

Each school stages fun activities aimed to teach students about the importance of the dairy industry in providing fresh dairy produce. They also learn about the important role farmers play in managing the natural environment.

The students are given a fibreglass cow. They have to develop a theme and paint the cow. Usually the theme highlights the benefits of dairy foods in providing protein, calcium and vitamins for growing bodies. The winning school receives prizes.

The Picasso Cows Competition has been very successful and is expanding into new areas each year.

The Hunter and South Coast schools have been involved in it for a few years and do a great job as you can see from the photo above.

**RYDA**

2009 saw the introduction of a very successful Rotary Youth Driver Awareness program held at Tocal College.

This one day RYDA program involved local Rotary Clubs, Police and emergency services personnel, accident victims and their families.

The aim of the workshop was to increase awareness amongst young people about to get their licenses of the potential dangers in driving motor vehicles. It is mostly targeted at Year 11 students who will be eligible to get their Learners Permits and go for their ‘Provisional P1 Licences’.

One of the activities involved a police car demonstrating the impact of different speed levels on breaking distances.

The Tocal and local high school students who attended were astounded at how much longer it took to stop a vehicle at just a few kilometres higher speeds.

The RYDA workshop was such a success that it will be repeated a number of times during 2010 and extended to include more Hunter high schools.
I am pleased to prepare the Principal’s report for the first Tocal Topics for 2010. At the time of writing, our students have settled into college life and are enjoying their time here.

We currently have 97 full-time students in 3 separate courses. Also, we have about 35 part-time trainees who come for 5-day blocks during the year.

In May, Certificate IV students travelled to properties in NSW, North Queensland and Tasmania for off-campus work experience.

Tocal is a unique college! No other college provides such a broad range of off-campus work placements for students. I know students really enjoy their time off-campus.

Our students complete work experience on large commercial farms, some with 50,000 cattle or thousands of hectares of cropping. This often leads to job offers and they get to see parts of Australia they have never been to before.

Employment rates for Tocal graduates remain at high levels, even with parts of NSW and other states still drought-stricken. We regularly receive calls from employers seeking students for positions on farms and rural businesses.

Our 2009 Tocal graduates are all employed or studying at university!!!

Staff and students have been busy with various events including the Tocal Field Days, Royal Easter Show and Careers Markets at Armidale, Tamworth, Newcastle and Maitland.

This year, we plan to visit a number of schools and Careers Markets throughout NSW. If you see us on a stand, call in and say hello. If you know of anyone who might be interested in agriculture or horses, make sure you let them know about us. Most info is on our updated website at www.tocal.nsw.edu.au

With best wishes,

Cameron Archer
Principal

PAST STUDENT BECOMES MD

Luke Scicluna Writes:

"After completing my School Certificate at Colo High School at North Richmond in the Hawkesbury Valley I had two education options either to do the HSC or I could go to Tocal College.

The two career choices were pursuing my dream of becoming a Stock & Station Agent or working on the land.

So I chose Tocal College where I completed my Certificate & Advanced Certificate in Agriculture. While there my career path became crystallised as I opted for a job in the agency industry. To realise this, I continued to travel back each weekend to work at the Mcgraths Hill auctions at Windsor. By the age of 16, I auctioned my first animal, a goat, that made me about $5.

After finishing at Tocal I continued to work at the Mcgraths Hill Auctions for a company called National Livestock Brokers (NLB).

This was only for twelve months and as with all hard decisions I left NLB to further my career and then started with William Inglis & Son at Camden.

I spent three years at Camden where I was able to do a lot of selling and it was while I was there I won the National Auctioneering Title at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. Part of the prize was a trip to the Calgary Stampede in Canada to compete in the International Auctioneers Competition at which I was lucky enough to win the Rookie Auctioneer Title which is the first time an Australian had won anything at the competition.

In August 1999, after I returned to Australia I started a new job with my current firm Davidson Cameron & Co. I was based at Gunnedah and we also had another office in Quirindi. We were only a staff of 5 staff back then but since have grown to our present size of just under 40 full time staff spread across nine offices from Dubbo in the south to Inverell in the north.

Davidson Cameron & Co, through its equity partner Ruralco Holdings Ltd, is a public listed company along with other well known brands such as CRT, Grant Daniel & Long (Qld), Rodwells (Vic) and Roberts (Tas).

As from 1st of July 2010, I will be taking over the role of Managing Director (MD) of the company along with my present role of Livestock Manager.

I believe that my time at Tocal certainly helped my career by allowing for me to have a better understanding of rural Australia."

