

Tocal COLLEGE

YOUR FUTURE IN
AGRICULTURE



A person wearing a white helmet and a blue jacket is riding a brown horse through a field of tall, dry grass. In the background, there is a herd of cattle and a line of trees. The scene is captured in a soft, natural light, suggesting a rural or agricultural setting.

Tocal *your future* COLLEGE *in agriculture*

RTO 91166

Tocal College (RTO 91166) is a leading Australian provider of specialised training to rural industries. It consists of the CB Alexander Campus at Paterson, the Yanco Campus in the Riverina, and a short course delivery branch at Tamworth.

CONTENTS

Total College staff.....	2
Total history	2
About Tocal	3
Commercial farms	3
Entry requirements	4
Where students come from.....	4
Career paths	5
Credit and recognition	5
University articulation	5
Student services.....	6
College life.....	6
College accommodation.....	6
Career support.....	6
Student support.....	7
Internet	7
Financial support	7
Student recreation.....	7
Jobs for Tocal graduates	8
Total Alumni profiles.....	11
Total courses	18
Full-time courses.....	19
AHC30116 - Certificate III in Agriculture (Agricultural Production program).....	19
ACM30817 - Certificate III in Performance Horse (Horse Breeding and Training program).....	20
AHC40116 - Certificate IV in Agriculture (Farm Supervisor and Agribusiness program)	21
AHC50116 - Diploma of Agriculture	22
Open days.....	23
Part-time courses	24
Rural and dairy traineeships	24
Traineeships in beekeeping.....	24
Online courses	25
AHC50116 - Diploma of Agriculture	25
AHC51120 - Diploma of Conservation and Ecosystem Management	25
Individual units	25
Total Skills Training.....	25
A guide to college fees.....	26
Scholarships.....	26
Other Tocal programs	29



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TOTAL HISTORY

Tocal has a long and proud history, which has seen it established as one of the foremost agricultural institutions in Australia.

Tocal is on the lands of the Wonnarua people. The name Tocal is an Aboriginal word meaning 'plenty' or 'big'.

After the 1822 European settlement of the property, Tocal was developed into one of Australia's best known beef cattle and thoroughbred studs. The original homestead and farm buildings are now open to visitors and school groups for tours.

For about 90 years, Tocal was run by the Reynolds family.

The Alexander family purchased Tocal in 1926. When Charles Alexander died in 1947, he bequeathed his estate to be used to train orphaned and destitute children for agricultural jobs.

Tocal College was opened by the Presbyterian Church in 1965 and, in the same year, the buildings won the Sulman and Blacket Awards for Architecture.

In 1970, the College came under the umbrella of the NSW Government.

In January 2005, Tocal College and the Murrumbidgee College of Agriculture were consolidated into one College with two campuses—the CB Alexander Campus at Paterson and the Yanco Campus near Leeton.

In 2014, almost fifty years after it was opened, Tocal College won the Australian Institute of Architects National Enduring Architecture Award.

The CB Alexander Campus contains a 2,200 hectare farm that includes rolling hills, picturesque creeks, rainforests, wetlands, dry sclerophyll forests, good grazing land, and river flats suitable for cropping.

The CB Alexander Campus provides high quality educational activities using its large commercial farms.

ABOUT Tocal

Tocal College provides training for school leavers and other people who are interested in a broad range of agricultural careers.

Training is incorporated into the agricultural activities occurring on Tocal's commercial farms. Students develop the skills and knowledge for a range of primary industries including beef cattle, dairying, horse breeding, rural business management, sheep production, poultry, cropping, precision farming, general agriculture, and natural resource management.

The College also provides a caring environment that promotes both individual and team learning.

Renowned as a high quality training provider, Tocal College offers part-time and full-time agricultural courses, short courses, distance and flexible learning for Year 10, 11 or 12 school leavers and adults interested in careers in agriculture or in gaining credit towards a university degree.

The College is part of the Tocal Agricultural Centre—a Centre of Excellence within NSW Department of Primary Industries. It consists of the College, Regional Services and Regulatory programs, Tocal Field Days and Tocal Homestead. The Hunter Local Land Services (LLS) is also located at the Tocal College, CB Alexander Campus.

Tocal College also has a southern campus—Yanco Campus. It is located at the NSW DPI Yanco Agricultural Institute near Leeton, and provides a wide range of skills training courses, traineeships, and the Aboriginal Rural Training Program (ARTP).

COMMERCIAL FARMS

CB Alexander Campus, Tocal operates commercial farms that provide ideal practical training for students.

These farms run up to the following numbers of stock, depending on season and market conditions:

- Up to 1,400 beef cattle
- 110 Australian Stock Horses
- 300 dairy cows
- 300 Dohne ewes
- 90,000 free-range layer hens.

A network of farmers throughout Australia support Tocal students in gaining practical farm work experience.

The Tocal farm is managed under the same conditions as other commercial farming enterprises. It continually reviews its practices in order to stay up to date with the latest industry developments. This includes investing in new technologies, machinery and equipment. In recent years Tocal, has embraced many digital farming opportunities, particularly in its dairy and beef operations. It also works cooperatively with other government agencies, peak industry bodies, leading universities and agricultural service providers to conduct research and host field days and workshops. Currently the Beef Section is part of the Southern Multi Breed trial, one of the largest cattle genetic evaluation projects in the southern hemisphere.



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Entry requirements for full-time courses include completion of Year 10 or equivalent (many students will have completed Year 11 or 12), a strong interest in agriculture or horse husbandry, and the ability to live and learn independently in a residential environment.

Applicants need to complete an online application and medical history form on the Tocal website (a print version of the application form is available on request). They will then need to provide a copy of recent school results and/or a work reference before contacting the College and arranging an interview. An ideal time for interview is during one of the College's Open Days. Applicants for Tocal's Horse Breeding and Training program need to provide additional material including a short video demonstrating their riding ability and the names of two referees.

Students with adequate knowledge and substantial practical farm experience may gain direct entry to the Certificate IV in Agriculture. Adequate experience may include HSC Primary Industries or Agriculture *plus* the equivalent of a year's full time agricultural work where the student has had exposure to a wide range of farm roles. A pre-assessment of agricultural knowledge and practical skills is also required.

Tocal College's access and equity policies ensure that all students can gain course entry on an impartial basis including students with disabilities, students from non-English speaking backgrounds, Indigenous Australians, and rural and remote students.

