Over 120 Tocal students from full time and traineeship programs received their awards from the Hon. Robyn Parker MP, Minister for the Environment and Minister for Heritage at the March Graduation Day ceremony.

Mrs Parker said that those starting careers in agriculture had a bright future helping to feed the world. She congratulated them on successfully completing their courses and wished them well. She also thanked their families and Tocal staff for all the support they had given them.

Scholarships were also presented to over 60 students to provide financial support during their course. Sponsors from various organisations presented scholarship certificates to students.

Top: BBM Youth Support Executive Director Symon Scott with the students supported by BBM Youth Support.

Above: Tocal students in the hall on Graduation Day.
BBM YOUTH SUPPORT TRAVEL AWARDS

BBM Youth Support provides two annual travel awards each valued at $8000 for Tocal students. These allow students to cover the cost of travelling to the United Kingdom to gain further experience in agriculture or horse breeding.

This year, Tocal Graduates Amy Copland from Victoria and Kylie Hall from Barraba were the successful applicants.

Amy and Kylie are currently in the UK gaining experience on a range of properties in England and Wales. All of their costs are being covered by BBM Youth Support.

Both students did really well in the Certificate IV last year with Amy being awarded dux of the course at the recent Graduation Day ceremony in March.

BBM Youth Support also provides $40,000 in student scholarships each year.

Above: Amy Copland receiving her dux award from the Hon. Robyn Parker MP, on Graduation Day.

TOCAL FACEBOOK

Have you seen Tocal’s Facebook page? Like the page to see what Tocal students are up to each week on the college farms. We aim to put photos and info up regularly so current students and others can be kept up to date with what’s happening.

There are also some short videos of Tocal students on YouTube. Search for ‘Tocal’ and you will find some interesting information.

Don’t forget to check our website www.tocal.nsw.edu.au

www.facebook.com/TocalCollege
Every year, Tocal students are involved in the beef cattle section of the Maitland Show.

14 Certificate IV students took a number of Tocal cattle to the Maitland Agricultural Show, Friday 14th February to compete in the Paraders’ Competition and help as stewards.

Congratulations to Madison Riley (Maddie) who came first in the 17+ Paraders’ Competition and was overall grand champion parader of the show. Other Tocal students also gained places.

Maddie was dux of the Certificate III in Agriculture last year. She comes from Fernside in Northern NSW and has a lot of experience showing cattle.

This really helped her to do well at the Maitland Show and in the Paraders’ Competition at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Top: Tocal students in the Paraders’ Competition at Maitland Show.

Above: Madison Riley receiving her dux award from the Hon. Robyn Parker MP, on Graduation Day.
Tocal Certificate III trainee from last year, Jess Stephens was a part of the winning Bega Young Farmer Challenge and is now off to compete at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

There is a bit of pressure on her though. She was part of the winning Bega team at the regional show but unfortunately was unable to be a part of the team that went on to win at Sydney.

The Bega Young Farmer Challenge involved mixed teams of 4 with members aged 18-35 years who took part in the relay event of a series of farming related tasks.

The 3 teams with the fastest heat times progressed through to the final.

THE ROYAL EASTER SHOW

Once again, Tocal students participated at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, run by the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS).

Some students and recent graduates worked for cattle studs, preparing to show cattle.

Others helped out in the horse pavilions organising stables and facilities for the large number of horses that competed in the various show classes.

Students were also involved in the Career Zone event, promoting agricultural careers to the general public and dealt with young people enquiring about the range of job opportunities in agriculture.
Tocal now has some new banners to display at careers markets and field days around the state.

These will help to promote Tocal courses and careers in agriculture. Photos were selected from a large number taken in 2013 to depict students engaged in activities on the college farms.

While the banners promote working with livestock, there are also other photos of students working with machinery that can be used to promote courses.

Keep an eye out for these banners if you get to a careers market. Tocal staff attend most of them around the state from Coffs Harbour to Moruya and Griffith to Tamworth and Forbes.
A-Z OF JOB PROSPECTS
ON THE LAND

“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 dairy farm day-to-day operations including pasture improvement, cattle breeding, feeding, milking and calf rearing.

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

Staff Member - Bruce West

Bruce commenced at Tocal in 1996 following a number of years as an agriculture teacher in high schools.

Having grown up on a property in the New England region, Bruce has a wealth of practical experience.

He is the beef lecturer at Tocal and runs a number of popular electives including Exhibit Livestock, Feedlot and Yard Design.

Bruce also runs the annual Tocal Schools Steer Challenge which involves local high school students looking after Tocal steers and preparing them for the Paraders’ Competition at Tocal in August each year.

Bruce coordinates the college work experience program for Certificate IV students. This involves placing students on properties around the country to gain commercial farm experience. It’s the most popular part of the course for many students and Bruce often helps them find positions on farms when they finish at Tocal.