



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

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RAS RURAL ACHIEVERS ANNOUNCED

20 years of recognising NSW's future rural leaders

The **Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS)** is pleased to announce the winners of the **2009 RAS Rural Achievers Award**. Eight young Australians have been selected from across NSW for their contributions, achievements and leadership within the rural sector and their local communities.

The winners were chosen from a strong field of candidates in three separate judging sessions held at Wagga Wagga, Orange and Tamworth. The eight winners receive an all-expenses paid experience at the **2009 Sydney Royal Easter Show**.

The RAS Rural Achievers are:

- Kellie Cooke, Raleigh
- Martin Downes, Albion Park
- Melissa Lauff, Orange
- Tim Stivens, Junee
- Liz Pearson, Cootamundra
- Patricia Cooke, Cowra
- Tom Pearce, Bega
- Shannon McCormack, Leeton

"We have been extremely impressed with the quality of this year's finalists," said **Bernie O'Sullivan, RAS General Manager, Agricultural Development**. "Based on previous years, winning the title of RAS Rural Achiever can be an important step in helping young rural Australians achieve their ambitions and kick-start their career."

The Rural Achievers program has a proud 20-year history of providing opportunities for young Australians. Over that time 143 Rural Achievers have enjoyed not only the experience and title, but the networking opportunities that come with the role.

"Many Rural Achievers now work on successful properties and are employed in key rural and agri-business careers, thanks in part to the opportunities on offer via the media attention and prizes associated with the title," said Mr O'Sullivan.

All Rural Achievers will be invited to attend Australia's largest event, the Sydney Royal Easter Show. During their time in Sydney, they will also receive a tour of Rural Press, home of The Land, a trip to Parliament House, and be invited to attend a cocktail reception at Government House. Another key element of their activities will be stewarding in the livestock sections at the Show.

2009 Sydney Royal Easter Show 9 April – 22 April!

Further Information & interview requests:

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