Applicants are assessed on their ability to safely carry out practical farm tasks, and meet minimum literacy and numeracy standards. If residing on campus they must also be capable of living independently.

WHERE STUDENTS COME FROM

Tocal students come from all over New South Wales and occasionally interstate. Many are rural students, often from family farms, but an equally significant number are from urban centres and have limited agricultural background.

OPEN DAYS

Open days provide an ideal opportunity to visit the College and get a feel for what life as a student is really like. During open days, students have the opportunity to chat to teaching staff, receive an overview of courses, and take a tour of the College and its commercial farms. These open days are held every Friday during the July and October school holidays.





CAREER PATHS

Total graduates get jobs! They are in demand by employers because they receive a firm foundation in practical agriculture, industry experience, and develop good interpersonal skills. These fundamentals allow them to choose from a range of career paths.

Graduates enter careers on farms and in agri-business. Those that do well in the course may enter, or be quickly promoted into, supervision or management roles. Others pursue careers in education, research, business or environmental sectors.

Total College equips graduates with the skills and knowledge needed to adapt to change, gain promotion, and explore new career options.

CREDIT AND RECOGNITION

Total students may receive credit for a unit of competency gained at school, through TAFE or other educational providers, if it is deemed equivalent. They may also receive Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) for skills and knowledge they have gained through significant experience on farms they have worked on. A detailed assessment process is still required to determine if this is appropriate.

Credit and RPL may mean some students do not have to complete some parts of a course. These students can use the time to gain additional skills and experience.

UNIVERSITY ARTICULATION

Arrangements are in place for Total graduates to receive credit at most NSW universities that offer agriculture-related courses. Direct relationships exist with some regional universities. In many cases, these articulation arrangements involve a certain amount of credit towards a degree. This credit shortens the course time and reduces the cost of university studies.



STUDENT SERVICES

College life

Students can enjoy an exciting and varied social life. They are able to participate in numerous College events and activities including recreational activities organised by the Student Association.

The CB Alexander Campus is close to the thriving city of Maitland and the world-famous Hunter Vineyards, the beaches of Newcastle and Port Stephens, and the Barrington Tops National Park.

College accommodation

Single room accommodation is provided for students who wish to live on campus. Rooms contain a bed and desk, lockable cupboards for storage, heaters and fans.

Separate male and female bathroom facilities are provided in the main residences.

Students often make lifelong friends who have similar interests and goals. The peer support provided by fellow students and the opportunity for personal development are key benefits of the residential experience.

During their time at the College, students develop independence, maturity, and the ability to work and live cooperatively with others.

Career support

Total runs a variety of programs to give students a headstart in job planning and placement. These services include one-on-one advice, work experience programs, industry tours, employer days, information on occupations and award conditions, and job vacancy information.

Students are instructed how to prepare their resumes in a professional manner and are given training to assist them with job interviews.

Student support

Total staff are committed to helping students reach their potential and succeed in their chosen courses. A Student Welfare Support Officer is available to all students to assist with both their studies and personal well-being.

At the beginning of the year, students are allocated staff tutors who act as mentors. They monitor each student's progress, provide basic assistance with learning—such as literacy and numeracy—and provide personal guidance where appropriate.

If a tutor is unable to help personally the student will be assisted to obtain other support services. For example, professional counselling services are available through the College and can be arranged for students in need.

First aid treatment is available from qualified staff, and assistance with medical appointments is provided when required.

Internet

During their course, students can use the College internet to access information online. The computer room is available during the day and after hours to allow students to keep in touch with family and friends.

Free wireless internet is available in most student rooms.

Financial support

There are a wide range of scholarships and government grants to help students meet College fees and accommodation costs. Most years, more than half of Total's students receive at least one scholarship. Students from the Western Division or Riverina/Murray region are eligible for a \$2250 scholarship.

Student recreation

A range of recreational facilities are available on campus. These include a large hall for indoor sports and social activities, air-conditioned student common rooms, gym, internet, a wide-screen TV and DVD player, tennis courts and a swimming pool.

There are good spots for fishing and water activities on campus and in the local area. Most sports are catered for in Maitland and the Lower Hunter; staff can assist with contacts to join local clubs. The College regularly organises trips for shopping, movies, bowling and other activities.

Many students get involved in local shows, rodeos and other events and may have the opportunity to work at the Royal Easter Show in Sydney and the annual Total Field Days that are held on the first weekend in May.



JOBS FOR TOCAL GRADUATES

Total College prepares graduates for a wide variety of agricultural and horse industry positions. The following careers are available either immediately or with further study.

Abattoir worker

Meat and poultry process workers slaughter, process, grade and package meat and poultry.

Agricultural journalist

Agricultural journalists research and compile rural news stories, write and edit news reports, commentaries and feature stories for presentation in print and electronic media, and compose written material to advertise goods and services.

Agricultural sales representative

Agricultural/Technical sales representatives represent companies in selling a range of industrial, medical and pharmaceutical goods and services to industrial, business, professional and other establishments.

Animal health inspector

Animal health inspectors enforce the law and educate the public on prevention of cruelty to animals.

Animal nutritionist

Animal nutritionists research and advise on raw material product selection, maintenance of feeding programs and modification of diets.

Animal technician

Animal technicians help veterinary, medical, pharmaceutical, agricultural and general scientists and students to care for and check on animals used for research, breeding and scientific purposes.

Auctioneer

Auctioneers conduct sales of real estate, goods and livestock by taking offers from buyers and accepting the highest purchase price. Registration or licensing is required.

Dairy herd manager

Dairy herd managers oversee pasture production, grazing management, breeding and all aspects of the farm operation.

Farm management consultant

Consultants collect and analyse data on factors affecting production. They advise farmers and farm managers on techniques for improving the production of crops and livestock and alternative agricultural options.

Farm manager

Graduates who aspire to become farm managers usually complete a Certificate IV and/or Diploma of Agriculture. Farm managers need managerial skills to organise and operate a business, plan and manage various enterprises, keep records and supervise staff.

Farmhand/Stationhand

Farmhands/stationhands are employed by farmers and graziers to grow crops, manage livestock and carry out the wide range of tasks required to operate a commercial farm.

