

MEDIA RELEASE

Tocal Australian Stock Horse Sale reflects tough times in the bush.

This year's annual Tocal stock horse sale prices were down on last year, but was not an unexpected result given the drought and current feed prices. The horse's offered were at a very high standard but drought conditions across NSW definitely impacted on the ability of vendors to bid.

This sale represented a decade of horse sales for Tocal. Sixteen horses were offered for sale resulting in a gross sale value of \$100,150. The average for the sale was \$6,259, just under the average for sales since 2007. The mare 'Tocal Primrose' brought the top price of \$13,250. Horses were purchased by buyers from Victoria, NSW, Northern Territory and Queensland.

The sale as always showcased the skills and talent of students and the horse breeding program at Tocal College. Principal Mr Darren Bayley said that the sale continues to provide great encouragement to all the staff and students at Tocal College.

"Quality sales like this are only possible through the hard work and commitment by many people, but I pay particular tribute to the students as well as the supervision of Tocal staff members Mr Warwick Lawrence, Chantelle Vella and Simone Harvey" Mr Bayley said.

"Warwick Chantelle and Simone's dedication and contribution are extraordinary and this is reflected in the results we get. The support of everyone involved in the sale makes it a most successful and enjoyable event".

"The Tocal Stock Horse Sale is a unique event in the College's calendar that students and staff work towards virtually all the year," Mr Bayley said. "We are, given current conditions, pleased with the result of the sale as it provides direct feedback from the market that our staff and students are producing a type of horse which is sought after. In addition it gives real purpose to student efforts and is an opportunity for them to showcase the range of skills that they need to develop to make this event successful".

Mr Bayley said, "Tocal's reputation for providing quality education and training is well known and that encourages enrolments each year. The Horse Sale was, once again, drew buyers from across NSW and interstate, with strong attendance for the parade andsale."

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