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AACC training block widens career options

It's short and sweet and can open the door to a new career.

A six-week training block developed by the Australian Agricultural College Corporation (AACC) Mareeba Campus and the Quality Industry Training & Employment (QITE) employment agency is offering new hope for long-term unemployed.

AACC instructor Mr Rudi Schincariol said the course focused on OH&S procedures, fabricating and repairing metal and plastic structures, gas and manual metal arc welding, fencing and servicing combustion engines.

He said a welding and fabricating project was completed at the Wongoo community in conjunction with the Mitchell River Water Catchment Group during the course.

"Our inaugural course started in July this year and involved 10 students ranging in ages from 18 to 45 and it has been an overwhelming success," Mr Schincariol said.

"The students came with a willingness to learn and attendance was excellent. And when attendance is good, attitude is good."

Mr Schincariol said the success of the recently completed course had already led to another being scheduled for October 6.

"That will involve another 10 students and replicate our first training block," he said.

"We'd love to stage a third course later in the year, but that will depend on seasonal conditions - given a number of potential trainees traditionally find casual employment then."

Mr Schincariol said the AACC was constantly looking at ways to add to the content and appeal of the course and would use student feedback as a gauge to monitor their educational options.

"We can give them the basic welding and mechanical skills needed to secure employment on a farm or station," he said. "It's up to them how far they want to take it, but it does allow students to put away those skills for a rainy day.

"Perhaps the real value of the course though, is it gives them the chance to practise skills they won't normally get to do and it gives them time to trial different approaches to a problem without an employer watching over their shoulder. And that helps with confidence and identifying better ways to do the job."

Mr Schincariol said the course involved appropriate amounts of theory, but most of the time was spent on practical assignments.

For more information about this course and the training offered through the AACC Mareeba Campus phone 4086 3300, email mareeba@aacc.edu.au or visit www.aacc.edu.au

Photo Caption:

[New training block opens the doors to employment for the region's unemployed: AACC Mareeba Campus has teamed up with Quality Industry Training & Employment (QITE) to develop a six-week training program to help the long-term unemployed learn practical skills for the workforce.]

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