Feedlot manager

Feedlot managers manage and maintain productivity of intensive production facilities. They are responsible for operational decision making, stock and commodity management and storage, and the marketing of finished stock.

Fencer

Fencers erect and repair fences and gates. They may be responsible for the design, costing, purchasing and installation of both conventional and electric fence constructions.

Field officer

Field officers provide a support function in rural businesses that may include sample collection, sample analysis, information recording and looking after the practical tasks involved in field operations.

Horsebreaker/horsetrainer

Good horsebreakers are in strong demand. They are involved in training horses to ride, work cattle and compete in a range of competitions including camp drafting, stockhorse events, equestrian competitions and thoroughbred racing.



Photo: Carol Rose

Jobs for Tocal graduates (continued)

Horse massage therapist

Horse massage therapists help to ease muscle fatigue and spasms that reduce the risk of the horse pulling or tearing muscles. This facilitates horse movement and flexibility by improving blood circulation and reducing inflammation in joints and muscles.

Jackaroo or Jillaroo

Jackaroos (male) and Jillaroos (female) are station employees who perform a wide range of outdoor activities on cattle and sheep stations. They usually live in shared accommodation on the property.

Landcare worker

Landcare workers perform a range of tasks to maintain and restore native bushland and farmland.

Livestock buyer

Livestock buyers purchase premium quality livestock at competitive prices appropriate to the client's requirements.

Pest and weed controller

Pest controllers apply pest management techniques to control invertebrate and insect pests inside and outside agricultural and domestic premises, as well as a range of agricultural and environmental weeds.

Property valuer

Property valuers provide advice on land and property financing and valuation matters. They also research and advise on the administration and use of land and property development.

Quality assurance officer

Quality assurance officers ensure that quality company data is collected and analysed, and that businesses comply with all relevant policies and standards.

Regulatory affairs officer

Regulatory affairs officers inspect animals, plants and agricultural produce and facilities to ensure compliance with government and industry standards with respect to quality, health and licensing.

Rural contractor

Many graduates set up their own rural contracting business. This can involve planting, weed control, harvesting, hay & silage making, fencing, mustering and a range of other farm operations.

Rural finance counsellor

Financial counsellors may work for government or non-profit agencies that are dedicated to helping people reduce debt and manage difficult financial situations. Others work first and foremost with the customers of a financial firm and try to sell debt-relief services to the client.

Stablehand

Stablehands assist with the husbandry and handling of horses. It may include the supervision of horses and horse facilities, exercising of horses and maintaining and cleaning stables. It may also include mustering and droving livestock.

Stock & station agent

Stock and station agents provide advice and act for farmers and graziers in business deals including buying and selling livestock, wool, fertiliser, farming and grazing land, stock and equipment.

Technical officer

Agricultural technicians (also called Agricultural technical officers) perform tests and experiments, and provide technical support to assist Agricultural Scientists in areas such as research, production, servicing and marketing.

Vet nurse

Vet nurses provide health care for hospitalised animals, give medication or injections, help vets during examinations and operations and carry out laboratory tests. Some Tocal graduates complete a Vet Nursing course through TAFE when they finish at Tocal.

Vocational education teacher

Vocational education trainers plan, design and develop course curriculum and methods of instruction. They liaise with individuals, industry and education sectors to ensure the provision of relevant programs and services.

Woolclasser

Woolclassers classify fleeces, according to length and quality, straight after shearing and prepare the clip for sale. Many wool classers travel around Australia from shed to shed; others class their employer's woolclip or do it as a sideline to make extra money during the shearing season.

TOTAL ALUMNI PROFILES

Maddy Coleman*

Maddy believes that “some people aren’t born in the country; the country is born in them”. Growing up in Sydney with parents who had no background in agriculture, Maddy’s first experience that got her hooked was the Easter holiday tradition of heading to the country for horse trail riding. In Year 12 at Barker College in Hornsby, Maddy’s agriculture class was taken on an excursion to Tocal College.

“As we drove up to the riding area, the students were laying down horses, teaching them to bow and do all sorts of tricks. As you can imagine for a crazy horse chick, my decision was made then and there,” she said.

Maddy later applied for the Certificate III in Horse Breeding, was accepted, and went on to become Dux. She then completed the Certificate IV in Agriculture with her off-campus placements at two North Australian Pastoral Company (NAPCO) stations, Soudan and Alexandria in the Northern Territory, as well as a property at Willow Tree, NSW, being highlights.

Her first paid job was an Induction Hand at Carroona Feedlot which enabled her to finish her Diploma in Agriculture through Tocal College. Since then, she has worked for a family who breeds stud and commercial Droughtmasters, with ITS Global and also Wagyu company, Jacks Creek.

In August 2016, Maddy and her father became partners in a 1600 Ha property on the edge of the Liverpool Plains at Blackville. The first two years were not without struggle, with drought and family disaster striking when Maddy’s mother and grandfather passed away. With a determined outlook, Maddy said that she “jumped head first into a very cold deep pool with only one option. Start swimming.”

During this time, Maddy was introduced to Regenerative Farming and has since completed a great deal of related training, learning about soil health, grazing charts, running a profitable business, and the hard decisions like destocking. From these teachings, Maddy made conscious changes to her farming; eliminating the use of synthetic fertiliser and chemicals on her property, and using planned grazing, running cattle in one mob around paddocks to not only increase stock density but enable plant rest and recovery. As a result, Maddy believes not only is her property in better shape but so too are her bank balance and her mental health.

“I believe there are plenty of opportunities for young people in agriculture. There’s an exciting future ahead of us. I have found it to be beyond exciting, a constant learning curve and no two days are ever the same. It can be testing and hard work but extremely rewarding. I would like to thank Tocal for being a major contributor to my successes so far”.



*Maddy was an audience contributor to the SBS broadcast “Next Gen Farmers” which aired 25/09/2018.

Tocal Alumni profiles (continued)

Margo Duncan*

It's been an unusual but successful career path for Hunter Valley beef cattle producer, businesswoman and explosives expert, Margo Duncan. She and her late husband, Bruce, met at Tocal Agricultural College in the early 1970's. Hailing from Seaham on the Williams River, they married soon after College, with Margo first working on local dairy farms and then for stock and station agents. In the 1980's, while building up a small beef cattle enterprise, the Duncans set about creating off-farm income streams.



