

News and Events 2015

30 JULY **Message from Cameron Archer on his intention to retire**

I wish to advise it is my intention to finish duties with the Department on Friday 25th September 2015.

I am leaving the Department and the College feeling satisfied that I have been able to make a contribution to a range of educational and other programs which are of value to our rural industries and communities. This contribution has been recognised on many occasions and I feel diminished at these times when I know it is really through the efforts of others that I have received such accolades.

I can honestly say, I have never regretted coming to work and I have always felt a sense of achievement at the end of the day. While some days have been more challenging than others, I have always felt that I am part of an organisation which is always progressing, changing, evolving but most of all servicing its community and industry.

I have been given many opportunities in my forty years with the Department, opportunities which I have always appreciated and attempted to make the most of. These include post-graduate education, overseas travel, professional development and most of all the privilege of working with committed, intelligent and competent people.

Over time, my responsibilities have grown and I have relished the extra challenges which have been placed before me. I feel satisfied that we are making progress in promoting learning about food and fibre production in Australian schools on a range of fronts including across DPI, within Tocal College, with the Belgenny Farm Trust and the Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia. I am confident that these initiatives will be able to be continued into the future.

Even though my responsibilities have broadened I have continued to obtain enormous satisfaction from the College's Youth education program. The 'Back to Tocal' weekend was a time for me to reflect upon my involvement in education of adolescents. It confirmed to me how important the education of adolescents is and that Tocal has been a positive influence on the lives of so many young Australians. I am very proud of the achievements of the College's graduates

I have been privileged to have the opportunity to work on the conservation and management of Tocal Homestead which is coming to a stage where it should be a financially viable business. The progress made at the Homestead has been enormous and it is a credit to all concerned.

I have relished the opportunity to undertake similar work at Belgenny Farm but also combine it with encouraging greater learning about food and fibre production in schools. I hope I can continue this work for sometime yet.

I have been fortunate to be part of the development of the Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia which has made a lot of ground in recent times but will need to continue to work hard to be viable into the

future. My first meeting regarding a national approach to learning about food and fibre production in Australian schools was in Victoria in 2004. This just goes to show how long it can take to really get traction and make changes but when you do, if well managed, they can be something that will grow and develop for many years to come.

I have set my departure from the College and the Department at this time of the year because it fits in between the main 50th Anniversary celebration and the College's Foundation Day in November. The Department will be advertising the position of Director, Education very soon, the position which will undertake the duties that I am currently undertaking as Principal, Tocal College. I believe that it is appropriate there is a handover period and then Foundation Day will give the opportunity for the 5th Principal of Tocal College to take up duties on the 50th Anniversary of the College's opening. It will then enable planning for the 2016 year to be under the hand of the new Principal.

I have appreciated greatly the support and guidance of all my colleagues, members of the Tocal College Advisory Council, members of the former Murrumbidgee College of Agriculture Advisory Council, The CB Alexander Foundation, The Friends of Tocal, Tocal Students Association, Tocal Ex-Students Association and Tocal Field Days Association. All these organisations and individuals within them have meant much to me and have assisted me in my duties in many ways.

Kind regards

Cameron

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