

Wacol to the world



■ Surreal experience ... *Farmkids* creator Scott Strachan is all smiles at the animation company's Wacol headquarters.

By BRAD WEIER

A LOCAL animation project has gone from Wacol to the world.

Creator Scott Strachan sold his show, *Farmkids*, to Disney Channel Latin America at last month's Cannes TV Market in France.

Farmkids is also a privately-funded production company at Progress Rd. The team of 10 has contracted local actors, writers

and graphic artists to help create 26, 12-and-a-half-minute episodes.

The computer-generated animation is done in India and China. Strachan, 41, said the show was created to "give back to children".

He said seeing his dream become reality in the global TV world was "almost surreal".

"It's been a really long journey - I had a bit of a spin out when I was 34 or 35 because I stopped

being creative," the former music teacher said.

"So I started drawing again and it sort of started from there.

"Wacol is the perfect place for us. We've been able to kind of keep our heads down for three years and now, here we are."

Strachan said the series would return \$15-\$20 million for broadcast rights alone.

He said worldwide merchandise


sales would be "huge".

"We've got a heap of announcements to make," the Toogoolawah resident said.

The *Farmkids* series is for six to 11-year-olds and features pampered petting-zoo animals who are forced to live on a farm.

It will be screened in Latin America later this year and will make its Australian debut in 2008.

■ Visit www.farmkids.tv for more.

 **closeup**
animated success

■ Wacol animation project sold to Disney Channel Latin America.

■ Scott Strachan's *Farmkids* will hit Australian screens next year.

■ Computer-generated animation series features petting-zoo animals.