



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

### **Thursday, 28 October, 2010**

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#### Sara saddles up for ride of a lifetime at AACCC

Tasmania is a long way from Longreach, but a love of horses has bridged the geographic gap for 16-year-old Sara Boxhall.

The teenager set out from the northern end of Tasmania in the middle of this year for a once-in-a-lifetime experience, learning all about horses from award-winning and renowned teacher John Arnold from Australian Agricultural College Corporation.

A few months into her training at the Longreach campus of AACCC, the enthusiastic young woman says her new skills in stock horse training and camp draft have reinforced her passion to build a successful career in the equine industry.

She has also made her mark in competition, winning the Under 21 Champion in the Stockmen's Challenge at the RM Williams Outback Muster at The Australian Stockmen's Hall of fame in September.

Sara rode college mare Lisa-Jane to take top honours in the campdraft section and the dry work section and placed second in the cross-country time trial, all against more experienced competitors.

"I'm doing a Certificate III in Horse Breeding, which includes things like shoeing, breaking, training and preparing the horses for sale and competition, so there is so much outdoor work and interaction with the horses, which I love," she said.

"With the great quality horses here at Longreach, we also learn about campdraft and stockmen's challenges which are a fantastic opportunity to meet other like-minded people and test your skills against others from right across the country.

"Before I came to AACCC, I was working on a 900-acre polo place in Tasmania and I'd like to go back there; but I want to do more breaking and pre-training.

"Nothing really could have prepared me for the wide, open spaces of the Outback, the friendly people and the high quality of training – it is a fantastic experience."



Graduates of the Australian Agricultural College Corporation are sought after for positions as stable hands, working for professional trainers, horse breeders and on horse studs. A large percentage head to the outback to work in the cattle industry on large stations.

Instructor John Arnold has a lifetime of experience in the saddle and brings to the classroom his unique mentoring as well as the nationally recognised industry training offered through AACC.

“Over the years, I have seen thousands of students from all over Australia come through our doors,” he said.

“What we can guarantee all of them is that they’ll walk out with a broad range of skills, the confidence to handle horses of various levels of training and the assurance that training through AACC opens doors to their future.

“There are past students in all aspects of the Australian horse industry, from professional cutting horse trainers; professional horse show entertainers like Dan James; state and Australian-level polocrosse players; noted campdrafters; stockmen’s challenge winners; and countless graduates working stock in the cattle industry of northern Australia.

“For a thorough grounding in working stock horses, I believe that we are the best college in Australia.”

However, it’s not just saddling up that’s taught through AACC, graduates have technical knowledge of breeding, occupational health and safety, horse nutrition, health management and leadership skills.

There are also opportunities to continue study to diploma levels and through to university study for those wanting more managerial careers.

Applications are now open for the various horse courses being offered through AACC in 2011 at Longreach, Emerald, Burdekin and Dalby.

For more information, contact AACC on 1800 888 710 and visit the website [www.aacc.edu.au](http://www.aacc.edu.au) for more information about AACC and the courses it offers.