



## MEDIA RELEASE For Immediate Release Tuesday, 2 October 2007

---

### AACC training college celebrates 40<sup>th</sup> milestone

The Longreach community has kicked up its heels to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its local training college.

A huge birthday bash brought the Longreach campus of the Australian Agricultural College Corporation (AACC) alive last weekend with a variety of lively events, entertainment and food.

AACC Longreach campus manager Peter Scott said the Longreach campus 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations brought back gems of memories for many of the students who attended the college between its first intake of students in 1967 to the present day.

"We're very proud to reach this very significant milestone. It was a celebration of all the successful things we've achieved during the campus' 40 years in existence.

"It was a great opportunity to recognise the achievements and contributions of our past staff and students and to renew acquaintances with our graduates," Mr Scott said.

Celebrations began on Friday night with 300 guests attending a bbq dinner and memorabilia auction. Campus memorabilia were auctioned off and more than \$1100 funds was raised for the Past Staff and Student Association.

Saturday's program allowed guests to take a guided tour to see how the campus operates.

"People could see first hand how much we've changed and grown over the past 40 years and reflect on the contributions the Longreach campus has made locally and regionally," Mr Scott said.

"Guests could see the progress the campus has made in its training since its early days as Queensland's first rural training school."

On Saturday night 135 guests turned out in their best dress for the official gala dinner held under the stars and the gum trees on the College grounds.

A commemorative plaque was presented by past Longreach Pastoral College board chairperson, Joan Moloney, followed by a special 20 years of service ceremony.

Mr Scott says although a lot has changed at the Longreach campus over the past 40 years the anniversary was significant for past staff and students and gave them a chance to reminisce with former class and work mates.

AACC Director Malcolm McKay said the Longreach campus (formerly the Longreach Pastoral College) had a lot to be proud of, particularly the significant role it had played in supporting the local community and the future of the agricultural industry.

“Great training institutions like the Longreach College do not just happen, they grow from the great contributions of many people including the local community, past governing boards, staff and students.”

Mr McKay says rural industry training needs have never been greater with economic, technological and climate factors all demanding rural workers and managers of the highest calibre.

“Our relationship with local industry is stronger than ever, and we look forward to promoting the growth of the agricultural and rural sectors through industry relevant training.”

Looking to the future, Mr McKay said the Longreach campus would continue to build on its reputation as a nationally recognised centre of excellence in rural training.

#### **Media enquiries and interviews:**

Peter Scott  
Longreach Campus Manager  
Australian Agricultural College Corporation  
Ph: (07) 4658 4601, mobile: 0428 717 233

Malcolm McKay  
College Director  
Australian Agricultural College Corporation  
Corporate Office – Dalby Campus  
Ph: (07) 4672 3205, (07) 4672 3112, mobile: 0412 320 006

#### **AACC Media Contact:**

**Brett Hoefler, Marketing Coordinator, Corporate Office, Australian Agricultural College Corporation 4672 3126.**

#### **Photo Captions:**

##### **Caption 1:**

**[Longreach Campus 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary plaque unveiled: (Left to right) Peter Scott – Longreach Campus Manager, Malcolm McKay – AACC Director, Gwyn Huelin – Senior Finance and Administration Officer, Joan Moloney – past Longreach Pastoral College Board Chairperson, Ross Murray – AACC Director of Education and Training]**

**Caption 2:**

**[Longreach Campus celebrates 40 years in rural training: Cutting the cake is (left to right) Clare Stait - current student, supported by Peter Dixon - inaugural student, and Joan Moloney - past Longreach Pastoral College Board Chairperson sharing the moment with six inaugural (1967) students]**