



2014 GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

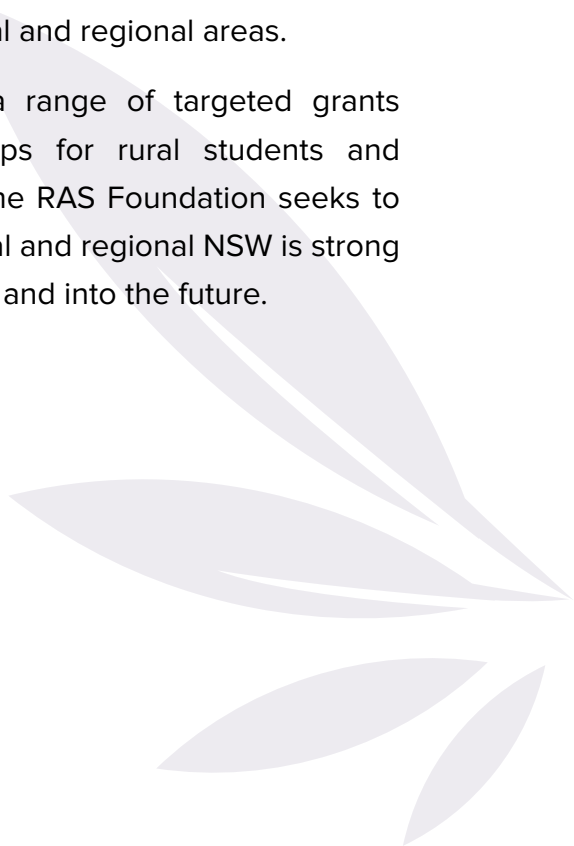
RASf
ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NSW
FOUNDATION

RAS FOUNDATION

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) Foundation works to make a difference in rural and regional NSW by providing grants and scholarships for education and community development.

Together with the generosity of our donors and supporters, the RAS Foundation has been instrumental in helping rural Australians realise their potential and achieve their ambitions. Education and leadership are fundamental to building a strong and sustainable future and addressing the skills shortage in rural and regional areas.

By providing a range of targeted grants and scholarships for rural students and communities, the RAS Foundation seeks to ensure that rural and regional NSW is strong and viable now and into the future.



GIVING TO DATE

Program: **RAS Foundation Community Futures Grant**

Duration: 6 years

Grants Awarded: 14 Grants

Funds Distributed: \$330,000

Program: **JB Fairfax Award for Rural Journalism**

Duration: 6 years

Grants Awarded: 6 Grants

Funds Distributed: \$60,000

Program: **Rural Scholarships** (TAFE & University)

Duration: 4 years

Grants Awarded: 179 scholarships

Funds Distributed: \$861,500

Program: **E3 Grant** (retired)

Duration: 3 years

Grants Awarded: Grants to 59 schools

Funds Distributed: \$266,000

Program: **RAS Foundation Community Kitchen**

Duration: 3 years

Grants Awarded: 3 Sydney Royal Show demonstration kitchens

Funds Distributed: \$75,000

Total

\$1,592,500

RURAL SCHOLARSHIPS

RAS Foundation Rural Scholarships assist students who demonstrate a passion for rural issues and who are committed to playing a part in shaping the future of rural and regional NSW. Providing a financial helping hand to achieve their education goals and aspirations, these scholarships are open to students of any age and embrace a diverse range of tertiary education and training studies.





Ainslie Campbell - Henty

25-year-old Ainslie Campbell grew up on a mixed farming enterprise property just west of Henty. Her involvement with sheep husbandry and a neighbouring cattle stud sparked her interest in herd health, to the point where she is now in her final year of a veterinary biology and veterinary science degree at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Once she finishes her degree, she hopes to become a farm-based and focused, consultative vet specialising in large animals.

Scholarship donated by: RAS Staff



Akira Hobson - Mudgee

21-year-old Akira Hobson is a third year pharmacy student at Charles Sturt University in Orange. In 2009, Akira started an after school job at the local pharmacy and it was from here that her love for the profession grew. She plans on completing her intern year in her home town of Mudgee and hopes to one day operate her own rural pharmacy where she would develop a community focussed approach to health promotion and education.

Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation



Alicia Davis - Condobolin

21-year-old Alicia Davis is a third year primary education student at Charles Sturt University, Bathurst. She is also currently completing a Graduate Certificate in Inclusive Education. Her passion for teaching has been strengthened due to her involvement in her local community. Alicia recently undertook a teaching practicum in India which gave her an insight into the diversity of education in other cultures – an experience that has had a significant impact on her teaching philosophy.

Scholarship donated by: McLean Foundation



Alysibeth Jackson - Gulgong

20-year-old Alysibeth Jackson is in her third year of a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood and Primary) at Charles Sturt University in Dubbo. Growing up in a single parent home with three siblings, Alysibeth's role model was her Mum, who at the time was working as a teacher's aide. It was from this early age that she developed a love for helping people. She aspires to become a positive catalyst in children's lives and help them reach their potential through teaching.

Scholarship donated by: OCS Fun Pty Ltd



Amy Walker - Hovells Creek

Amy Walker, 21 years, grew up on her family's sheep property in Hovells Creek, 35km south-east of Cowra in central west NSW. A third year agricultural science student at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga, Amy aspires to work as a livestock production advisor, assisting producers to enhance their production systems and improving the sustainability of their enterprise. Her desire to pursue this path was born from work experience at the Cowra Research and Extension Centre.

Scholarship donated by: NSW Stud Merino Breeders Association



Annie Nichols - Lower Belfield

Annie Nichols, 20 years, is a third year physiotherapy student at the University of Newcastle. She is motivated to help others and wants to improve health care services in rural areas. After completing her studies, Annie hopes to be able to offer an in-home physiotherapy service in rural and remote communities, or work with the Royal Flying Doctor Service. She is also keen to undertake short course postgraduate study to build on the range of services she is able to offer.

Scholarship donated by: Rali Foundation



Brooke Walsh - Grong Grong

21-year-old Brooke Walsh comes from a small farming community in Grong Grong. Understanding firsthand the difficulties many rural communities face when it comes to accessing health services, Brooke enrolled in a physiotherapy degree at Charles Sturt University in Albury. Now in her final year, Brooke aspires to become an advocate for rural health and help alleviate the shortages in health care services, professionals and facilities.

Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation



Cassandra MacDonald - Adaminaby

Cassandra MacDonald, 25 years, is in her final year of a veterinary biology and veterinary science degree at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Since she was four, Cassie knew that we wanted to become a vet. She aspires to be a mixed practice vet working in rural NSW, focussing on dairy production and specialising in providing advanced reproduction services. She is passionate about contributing positively to the health of livestock, ensuring that the industry can prosper.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation



Charles Coles - Boorowa

21-year-old Charles Coles' passion for agriculture started from a young age. The third year agriculture and business student at the University of New England, Armidale grew up on the family farm, home to angus cattle and merino sheep. He decided to undertake a double degree as he recognised the need to treat farming as a business. In the future, he aspires to secure a management position with the intention of one day creating his own farming enterprise.

Scholarship donated by: UNE Foundation / GrainCorp



Christopher Young - Bookham

Christopher Young, 20 years, is a third year pharmacy student at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Rural health is an issue that is close to his heart and one of the main reasons why he decided to pursue a career as a pharmacist. Christopher believes that a pharmacist is a valued member of a rural community due to the wide array of services they can offer.

Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation



Courtney Straney - Condobolin

Courtney Straney is in the first year of a double degree in law and arts (french and italian) at Macquarie University. The 20-year-old from Condobolin has always had an avid interest in law and is committed to making a difference in Western NSW. She hopes that through her studies she can provide greater access to legal services for people living in rural and remote NSW and build effective partnerships between communities and community organisations.

Scholarship donated by: Rali Foundation



Diana George - Nevertire

Diana George, 20 years, is a fourth generation farmer from Nevertire, NSW. She is currently in her final year of an agriculture degree at the University of New England in Armidale and hopes to work in the grain, cotton or beef industries. Through her tertiary studies, and coupled with her farming background, she has developed an increased awareness of the importance of applying what she has learnt in rural and regional communities.

Scholarship donated by: UNE Foundation / GrainCorp



Elizabeth Kingston - Deniliquin

Deniliquin's Elizabeth Kingston, aged 20, has an unwavering passion for her local community. Currently in her second year of a K-12 middle schooling degree majoring in business studies at Charles Sturt University in Albury, Elizabeth is committed to inspiring young minds. She hopes to one day become a principal in a small rural community and use the broad range of experiences and knowledge she would have gained to contribute positively to lives of young people.

