

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Thursday 19 May, 2016

PNG DELEGATION IMPROVES VITAL SKILLS IN IPSWICH

TEN teachers from the Mt Hagen Agricultural College in Papua New Guinea recently spent three weeks in Ipswich developing new skills and knowledge at TAFE Queensland South West.

With the support of the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), and funding assistance through Australian Aid from the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the program originally started in 2015 and is designed to assist Papua New Guinea develop and improve sustainable agricultural resources.

Mt Hagen Principal Phillip Senat explained that the training he and his teachers undertook as part of the project was to complete their Certificate IV in Training and Assessment with a focus on agricultural and horticultural training.

“In Papua New Guinea you must be certified to deliver training and through this program with TAFE we have worked hard to not only ensure that, but to also develop our skills and knowledge to improve our teachers’ capabilities and our students’ outcomes,” said Mr Senat.

“It has been a good experience for everyone involved; we’ve seen what others in our industry are doing, we now know what our weaknesses are, and we can take those learnings back to improve the student experience at our college.”

“I’m proud that approximately 90% of our teachers have now been through this program with TAFE, this is a big achievement for us. I want to thank DAF and TAFE Queensland South West for helping us experience something new.”

Robin Eskuine Waha, a Mt Hagen livestock trainer, added that as a teacher the program had opened a lot of doors for him.

“A key thing I learnt that will allow me to help my students back home is how to design programs and adjust them to incorporate general language and literacy skills,” he said.

“I also now realise that teaching is it not just about giving our students knowledge, but it’s also about imparting the importance continual of skills development.”

“The community at TAFE Queensland South West have been very welcoming, I feel at home and the trainers have been awesome. If I had the opportunity to come back and study again I would.”

TAFE Queensland South West trainer Nick Westwood has spent time in both Papua New Guinea and Australia working with the teachers from Mt Hagen since October 2015.

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“The Mt Hagen trainers are great teachers who have extensive knowledge, but through the program we are giving them additional skills to design, deliver and assess as well as develop strategies to increase the effectiveness of their training,” said Mr Westwood.

“It’s has been a lot of work with five days a week classroom and face-to-face training, as well as evening and weekend training, field trips and assessments, but the group who have just completed their training now have their Certificate IV in Training and Assessment and will become mentors to other trainers in Papua New Guinea.”

“We have plans to deliver more training in Papua New Guinea later this year, and I look forward to continuing working with the Mt Hagen teachers.”

Mt Hagen Agricultural College is one of a few agricultural Vocational Education and Training Colleges in Papua New Guinea, and is the main training provider offering an alternate pathway for agricultural students from the school system.

For more information about TAFE Queensland South West international offerings and other courses please call 1300 914 754 or visit www.tafesouthwest.edu.au

Photo Caption 1: Mt Hagen Agricultural College trainers at TAFE Queensland South West, Bundamba.

Photo Caption 2: Mt Hagen Agricultural College Principal Phillip Senat and livestock trainer Robin Eskuine Waha.

Photo Caption 3: TAFE Queensland South West trainer Nick Westwood in delivering training in Bundamba.

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