CAREERS MARKETS

Tocal staff attend a large number of Careers Markets around NSW during the year. We can’t get to all of them but try to get to the main ones. These include markets at Dubbo, Bathurst, Forbes, Wollongong, Mittagong, Goulburn, Wagga Wagga, Orange, Coffs Harbour, Canberra, Nowra, Gosford, Parramatta, Northern Beaches, Penrith, Newcastle, Tamworth, Armidale, Campbelltown and Kew.
BUILDING WORKS ON CAMPUS

Tocal’s facilities are being upgraded with an investment of $5.5 Million from the Federal Government.

The work includes extending and renovating the College Kitchen, a caretaker’s flat to provide more after hours support, extension of the Multi Purpose Skills Training Centre, a training room at the College Dairy and improved accommodation for visiting school groups.

The College kitchen staff have appreciated the renovation of the old facility which was very cramped and outdated. The new kitchen is a much more pleasant place to work.

BEGINNER HORSE RIDING

While many students can already ride when they come to Tocal, some have had little or no horse riding experience and expertise.

In 2010, Tocal took initiatives to help beginner riders develop their horse riding skills to help them in their work with stock horses.

The course started by teaching them how to safely catch a horse, groom it, clean hooves, saddle up and mount it correctly. They then learnt to ride in small groups under close supervision from Tocal staff.

Each session ran for half a day. These sessions continued into term two and beginner riders participated in weekend rides to gain further experience.

This training improved their confidence and safety skills in mustering cattle on horseback.

Being competent in horse riding will allow our students to go out onto large cattle and sheep properties to work during the Certificate IV off-campus program.

Horse riding takes longer to learn than many other farm skills but it is important to those who want to work with horses on farms.

The horse riding training is typical of the practical nature of the Tocal courses which most students prefer.

Instructors include Will Buckley, Steve Krick, Jill Clayton and Ian Nunan and the extra effort by these staff has already made a marked improvement in students’ horse riding skills.

TOCAL FIELD DAYS

The 2010 Tocal Field days were an outstanding success. The great team effort by staff, students, local community groups and commercial exhibitors, is the key to making the event so memorable.

Thousands of visitors took the opportunity to spend a day at Tocal and gain information about areas such as farm production, new technology, conservation of the environment, tractors and machinery, solar energy, pig racing, good food and wine, weed control, sheep dog trials, private native forestry, arts and crafts and much more.

The Tocal Field Days commenced in 1984 to assist local farmers and hobby farmers to improve their management skills.

Over the years, it has become one of the foremost Field Days in Australia. Yet it has retained its people-friendly approach. Visitors often comment about how helpful and welcoming Tocal students and staff are, during this event.

Many visitors come back year after year and really enjoy seeing all the new exhibits and demonstrations that evolve and change from year to year.
Artificial Breeding Technician
Travels the countryside giving advice on, and aiding in, the artificial breeding of cattle.

Dairy Farm Apprentice
Trains in managing pastures, milking cows and feeding calves.

Beef Stud Manager
Manages the day-to-day operations of a beef cattle stud including breeding programs, showing of cattle and stud cattle sales.

Beekeeper
Manages a number of hives, transports them to areas of flowering plants, robbs the hives and collects the honey for sale.

Tocal Brochure Out Now!
Ph: 1800 025 520

EX-STUDENT OLIVIA PISANI

Olivia was at Tocal in 2005-2006. She completed both Certificate III and IV courses and also did the Diploma in her spare time.

When she left Tocal she worked on a horse property training Olympic Show Jumpers. She also has her own horses and regularly competes in a variety of events as well as teaching natural horsemanship to others. She has been involved with horses all her life and is currently completing an EFI Instructors program.

Three years ago, Olivia enrolled in a combined degree in agriculture and law at the University of New England. She is doing this by correspondence while working with her horses and waitressing in the Hunter Valley.

Her dream is to travel and work in international agricultural trade. With her qualifications in agriculture and law and her experience at Tocal, she will be a valuable employee for a large company involved in exporting products. She also speaks Japanese and this is a great skill to have as Japan is a significant trading partner.

She recently visited Tocal to seek help from staff with a University project. With her hard work and our input, Olivia received a Distinction for her assignment.

Despite the poor school track record amongst some students, Tocal tuition builds up their skills and confidence and when they undertake University studies, they tend to excel.

2010 OPEN DAYS

10.00am- 3.00pm Friday 9 July
10.00am- 3.00pm Friday 16 July

We invite and encourage prospective students to attend one of these Open Days. They include a tour of the college campus, student residences, college farms and the historic Tocal Homestead complex.

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

If you haven’t had a good look around 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

Ph: 1800 025 520

Paterson NSW 2421 Australia
Phone: 1800 025 520
Fax: 02 4938 5549
info@tocal.com
www.tocal.nsw.edu.au