Scholarship donated by: Mr Robert J White AO



Ellen John - Griffith

Ellen John, 20 years, is a third year primary education student at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. She is also an active member of her community, involved in raising funds for suicide awareness, Daffodil Day and Relay for Life. Ellen aspires to work in indigenous education and would relish the opportunity to work in remote areas providing quality education to students who may be disadvantaged due to access or socio-economic status.

Scholarship donated by: RAS Foundation



Emily Ryan - Coonamble

19-year-old Emily Ryan is a first year early childhood and primary education student at Charles Sturt University in Dubbo. An active member of her local Coonamble community, Emily has always had a passion for teaching. Once she finishes her degree, she hopes to return to her home town and work with the local schools to achieve greater integration, thus assisting with the transition of primary to secondary school.

Scholarship donated by: OCS Fun Pty Ltd



Emma Sutton - Cassilis

Emma Sutton grew up on the family cattle farm near Cassilis in central NSW. It was here, along with a stint on a northern Australia cattle station, that the 25-year-old developed her passion for animals. Now in her fifth year of a veterinary biology and veterinary science degree at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga, Emma aspires to work in rural Australia with local producers to help achieve efficiency and good animal health management.

Scholarship donated by: Coal & Allied Community Development Fund



Emma-Lee Scott - Weetaliba

Emma-Lee Scott is a third year teaching and arts student, specialising in modern history, business and legal studies at the University of Newcastle. Growing up on the family farm, the 19-year-old's desire to become a teacher was cemented following a stint of work experience in year 10 where she worked with special needs children. Once she finishes her degree, Emma-Lee hopes to teach in a rural school working with children with diverse learning needs.

Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation



Georgia Clark - Wyee Point

20-year-old Georgia Clark is a third year animal and veterinary bioscience student at Sydney University in Camperdown and Camden. She is also the owner and manager of a poultry stud which focuses on rare dual purpose breeds. Georgia aspires to work in the field of agricultural science/business at the completion of her studies, focusing on livestock extension and researching animal production systems.

Scholarship donated by: Bayer Australia Limited



Georgia Ladmore - Nabcac

Georgia Ladmore, 23 years, is in her final year of a veterinary biology and veterinary science (honours) degree at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. A love of animals was fostered from an early age and is serving her well as she undertakes her honours project focussing on Biserrula photosensitivity, specifically in sheep. Georgia aspires to work in mixed practice, where she is challenged to be flexible and creative.

Scholarship donated by: NSW Stud Merino Breeders Association



Grace Amey - Dubbo

Grace Amey, a fourth year dentistry student at Charles Sturt University in Orange, is passionate about improving health facilities in rural communities. The 23-year-old from Dubbo discovered her interest in dentistry after taking up a casual job as a dental assistant when she was 16. It was here that she realised a big part of dentistry involved educating people on good oral hygiene and how important oral health is to overall health and wellbeing. Grace hopes to return to Dubbo once she finishes her degree to practice and spread the message of oral health to those who need it most.

Scholarship donated by: McLean Foundation



Hannah Galea - Bellingen

18-year-old Hannah Galea was raised in the small town of Bellingen, NSW. Growing up with her father and brother, she is currently undertaking her first year of a social work degree at the University of New England in Armidale. Her interest in social work was sparked following the completion of work experience with a local youth worker when she was in year 10. Once she finishes her degree, she hopes to work in the mental health field, more specifically with children and adolescents.

Scholarship donated by: UNE Foundation / Huntly and Catherine Gordon



Hayden Zammit OAM - Broken Hill

19-year-old Hayden Zammit OAM is a second year Bachelor of Management (Marketing) student at the University of South Australia, Adelaide. A strong link with the NSW Cancer Council and Camp Quality contributed to Hayden being one of the youngest recipients of The Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2012. Hayden is passionate about tourism, particularly the promotion of rural NSW, and hopes to continue in this field once he completes his studies.

Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation



Jaimie McLeod - Ulladulla

Jaimie McLeod, 19 years, is a second year rural science student at the University of New England in Armidale. He aspires to contribute to building a sustainable future for the agricultural industry, combating issues of climate change and world population. Jaimie also hopes to increase the awareness of the plight of farmers and the challenges faced, while promoting charities to support an industry that plays a significant role in Australia's past, present and future.

