



MEDIA RELEASE

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Horseplay encouraged

Australian Agricultural College horse instructor Ms Gill Peel sees a steady swag of novices come through her Burdekin campus stables and she couldn't be happier.

Ms Peel says satisfaction comes from watching new students tackle the challenge of learning the equestrian trade.

And while it's encouraging to see so many beginners keen to broaden their skills, she says it's interesting to note not all have a rural background.

"We actually see more students come from the coast than from off the land," Ms Peel said.

"The one thing they all share though is a love of horses. And we help give them the skills to make the most of their hobby or to go further as a pathway to other jobs."

These skills include involvement in the breeding program, foal handling, general horse care as well as more specific care for sick or injured animals and of course riding disciplines such as mustering, stockhorse campdrafting, cutting, hacks, dressage and jumping.

As an active member of the Equestrian Federation of Australia and North Queensland Equestrian Group, the campus competes in a number of competitions and shows throughout the year, offering students a chance to demonstrate their new talents.

And as students come up to standard they will also be shown breaking-in techniques.

Courses available to students wanting to develop their horse knowledge and skills include Certificate I and II in Rural Operations, Certificate III and IV in Agriculture (Horse Breeding) and Diploma of Agriculture (Horse Breeding).

Ms Peel said combining the various certificate levels of the Australian Agricultural College Corporation (AACC) course would provide valuable experience in the equestrian game which could then lead from stablehand and grooming positions right up to stud and property management.

"Students do everything here and that prepares them for whatever their future plans may be."

For more information about horse training programs offered at AACC, look up www.aacc.edu.au or phone Burdekin Campus 1800 888 710, Emerald Campus 1800 828 777 or Longreach Campus 1800004 730.

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