



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW



MEDIA RELEASE

16 February, 2010

RASF UNEARTHS YOUNG RURAL TALENT J B FAIRFAX SCHOLARSHIP WINNER ANNOUNCED

A self-proclaimed 'country girl' at heart, 19-year-old Wagga Wagga local Georgina Stone has been named the recipient of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW Foundation's annual J B Fairfax Award for Rural Journalism.

Currently studying a Bachelor of Communication in Journalism and International Studies at the University of Technology Sydney, Georgina's nose for a good story, her writing ability and enthusiasm for rural issues impressed the judges, awarding her the \$10,000 scholarship.

When notified of her win Georgina said she was thrilled to be recognised for her passion at such an early stage in her career.

"I'm so excited to have won this prestigious award. I think rural issues need to receive more coverage in the national media, and the voices and stories of people who work and live on the land should be heard," said Georgina.

Georgina submitted a feature article as part of her application which tells the story of boundary rider, John Steel. A dying Australian breed, John spends his days on horseback riding up and down the Hunter Valley to check the boundaries of properties.

RASF Executive Officer Antonia Ruffell says Georgina was selected from a quality field of talented students.

"The scholarship received an overwhelming response from aspiring young journalists from around Australia. Georgina's passion for rural affairs and commitment to carving out a career in rural journalism was just what we were looking for, and I have no doubt we will be reading many of her articles in the near future," said Ms Ruffell.

Each scholarship applicant submitted a feature article which explored a contemporary issue, trend or activity of interest to rural and regional communities. The applicants were also required to demonstrate an active interest in rural affairs and a commitment to pursuing a career in rural journalism.

"The scholarship focuses on encouraging undergraduate or postgraduate students to consider a career in rural journalism upon graduation," said Ms Ruffell.

"I want to make people from inner city areas be more aware and understanding of rural issues and this scholarship will go a long way to helping me complete my studies and make my goal a reality," said Georgina.

The award has been established through a private donation by Mr John B Fairfax, AO, and is managed by the RASF, in collaboration with Rural Press Agricultural Publishing. The Scholarship aims to encourage quality coverage of rural and regional affairs by Australian journalists.

The RASF is a philanthropic foundation which seeks to encourage educational excellence and foster sustainable rural and regional communities by supporting quality youth community programs.

Visit www.rasf.org.au for more information on the RASF.

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