The first enterprise was a pump and irrigation equipment business in Raymond Terrace which won a best exhibit award at the Tocal Field Days. They then established their own drilling, blasting and earthmoving business, diversifying into the manufacture of explosive storage facilities and long-haul explosives transport, supplying coal mines, quarries and earthmovers.

The explosives business grew Australia-wide to become a national enterprise. Margo became a shot-firer, sitting on the Department of Mineral Resources shot-firers examiners board and later working with Australian Standards to revise explosive storage facilities. Following the sale of their business arms, they focused on a core explosive storage manufacturing division supplying mining, quarrying and fireworks industries.

Margo and Bruce next began to concentrate on their ultimate goal: developing their Seaham farm and cattle herd. After numerous property acquisitions, they soon managed 1000 hectares on the Williams River, running up to 500 Angus breeders supplying the local vealer market, backgrounders and re-stockers.

Sadly, Bruce passed away in 2015 but Margo says she remains committed to their focus of the past 40 years: "Set realistic goals and everything is achievable and, as a result, the work you do is far more fulfilling."

Margo believes the College gave her an excellent grounding for the future.

"I had no experience with farming or animals but knew this was where I wanted to work. At Tocal, my confidence soared and I found that the problems we all face are not as difficult as they appear – there are always ways to overcome them, set goals and get on with life. Now our family motto is to 'work hard, live life' which translates to instilling good work ethics in our children and grandchildren, then reaping the benefits of achieving your goals."

*Margo was until recently Chair of the Tocal Advisory Council and is the sponsor of the Bruce and Margo Duncan Scholarship.



Photo: Matt Notley

Tocal Alumni profiles (continued)

Professor Stephen Powles

Professor Stephen Powles is one of Tocal's most outstanding graduates and has held several senior science positions. He is a Professor at the University of Western Australia's School of Agriculture & Environment and a world authority on crops, chemicals and herbicide resistance in crops and weeds.



Stephen grew up on a dairy farm, leaving school at the age of 15 and then working locally in his home town, Taree until he was 20. It was suggested he attend Tocal and he enrolled in 1971. Stephen came from a poor family and he recalls hitchhiking to get to Tocal. He was immediately inspired to learn and study, becoming Dux of his year.

He was encouraged to undertake further studies at Western Sydney University (then Hawkesbury Agricultural College) where he was the top plant science student and won a Rotary Fellowship for M.Sc studies at Michigan State University, USA and later undertaking research at the Australian National University leading to a PhD. "Without that start at Tocal, I would not have been able to pursue the career I have. Education changed my life and it all started at Tocal."

Stephen has received many awards for his contribution including Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science and Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technology & Engineering. In 2017, he became the first Australian to win the American Chemical Society International Award for Research in Agrochemicals.

Stephen has also generously contributed a sum of money to The CB Alexander Foundation which is invested to provide an annual scholarship for students to attend Tocal.

Stephen was a special guest at the College's Foundation Day in 2015 and in his address he reflected upon his time at Tocal.

"I owe a debt of gratitude to George McFarlane, the then Principal, who gave me special entry into Tocal. Thus to study at Tocal was a precious opportunity that has been absolutely pivotal in my life".

Alice O'Rourke

After graduating from Tocal, Alice was awarded the BBM Youth Award which allowed her to travel for six months throughout the UK, learning about their dairy industry. She is also currently attending CSU in Wagga where she is undertaking the B. Ag Bus Mgt. Alice is eager to continue with a career in the Dairy Industry. She says, "Agriculture has always been a part of my life even though I didn't grow up on a farm. Without the support and knowledge gained from Tocal, none of this would have been possible".



Julia Burey

Julia completed the Horse Breeding course and really enjoyed the training side of the horse industry. She had a number of horse industry positions before joining a travelling show training horses. She was involved in a number of Australian horse spectaculars around the country and enjoys working with horses and showing people what they can do when trained properly.



Kate Clancy

Although brought up on a small hobby farm, it was the involvement of her parents' aviation business in agriculture, such as at Victorian Downs Station in the NT, that led Kate to Tocal and a rewarding career as a horse trainer. She credits Tocal's well rounded program for giving her the skills to run her own business, K Clancy Horsemanship, which offers handling, starting, training, lessons, clinics, live entertainment & horses for film and advertising. Kate's ambition is not only to expand her business and facilities, but to be a role model for the horse industry and agriculture in general; "just as my lecturers were for me".



Tim Eyes

Tim grew up on a turf farm on the Central Coast of NSW but discovered his true passion for agriculture while at boarding school in Bathurst. However, he says it was his time at Tocal College that gave him the advanced farming skills and the ability to start up his own business, Eyes Contracting. It was also through Tocal and a BBM Youth Travel Award that he was able to tour the UK, studying their farming practices. He brought home many new ideas and the drive to be successful in agriculture. Tim currently manages and provides farm improvement services for many Central Coast farmers. At the same time, he is developing a food brand and directly marketing pasture grown products to local consumers. These are all part of Tim's long term goal of farm ownership.



James Gooch

James has his own Stock and Station and Real Estate Agency in Gloucester. When he completed his course at Tocal, James worked at a feedlot near Dubbo. He then enrolled in a Stock and Station Agents course and started working for Jones Berry at Maitland and Dungog saleyards. He transferred to Dwyer Young in Gloucester and after a few years bought the business and set up Gooch Agencies. James and his staff sell cattle at Maitland, Gloucester, Taree and Napiac saleyards, as well as real estate around the Gloucester area.



Tocal Alumni profiles (continued)

Mal Leeson

When he finished at Tocal, Mal worked for 5 years on a beef property at Scone. He then worked at the meatworks at Aberdeen for a while before taking up a position as Vertebrate Pests Ranger for the Livestock Health and Pest Authority at Mudgee. He then became a Senior Biosecurity Officer for Central Tablelands Local Land Services. In this role, Mal supports the management of plant and animal biosecurity, such as the control of wild dogs, pigs and other pests. He also supports the management of travelling stock reserves around the Upper Hunter and Central West of NSW. Assisting landholders plan for, respond to, and recover from, a range of emergencies is a key part of his role.



