

MEDIA RELEASE

Two New Books on Tocal

The women of Tocal and the building of the Tocal College campus are the subjects of two soon-to-be-released books about Tocal. They are the 21st and 22nd editions in the All-about-Tocal Series. The books will be officially launched at Tocal's Foundation Day on Friday 4 November.

'Women in the history of Tocal' is an examination of the role women played in the operation of the Tocal property until it became an agricultural college. The story starts with the role of women in the Aboriginal society who would have lived on the Tocal lands for thousands of years before Europeans.

It is obvious that women played a vital role in the operations of properties like Tocal across rural Australia. Incidentally, James Webber was a bachelor, so there were no convict women on Tocal and the first records of European women on Tocal were not until the 1830s. From this time on, women featured prominently.

Tocal was run by Frances Seaton Reynolds, widow of Charles Reynolds for around 30 years. It was Jean Wilson Alexander, eldest of the Alexander family who bid and purchased Tocal on behalf of the Alexander family in 1926. And it was Miss Myrtle Curtis and Miss Marguerita Curtis, nieces of CB Alexander, who oversaw the operation of Tocal as an estate from 1947 until 1965 when it became an agricultural college.

The book, written by Jean Archer, provides historical evidence on the women of Tocal and also has fictional accounts of how life would have been for women in selected roles over the many years of Tocal's history.

'Tocal College CB Alexander Campus: its development and history' is a revision of an earlier book on the same subject. Written by David Brouwer, it is now in full colour and presents an outstanding review of how the buildings arose from the ideas of a number of key visionaries, and how construction proceeded. Tocal College Campus buildings are of national significance and it is now one of few campuses of its kind in Australia. The building style has been kept true to the original vision through successive additions and modifications.

Both books will be available from the College.

Ph 1800 025520, email info@tocal.com, web www.tocal.com

Women in the history of Tocal \$12.00

Tocal College CB Alexander Campus: its development and history \$10.00

Postage and Packing \$8.00 for up to 3 books

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