Media Release

Great Interest in Quad Safety

The 2014 Tocal Field Days had an emphasis on quad bike safety. A special presentation was made by trainer, Matt Brett regularly through each day.

This provided an opportunity for the College to promote its courses on quad bike safety as well as to create further awareness of the importance of safe riding of quad bikes and the use of quad bars.

“The response from the public and those visiting the Field Days was very positive. All those people whom Mr Brett spoke to strongly supported the use of quad bars or similar protective devices. The benefits of these devices are very clear for all to see.” Dr Cameron Archer, Tocal Principal said.

“One landholder said that he had bars on his quads for some years but had felt that he was on his own, with other owners he knew dismissing their value. Another landholder commended the College and Field Days for placing so much emphasis on quad bike safety.

“Quad bikes used in the wrong situation and often for quite innocent purposes are deadly machines and must be treated with great respect. Quad bars will certainly alleviate some of the risks involved if an operator finds themselves in trouble. The best way of course is to avoid situations where the machine may overturn.

“I recall the enormous resistance from car manufacturers when seat belts were first mooted, but eventually they became mandatory despite the protestations from the motor industry.” Dr Archer said.

“I hope the day is not too far off when rollover protective devices are mandated for quad bikes.”

“Quad bikes are now the cause of the largest numbers of deaths on Australian farms, and result in many non-fatal injuries as well. In 2013 there were 59 on farm deaths, with 15 of these due to incidents involving quads. There were nine deaths relating to tractors and in the same period there were two deaths involving horses.

Any death is one too many and we must strive to make our farms safer. Mandating protective devices on quads would be a great step forward,” Dr Archer added.

Tocal College runs courses on the safe use of quad bikes, giving people the opportunity to evaluate the risks of quad bike use and then develop skills for their safe use on farms and elsewhere.

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