Nathan Lutiger

Nathan grew up on the outskirts of Sydney, but says he was always interested in agriculture. He showed a few of his own cattle which really took off when he joined his school's show team. While a student at Tocal, he tried to have a go at everything. In fact, he represented the College at the Sydney RAS event, AgVision, by demonstrating farming skills in front of over 700 school students (he and Tocal's Charolais cross steer Bosley feature on the AgVision website). Nathan loves his job as a head stock person on a major Central Western mixed farming property, and hopes to continue to advance his career by one day managing it, or a similar enterprise. Nathan says, "Tocal had a huge impact and taught me all the skills that I would need to start my career on the land. There was a huge amount of networking and the contacts that I made have been a massive benefit".



Stuart Murphy

Stuart was one of the key people in the Ex-students Association (now Tocal Alumni) that provides strong support for the College. He is a Head Teacher at TAFE NSW and highly respected by industry in many areas including wool classing and farriery. For many years he has provided after hours wool classing training for Tocal students on behalf of TAFE, and his industry contacts have led to wool shed practical work, showing and career opportunities. Stuart and his family are also highly successful and awarded sheep and cattle producers in the Upper Hunter. Stu has been a great mentor for Tocal students; his passion for agriculture, and the College, has never wavered since his time as a student.



Emily Neilson (Van Der Linden)

A love of horses first drew Emily to Tocal and the Certificate III in Horse Breeding course. She did very well and was in the first group of students to prepare horses for what is now Tocal's annual Australian Stock Horse Sale. Her interest in agriculture broadened and so she next enrolled in the more general Certificate IV in Agriculture course. During her studies, Emily was working part-time on a nearby dairy farm with another Tocal student, Matt Neilson. Not only did they both end up very committed to the dairy industry, but also each other! They are now married and raising their two young children on their Dungog dairy farm. Emily is also the Hunter Young Dairy Network Coordinator, has initiated 'Farm Visit' (curriculum-linked programs for preschool, primary and secondary students) and is an active advocate for both the dairy industry and women in dairy.



David Ninness

David is a graduate of Tocal's Dairy Apprenticeship (now Traineeship) program. This mode of study allowed him to work on his family dairy farm at Wallalong, near Maitland, while attending the College for training blocks. His keen eye and passion for breeding quality dairy cattle allowed him to gain a position as Territory Manager with respected artificial breeding technology company Semex. In this role, and also as an acclaimed cattle judge, he has travelled Australia and the world. He often helps Tocal students and farm staff with conformation assessment and sire selections. David also helped introduce an automated activity monitoring system to Tocal Dairy (individual cow collars which help monitor cow heats, calving, health and nutrition). He says he is happy to help as "Tocal was a big stepping stone to where I am today". Oh, and David was also the Cronulla Shark's mascot, MC Hammerhead, during their 2016 NRL Premiership win!



Nathan Thirkell

After graduating, Nathan worked on a large beef property in the Upper Hunter, then tried his hand at rural contracting. He worked in a coal mine for a while but it wasn't for him. During this time, he started working at the local saleyards on weekends and, as a result, was very soon offered a position at Max Bailey Livestock, Singleton. Nath now shares weekly auctioneering duties and is considered an integral part of the Bailey Livestock team. He has been involved with Tocal's cattle sales each year and enjoys coming back to Tocal to help out. He works alongside more recent Tocal graduate, Zac Ede, who also returns to Tocal to help with sheep sales.





TOTAL COURSES

The aim of Tocal courses is to provide industry-relevant skills and knowledge, to prepare students for positions on farms, horse properties and in other rural businesses. Whether students decide to complete a full time, part time or industry skills course, a Tocal course is a memorable learning experience.

FULL-TIME COURSES

Tocal's full-time courses lead to exciting farming or farm-related jobs, or to higher education.

Please note: The qualification codes and titles may change with updates to nationally recognised training. Please refer to our website for confirmation of the most recent details.

AHC30116 - Certificate III in Agriculture (Agricultural Production program)

This one-year, full-time course prepares students who have completed Year 10, 11 or 12 for a variety of career paths in agriculture. It reinforces valuable practical training with the underpinning knowledge required to work independently across a wide range farms and agribusinesses.

Practical Work

A significant component of this course involves practical training in commercial farming, including precision farming, beef cattle, horses, farm machinery, sheep, cropping, dairy cattle, fencing, chemical application and general farm skills. Students gain work experience on the College farms and other commercial farms throughout NSW. Training in a wide range of practical farm skills means that students are in strong demand by employers.

Group Work

Learning together is part of the Tocal College experience. Students improve their team skills by working in small groups to examine issues relevant to farmers. They also improve their knowledge by participating in tours, lectures and demonstrations.

Individual Work

Through self-paced learning, students explore areas of individual interest to gain a firm grounding for their chosen careers. They complete practical projects that help develop skills and knowledge in selected fields.

Industry Study Tours

A major, week-long cropping industry study tour occurs in fourth term each year. A range of farms, from cotton to Kikuyu seed, and various research facilities and service providers are visited. During the year, numerous other best practice farms and regional events, such as AgQuip, are also visited.



ACM30817 - Certificate III in Performance Horse (Horse Breeding and Training program)

This specialist equine program is a full-time, one-year course that gives students who have completed Year 10, 11 or 12 an opportunity to get a strong balance of practical training and knowledge in the horse industry.

Practical Work

Approximately half of this course is allocated to practical training in horse breeding, hoof care and dentition, broodmare management, horse husbandry, horse training and stock work. Work experience is available on the Tocal commercial farms and Hunter Valley horse properties.

Horse Riding / Training

Students spend a lot of their time developing their horse training skills.

Students that progress through appropriate safety assessments will have the opportunity to break in and train young stock horses. A 'Stock Horse Challenge' held at the end of the course allows students to demonstrate the skills they have learnt during the year. The students are also involved in the annual Tocal Australian Stock Horse Sale held on site.

Individual Work

Individual projects help students develop skills and knowledge relating to selected fields in horse husbandry.

Industry Study Tours

Students visit equine businesses and service providers in the Upper Hunter Valley and NW Slopes, as well as significant equestrian event facilities throughout NSW. These include valuable contacts in the thoroughbred and stock horse industries.



AHC40116 - Certificate IV in Agriculture (Farm Supervisor and Agribusiness program)

This one-year advanced course is open to graduates of the Certificate III in Agriculture or similar courses, or students with substantial farm experience. Wherever possible, it investigates case studies of real farm problems so that graduates have the skills and knowledge to supervise farm programs and to take on positions of responsibility in farming or agribusiness.

