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BISON USED TO TRAIN STOCKHORSES

Did you know that Bison are often used in Australia to train stockhorses?

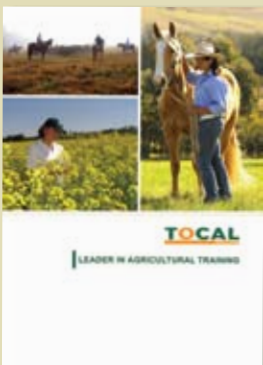
Bison are not native to Australia, they have been imported from North America and there are a number of places in NSW and other states that breed them.

Tocal staff can borrow Bison from a local farm to help train stockhorses in camp drafting. Bison are very fit and can be trained to work back and forth with a horse.

Each Bison is used for a short period and then replaced so they don't get tired. They are much better for this activity than cattle that aren't usually as fit and can get sour when worked for more than a few minutes.

Tocal students training stockhorses get to work with the Bison as well as a mechanical cow that help train the young horses. This is one of the interesting and unusual annual Tocal activities.

Tocal Prospectus Out Now!



**For Your Free Copy
Ph: 1800 025 520**

WIDDEN STUD

Widden Stud is a very historic property located in the Hunter Valley near Denman.

A number of international sires stand at Widden that produces a crop of some of Australia's best foals each year.

Widden also runs a large herd of cattle, produces pastures and crops for fodder making it an ideal place for students to gain work experience.

Many Tocal students spend a week or two at Widden Stud during the year. They work with the thoroughbreds or on the farm and live in onsite cottages.

They work with the mares and foals, handle yearlings and work on the farms with the cattle and cropping operations.

Widden Valley is one of the college's preferred Hunter employers and it looks after students and graduates very well.

A number of graduates have accepted positions on the property and they can relate well to the students as they have also attended Tocal College.

Widden Valley occupies a beautiful valley surrounded by sandstone cliffs. It has a real sense of community and students have a great time and enjoy the variety of work on offer.

Two scholarships are awarded by Widden each year to Tocal students interested in working with thoroughbreds. Applications close at the end of November.



EX-STUDENT - JULIA BUREY

Julia was dux of the Horse Husbandry course at Tocal in 2008. This is a great accomplishment as she had limited riding experience upon entering the course but has improved greatly during her year at Tocal.

She saw an opportunity to join a travelling horse spectacular called the "Horseman from Snowy River".

Although Julia was a touch nervous about applying, the Tocal staff helped her to do a video of her riding ability and off she went to Melbourne. She started on the show as a groom but she rapidly learned riding tricks.

Shortly after, Julia was part of the show carrying an Australian flag and doing quite a few tricks on horseback. The show is a family owned operation and the extended family do most of the riding and behind the scenes work. This included the setting up of up to 15 stables for a one or two night show and then dismantling.

Julia called Tocal about suitable stabling prior to shows and enquired about a replacement pony so she really became part of the team.

For about 18 months, she worked with the Horseman from Snowy River.

During that time, Julia travelled to the United States for a month to learn more riding tricks with one of the world's best instructors.

Julia has now left the show and gone to England to gain more experience with a lady who is training horses for a Stephen Spielberg movie.

She visited Tocal a few days before she left for England and was excited about her career prospects.

Julie told staff that she greatly appreciated the great start she got by completing a Tocal course.

BE CAREFUL WHERE YOU DIG!

Part of the Tocal property was used for artillery practice during World War II. There were gun emplacements about 5km from the college and shells were fired into some of Tocal's back paddocks.

An observation bunker was set up on the side of a hill and information was radioed back to the gun emplacements about the accuracy of the artillery.

Most of the shells were only smoke bombs but they also used live rounds. About 5% of these didn't explode and this means there are still live shells buried in some Tocal paddocks.

Most of these are buried deep and not an issue as long as you don't dig a big hole.

Before any new dams or fence lines are constructed, Tocal has to get in the experts to make sure the area is clear of unexploded shells. One was found recently when digging a pit and the army were called in to blow it up.

