MEDIA RELEASE

Tocal Graduate Selected in Australian Meat Judging Team

A group of 13 Tocal students attended the Australian Intercollegiate Meat Judging competition in Wagga Wagga during the recent school holidays. Four of these students competed while the others were official observers to learn the skills they need to compete next year.

The competition involved judging various cuts of meat from a range of animals. There was a strong contingent from universities around Australia and overseas. These included universities from America, Japan, Korea and Pakistan as well as a number from around Australia.

Tocal students were very successful against this strong competition with the team beating a number of the university teams to come 8th overall. Tocal graduate, Tyaan Tuckey, was placed 6th which gained her selection in the Australian team which will compete in the United States early in 2014.

Tyaan is from the Northern Territory and has a strong interest in beef production. She has spent a lot of time in Qld abattoirs gaining experience in meat quality to prepare for the competition. She was dux of Tocal last year and has been offered a number of jobs in the industry due to the strong interest and ability she displayed during the competition.

Tyaan said that she had worked on large cattle stations in the Northern Territory which got her interested in the production side of the industry. ‘When I went to Tocal, I learnt more about the processing of meat and the importance of tenderness and quality,’ she said. ‘This is the side of the industry that I would like to have a career in. It is very important that consumers are able to rely on consistent quality in the food they buy at the supermarket.’

Tocal staff member Steph Teterin, spent a great deal of time organising the meat judging team and arranging training for them. She and Beef Lecturer, Bruce West took the team down to Wagga and helped them prepare for the event.

Tocal Deputy Principal said ‘The Meat Judging Competition is a great opportunity for motivated students to learn more about the processing side of the industry. Considering that they compete against university students, Tocal students always do very well because they have the practical knowledge of the industry that many undergraduates don’t yet have.’

Tocal has had a number of students who have travelled to America in Australian teams over the years. According to Mr Kinsey, the experience they gain and the industry contacts they make are of great benefit to their careers in the beef industry.

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