Practical work

About eight weeks of this course are devoted to providing students with practical experience on commercial farms in NSW, QLD, NT or New Zealand. Many students opt to work on large pastoral properties in Northern Australia that provide valuable work experience for those interested in the livestock industries. Others work on cropping properties, or for rural businesses such as stock and station agents.

Electives

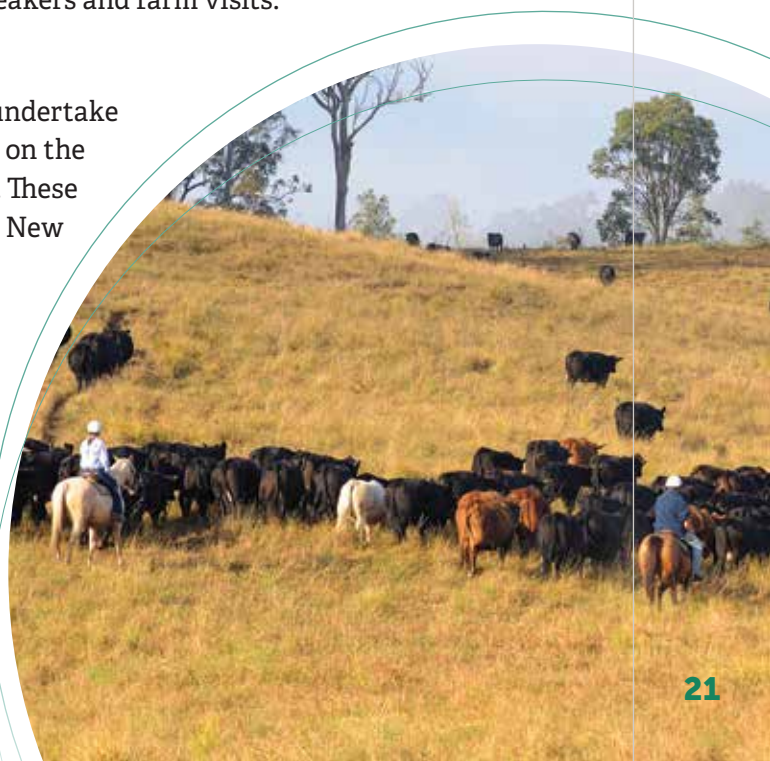
Students can choose from a range of elective units including digital farming, livestock (predominantly cattle and sheep) health and husbandry, livestock nutrition (including feedlot), livestock breeding and genetics, soil analysis, weed and pest management, pasture and grazing management, crop establishment and maintenance, maintenance of machinery and infrastructure (including welding), work supervision, presentation skills, shearing, and wool classing. These units often include practical work on the College's farms or visits to other commercial farms in the Hunter and regional NSW.

Group Work

During most units, students work in small groups and experience a range of learning activities including group discussions, internet research, practical demonstrations, guest speakers and farm visits.

Industry Study Tours

Students have the opportunity to undertake one or more study tours depending on the elective units they choose to study. These include a Beef Industry Tour of the New England and Upper Hunter, Sheep Industry Tour of the Central West, and combined Machinery and Precision Agriculture Tour.



AHC50116 - Diploma of Agriculture

The Diploma of Agriculture is open to students who are enrolled in the Certificate IV, and students receive credit towards the Diploma for some of their Certificate IV studies. Students study online in their spare time with face-to-face staff support. This course is particularly appropriate for those students who have completed Year 12 and are able to commit to self-paced study.

The Diploma focuses on farm business management, planning and management of livestock, pastures, irrigation and financial and physical resources.

Total graduates with a Diploma of Agriculture receive credit at an increasing number of universities including New England, Charles Sturt, Newcastle and the University of Queensland (Gatton).

These credits towards university degrees allow students to gain university entrance and can shorten the time students take to finish a degree.

The Diploma is also available externally as an online course.



OPEN DAYS

Open days provide an ideal opportunity to visit the College and get a feel for what life as a student is really like. During open days, students can chat to teaching staff, receive an overview of courses, and take a tour of the College and its commercial farms.

Open days are held each Friday of the July and October school holidays.

Program

- ▶ 9.00am - registration and check-in until 10.30 am (introductory interviews* commence, if desired)
- ▶ 10.00am - morning tea
- ▶ 10.30am - talk on courses and employment opportunities
- ▶ 12.00pm - lunch available (\$10.00), please book
- ▶ 2.00pm - tour of College farms
- ▶ 3.00pm - conclusion

For more information and to make bookings for lunch, please contact us on 1800 025 520 or 02 4939 8888, or email info@tocal.com

www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/future-students/college-open-days

* An interview, preferably in person, is part of the application process. To have an interview on the day just indicate your interest upon arrival and we will place you on a list. When a time for interview becomes available a member of our team will introduce themselves.





PART-TIME COURSES

Rural and dairy traineeships

The traineeship program is designed for those who are employed on farms throughout NSW. Entry level depends on previous experience. Successful trainees achieve a nationally accredited qualification in agriculture. Depending on starting level, traineeships can be 1 to 2 years in duration.

The CB Alexander Campus program normally requires involvement in a cattle enterprise (dairy or beef), but sheep or mixed farming operations are also possibilities. Trainees normally attend up to six, five-day training blocks each year, with accommodation available on campus.

Trainees who are principally employed in sheep or cropping enterprises may complete their traineeship through Yanco Campus in the south west. This program normally includes a mix of residential training and on-farm assessment.

College training includes visits to commercial farms in NSW. A tour to another state or New Zealand is undertaken periodically, and all current and past graduating trainees are invited.

At the beginning of 2020 trainee tuition fees were dropped by Smart and Skilled and traineeships are now commonly referred to as “Fee Free”. Vocational Training Assistance Scheme (VTAS) is available to help eligible trainees with travel, accommodation and relocation assistance. Farmers who employ trainees may qualify for government financial support. Contact the College for further details and trainee application forms.

Traineeships in beekeeping

The beekeeping traineeship enables students to gain nationally accredited training and qualifications while being paid to work in the beekeeping industry. It is open to paid employees of beekeepers, and leads to a nationally accredited AHC31818 - Certificate III in Beekeeping qualification.

