



MEDIA RELEASE

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Course will help continue rural ties

The current floods in Western Queensland won't stop one New Zealander from starting his studies in a Certificate II in Rural Operations at the Australian Agricultural College Corporation (AACC) Longreach Campus.

Fifteen-year-old Callum Rayne from Buderim is delayed in Richmond due to the floodwaters and is hoping he'll make it to Longreach in time for the start of his course.

"I was brought up on a Merino station, so it gets into your blood," Callum said. "So, when we came here to Australia I was very keen to learn more about beef production and the cattle industry."

"I hope my studies can give me the practical experience to become a station hand or jackeroo, then move on to station manager and ultimately own my own place," he said.

Callum said it wasn't hard to settle on Longreach as the perfect location to further his education, given the campus has an enviable reputation in the rural industry.

"Everyone knows that if you've been to Longreach Campus for a couple of years you know what you're talking about."

Callum said he was particularly eager to head west to meet up with new friends and teachers at the campus, people he knows will have a direct influence on his rural development.

"I'll be in a working environment, but with people my own age. It will be hard work, but still a great atmosphere working with other country kids and I know the one-on-one guidance from the teachers will be invaluable," he said.

And even though he has been "working in the bush" every school holiday, Callum sees his AACC training as the true beginning to his rural career.

"That's if I can even get to classes on time," he said.

"At the moment I'm stuck on a property at Richmond because roads are closed from the flooding. So I'm not sure when I can actually get out to Longreach."

Enrolments are now open for this year's courses in agriculture, horticulture and conservation and land management. Visit www.aacc.edu.au or phone 1800 828 777.

Photo Caption:

[Affinity for the bush over the beach: Buderim teenager Callum Rayne considers Australian Agricultural College Corporation as the perfect place to build his future in the cattle industry]

AACC media contact:

Brett Hoefler, Marketing Coordinator, Corporate Office, Australian Agricultural College Corporation 4672 3126 or 0417 717 507, email: brett.hoefler@aacc.edu.au