We are always cautious of digging holes at Tocal and check whether the paddocks were previously used for artillery practice.



SCHOLARSHIPS

There are numerous scholarships available to prospective Tocal students. A total of about \$120,000 is provided from a range of sponsors each year. Most students will get at least one scholarship.

Scholarships range from \$1000 up to \$5000. Most are at least \$2000 which covers the tuition fee for the course.

Application forms can be found in the Tocal prospectus or downloaded from the Tocal website.

Just fill in the application form, attach a covering letter with more details and make sure it reaches Tocal College by the end of November.

2010 STUDENT FORMAL



Each year the Students Association organise an end of year formal. For the last few years it has been held at Old Texas Ranch near Raymond Terrace.

Students went to a lot of trouble to get dressed up for the evening and have a good time.

Old Texas Ranch provided drinks, dinner and entertainment including a mechanical bull that can be set for different skill levels.



Some of the staff who attended had a go on the bull, with Ian Nunan and Steve Krick doing surprisingly well for old blokes. Both these staff members are very good horse riders and were able to hang on for some time when riding the bull.

Total students usually wear jeans and T-shirts around the campus so it was wonderful to see them all dressed up in suits and dresses for the formal.

BEEF CATTLE ELECTIVES

In the Certificate IV in Agriculture, students can select electives from a wide range of units. The beef cattle electives are very popular and include Exhibit Livestock and Feedlot.

Exhibit Livestock involves students breaking in steers or heifers and training them to lead. The cattle are then used for a number of activities during the year.

There is a "Parader's Competition" at the end of the elective which allows students to demonstrate how well their animal has been trained and prepared.

Some of the steers are also used for demonstration purposes for visiting school groups and local shows like the Singleton Hoof and Hook Competition.

The Feedlot elective involves students selecting steers and preparing suitable rations to finish them to meet market specifications.

Students are responsible for preparing a budget, feeding and monitoring the steers over the 70-80 days of the elective. The steers are then sold at the best market price.

These electives are very practical and include many of the hands on activities that Total students enjoy.





INTERCOLLEGIATE MEAT JUDGING

CAREER SPOTLIGHT



Tocal students compete in the Australian Intercollegiate Meat Judging competition held at the University of New England in Armidale each year.

This is an international competition with teams from around Australia, USA and Japan. Most contestants are university students who specialise in meat science.

However, Tocal students have performed very well over the years, often winning against their more fancied opponents.

The competition provides a great training opportunity for Tocal students to learn about meat quality with a number of students going onto careers in the meat industry when they finish at Tocal.

This year the team was managed by Mal Burke (Beef Manager) and Steve Krick (Lecturer). Mal said they that they were a great bunch of students who did very well. 'We all had a great time in Armidale and I was so proud of the Tocal students', he said.

STUDY TOUR OF CALIFORNIA

Tocal Lecturer, Travers Powell recently travelled to California to study farming systems on some of the largest commercial farms in the world. He also visited agricultural colleges to see how they manage their training programs.

Many Tocal staff have had an opportunity to travel overseas over the years and have brought back ideas that have made Tocal courses some of the best in the world.



Travers with staff from the Fresno University

'E' JOB PROSPECTS

Extension Officer

Provides advice to farmers, organises field days and promotes new technology to industry.

Environmental Consultant

Designs property plans for farms and provides advice on environmental issues such as revegetation, water quality monitoring and wildlife conservation.

'F' JOB PROSPECTS

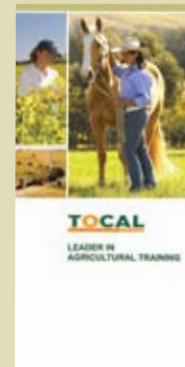
Farm Hand

Responsible for the day to day operation of a farm including, machinery operation, animal husbandry, mustering and fencing.

Farm Manager

Runs the farm, makes decisions about all operations, including cropping and animal breeding programs, develops and implements long-term plans.

Tocal Brochure Out Now!



TOCAL

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Industry & Investment