ONLINE COURSES

AHC50116 - Diploma of Agriculture

Delivered online, the Diploma of Agriculture is designed for people with experience in agriculture and farm management, and aims to develop knowledge and skills in property planning, resource management, production and financial management, and work health and safety. Students can study at their own pace in their own time from anywhere in Australia. This course provides for credit towards a degree qualification.

AHC51120 - Diploma of Conservation and Ecosystem Management

Delivered online, the Diploma of Conservation and Ecosystem Management is for people interested in natural resource management, and is designed for landholders and managers, bushland regenerators, pest officers and other students of environmental management, with an emphasis on managing areas of land. Students can study at their own pace in their own time from anywhere in Australia. This course provides for credit towards a degree qualification.

Individual units

Units from online courses can be purchased without having to enrol in the full qualification. They have been developed using the expertise of Tocal staff and other industry experts. They are easy to access and suitable for farmers and others interested in agriculture and conservation and land management.

TOTAL SKILLS TRAINING

Based on the latest industry information and best practice, Tocal Skills Training is practical training for the rural workforce designed to improve the skills and knowledge of today's farmers, as well as those just starting out in agriculture. Training is delivered across NSW on a range of agriculture and land management topics. Included in the numerous courses are chemical training, working in confined spaces, forklifts, tractors, chainsaws, a range of beekeeping courses, and more advanced courses in precision agronomy and sustainable production.

www.tocalskillstraining.com.au



A GUIDE TO COLLEGE FEES

NSW DPI sets fees prior to the start of the courses. An indication of these can be obtained from the current Student Handbook, available on the Tocal website. Tocal offers students several fee payment options, and the College can supply details of these fee plans prior to enrolment. Two deposit instalments are required by mid-December and mid-January to secure a place in the selected course.

To be eligible for funding under Smart & Skilled NSW, a student must meet criteria described on the Smart & Skilled website. These include living or working in NSW, and Australian citizenship or Australian permanent residency.

Tocal students may qualify for financial help in the form of Youth Allowance, ABSTUDY/AUSTUDY, or from a large range of scholarships that are offered to Tocal applicants.

Most students receive scholarships to help them meet fee costs. Long standing scholarships are listed in this publication, as well as more recent ones detailed on the Tocal website. Applications for these need to be submitted by the end of November. Successful applicants are notified in December.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are available to full-time students only.

Australian Stockhorse Society Scholarship (\$2,250)

The Australian Stock Horse Society aims to preserve and promote the bloodlines of the Australian Stock Horse. It is Australia's largest equine recreational and pleasure association. This scholarship is for a student in Tocal's Horse Breeding and Training Program.

Australian Wool Education Trust Scholarships (\$3,000 x 3)

An objective of the Trust is to support the education of students, growers and others considered to be capable of contributing to the development of the wool industry. This scholarship is awarded to students interested in sheep and wool production.

BBM Youth Support (\$1,000-\$3,000 each). There are a significant number of scholarships available.

BBM supports the youth of Australia through their International Awards Program and targeted Australian-based scholarships. Each year, they not only provide Tocal students with scholarships to the total value of \$40,000, but also provide up to two students with International Study Awards worth \$8,000 each. Scholarship applications are accepted from current students when funds become available at different stages throughout the year.

Brooks Family Scholarship, Sandy & Amanda (\$2,250)

This scholarship is provided by a past member of the College Advisory Council and strong advocates of rural mental health.

Bowe and Lidbury Scholarship (\$2,250)

Provided by a local, successful Stock and Station agency that also assists with Tocal's annual Australian Stock Horse Sale.

CB Alexander Foundation Scholarship (\$2,250)

The CB Alexander Foundation supports agricultural education at Tocal College and holds in perpetuity the Tocal lands and resources. The Foundation is also responsible for the conservation and development of the Tocal historic homestead complex. This scholarship is normally for a second year student of the Certificate IV in Agriculture

Country Women's Association (Hunter River Group) Scholarship (\$500)

The CWA is a strong advocate for country women and children. One of their aims is to improve the educational opportunities for rural youth. The CWA also provides a representative to the Tocal Advisory Council.

Duncan Family Scholarships, Bruce & Margo (\$3,000)

Margo and her late husband, Bruce, are ex-students of Tocal and Margo is Chair of the Tocal Advisory Council.

Colin H Dunlop Memorial Scholarship (\$3,000)

This scholarship was established in 2005, from a fund set up by Mr Ian Dunlop in memory of his father, Colin, a trustee of the Alexander Estate.

Rosemary Dunlop Memorial Scholarship (\$3,000)

This scholarship was established in 2005, from a fund set up by Mr Ian Dunlop in memory of his wife, Rosemary, who was very active in the Friends of Tocal.

Friends of Tocal Scholarships (\$2,250 x 2)

The Tocal Friends Association raise funds throughout the year to support Tocal and its students. They also provide a \$250 Civics Prize which recognises a student's contribution to community.

Gardiner Family Scholarship (\$2,250)

This scholarship was established in 2004, from a fund set up by John and Bruce Gardiner. Bruce and John's father, Dr Samuel Stoops Gardiner, was a renowned surgeon in Newcastle and a close friend of CB Alexander.

Gill Family Memorial Scholarship (\$1,500)

This scholarship is provided by descendants of William and Susannah Gill, and is one of the College's earliest scholarships. It was established as a result of a reunion of the Gill family, who initially settled at Woodville.

Glencore Community Investment Program Scholarships (\$5,000 x 6)

Significant scholarship support is provided by Glencore Coal Assets, with priority given to students that reside or originally reside (through ongoing family connection) in Glencore's operational areas in NSW: LGA's of Muswellbrook, Singleton, Cessnock, Maitland, Lake Macquarie, and Mid-Western. Glencore invests in another 40 community partners across NSW and Qld.

Grains Research & Development Corporation Scholarships (\$3,000 x 4)

The GRDC's purpose is to invest in RD&E, to create enduring profitability for Australian growers. These scholarships are available to second-year students. Recipients are required to do at least one of their month-long, off-campus placements on a farm or enterprise related to grain production.

Hammond Family Scholarship, George and Jenny (\$2,250)

George and Jenny Hammond lived for many years at Narromine, with George running a very successful agricultural service business. George was heavily involved in training and skills recognition for Weeds Officers. The scholarship commenced in 2005.

Hayward Family Scholarship (\$5000)

Mr Brett Hayward is a recent but enthusiastic supporter of the College, also becoming an active member of the Friends of Tocal. This individual scholarship recognises the potential of financial support to increase the career and personal outcomes of students.

Hunt Family Scholarship (\$2,250)

This is another of Tocal's earliest scholarships, commenced by David and Judy Hunt. David's efforts also assisted the College establish deductible gift recipient status and therefore the growth of the Scholarship Program.

Hunter LLS Agricultural Extension Scholarships (\$2,500 x 3)

The Hunter Local Land Services (LLS) Agricultural Extension Scholarship is part of the Hunter LLS Ag Extension Program. The scholarship is awarded to assist students during their studies so that they can contribute to future sustainable agricultural productivity outcomes in the Hunter Local Land Services (LLS) region.

J A Murray Memorial (Bill Bannister Trust) Scholarships (\$2,250 x 3-4)

This Trust was established by the late John Murray, an ex-student of Yanco Agricultural College in memory of his former Deputy Principal (later to become Principal), Mr Bill Banister. John's wife, Lorraine, is also an active supporter of the scholarship program. Preference is given to students from the south-west of NSW.

Scholarships (continued)

NSW Department of Primary Industries Scholarships (\$2,250 x 3)

NSW DPI works to increase the value of primary industries and drive economic growth across NSW. Tocal College operates within this division and values its significant support. These scholarships also include the NSW DPI Indigenous Scholarship.

Paspaley Pearls Properties Scholarship (\$2,250)

Paspaley is heavily involved in Australian agriculture with significant properties in New South Wales and Northern Australia. Tocal appreciates the support of their Rural Holdings General Manager and ex-student, Stuart Hughes, who also accepts second year students for off-campus work placement.

Paterson Rotary Club Scholarships (\$2,250 x 2)

Australian Rotary Clubs are part of an international network of business, professional and community leaders who strive to make the world a better place through practical efforts. Paterson Rotary work closely with the College on a number of events during each year, while Rotary more generally assist with RYDA, RYLA and Tocal Rotaract.

Professor Stephen Powles Scholarship (\$2,250)

This Scholarship is provided by ex-student, Professor Powles, who is currently a leader in herbicide resistance research and regularly updates the College on advancements in this area.

Jeff Stevenson Memorial Scholarship (\$2,250)

This scholarship was established in 2005, from a fund set up by Mrs Barbara Stevenson in memory of her late husband. Jeff was a great supporter of the College, and the Stevenson family have been neighbours of Tocal since the early 1970s.

Tocal Alumni Scholarship (\$2,250)

Previously the Tocal Ex-Students Association (TESA) Scholarship, this new award occurs through the creation of the Tocal Alumni, of which all graduates are automatic members. The Tocal Alumni website has more information.

The University of Newcastle Scholarship (\$2,250)

The UoN was established as a university in 1965 and is recognised for its commitment to equity and excellence in higher education and research. It is ranked in the top 1% of universities worldwide. This scholarship is for students interested in further education after Tocal.

Bruce Urquhart Scholarship (\$1,000)

This scholarship is provided for anonymously by an ex-student in memory of B.W. Urquhart, past deputy principal and beef manager. Bruce was also highly regarded in the beef industry.

H C White Memorial Scholarships (\$1,000-\$3,000 each). Significant number of scholarships available.

These scholarships are supported by funds provided by Miss D U McLachlan in memory of her grandfather, H C White, to further the education and training of students, to improve productivity in agriculture, and to support the education and training directions set by the College. Applications are accepted from current students when funds become available at different stages throughout the year. The total value of scholarships per year is \$20,000.


Widden Thoroughbred Stud Scholarships (\$2,250 x 2)


Widden Stud is a highly respected and successful horse stud in the Upper Hunter Valley and synonymous with many champion sires. In addition to these scholarships, they also present at employer information days, accept students for off-campus placement and employ graduates. Recipients are required to spend one week's placement at Widden.

Western Division/Riverina Scholarships (\$2,250 each)

This scholarship is for students from the Western Division/Riverina/Murray regions and funded by Tocal College and NSW DPI.


Want to find out more?

 Call 1800 025 520

 Email us at tocal.college@dpi.nsw.gov.au

 www.tocal.nsw.edu.au

 www.facebook.com/TocalCollege/

 Apply at www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/students/future-students/apply-to-study-at-tocal

OTHER Tocal PROGRAMS

Adult education

Total skills training

Based on the latest industry information and best practice, our skills training is for professional and part-time farmers, as well as those who are new to the industry. Available across NSW, our courses cover a range of specialist agriculture and land management subjects. Some are also available online. Visit www.tocalskillstraining.com.au

Online qualifications

- AHC50116 - Diploma of Agriculture
- AHC51120 - Diploma of Conservation and Ecosystem Management
- AHC31818 - Certificate III in Beekeeping

Improve your knowledge and skills at your own pace, pay as you go, and broaden your horizons.

Aboriginal Rural Training Program (ARTP)

The ARTP delivers workforce entry and skills development training in agriculture and rural operations to indigenous students, their communities, and groups in detention centres. This training is provided primarily by Aboriginal instructors based at our Yanco campus.

For further details, contact the ARTP coordinator at Yanco via email mark.morgan@dpi.nsw.gov.au or phone 02 6951 2531.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

RPL awards formal credit for the knowledge and abilities you have already gained through previous work experience, formal study, workshops and short courses. RPL is available for a range of qualifications.

Industry partnerships

Total College fosters partnerships with industries and their agencies to develop programs and education resources targeted to each industry's specific training needs.

Publications

Total books are high quality, accurate and reliable references on all aspects of agriculture and land management, written by experienced specialists.

Available in print and digital formats, all Tocal publications are easy to read with useful illustrations and photographs to give you a practical understanding of the subject.

For more information about books and eBooks, see our website www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/publications



CB Alexander Campus, Paterson

PHONE: 1800 025 520

EMAIL: info@tocal.com

POST: Tocal College,
815 Tocal Rd,
PATERSON NSW 2421

Yanco Campus, Yanco Agricultural Institute

PHONE: 1800 628 422

EMAIL: yanco.tocalcollege@dpi.nsw.gov.au

POST: Tocal College
2198 Irrigation Way East,
YANCO NSW 2703

Other College centres for short courses

Tamworth/Northern NSW:

PHONE: 02 67 631 100



Department of
Primary Industries

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