Scholarship donated by: UNE Foundation / Snow Foundation



Jessica Dawson - Wagga Wagga

Jessica Dawson is in her fifth and final year of a law and commerce degree at the University of Wollongong. The 22-year-old's interest in the law began at a young age - her father was a policeman for nearly 20 years. Through her studies, she hopes to make a worthwhile contribution to the community and raise the profile of rural lawyers. She aspires to use her degree to improve access to quality legal services in rural communities, particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and people of low socio-economic status.

Scholarship donated by: Mrs Sue Maple Brown



John Coombs - Wagga Wagga

John Coombs is in the sixth and final year of a Medical Studies/Doctor of Medicine degree at the University of New South Wales. As part of his studies, the 23-year-old is currently completing a three-year placement at the Albury Rural Medical Campus. His goal is to work as a GP and he has an interest in the bigger picture of public and mental health, particularly in a rural and remote context.

Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation



Kate Kingston - Gloucester

21-year-old Kate Kingston is a third year physiotherapy student at the University of Newcastle. Interested in health and wellbeing, Kate is fascinated by the complexity of the human body and mind and wants to help people live happier, healthier lives. Her goal is to work as a physiotherapist for the Indigenous Marathon Project, a program that trains young Indigenous runners to compete in marathons around the world.

Scholarship donated by: Mary Weal



Kate Lumber - Tamworth

20-year-old Kate Lumber is a third year rural science student at the University of New England. Offered the Primary Industry Centre for Science Education Scholarship inspired her to study at UNE and major in livestock production. Her degree exposed her to the world of agronomy, and she took up a summer job as a Crop Scout for an independent cotton consultancy business. Kate's love for the cotton industry continues to grow, as does her desire to contribute to rural and remote areas.

Scholarship donated by: UNE Foundation / Huntly and Catherine Gordon



Katherine Pryor - Griffith

24-year-old Katherine Pryor is in her final year of a medical and health science degree at the University of Wollongong. Once she finishes her degree, she hopes to undertake postgraduate studies in medicine and work in rural and regional NSW as a doctor. Her interest in rural health stems from growing up in a regional area where she got to experience firsthand how high the demand is for health care professionals willing to work in rural locations.

Scholarship donated by: Matthew Irwin



Kayla Atkins - Dubbo

Kayla Atkins', 20 years, decision to pursue a career in planning stems from her belief in its increasing importance in rural communities. The second year planning student from Macquarie University became interested in the area when she discovered it provided the opportunity to observe and manage the complex interactions between the built and natural environment. The Dubbo local aspires to be an influential and sustainable planner in local government, before pursuing a career in the private sector.

Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation



Keiley O'Brien - Gilgandra

18-year-old Keiley O'Brien hails from the small town of Gulargambone in central west NSW. Now in the first year of an agriculture and business degree at the University of New England, Keiley has a strong interest in beef cattle. For the past two years, she has been the Murray Grey Youth Ambassador where she has played a role in promoting agriculture and encouraging youth to get become involved in junior beef cattle events.

Scholarship donated by: UNE Foundation / RAS Foundation



Laura Bennett - Woolgoolga

20-year-old Laura Bennett is in her second year of an agricultural science degree at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Growing up on the family farm with her three siblings, Laura understands firsthand the role primary production plays. She plans to work as an agronomist once she finishes her studies; however she doesn't rule out the possibility of completing an education degree in the future. This would enable her to become an agriculture teacher where she hopes to inspire her students to pursue a career in the industry.

Scholarship donated by: ICT International



Laura Martin - Mullaley

22-year-old Laura Martin is a fourth year veterinary science student at the University of Queensland in Gatton. Raised on the family mixed cropping and cattle farm, Laura developed a lifelong passion for animals. She aspires to work as a mixed practice vet in rural NSW, focussing on large animal production. She hopes to be able to use the knowledge and skills she gains to improve innovation, genetics and production in the beef and sheep industries.

Scholarship donated by: Michael and Jenny Millner



Lauren Amor - Dubbo

21-year-old Lauren Amor is a fourth year animal science student majoring in livestock production at the University of New England. Coming from a non-farming background, Lauren's first agricultural experience was through her high school, St John's College in Dubbo. Upon finishing her degree, she hopes to complete further study that will enable her to teach agriculture in high schools to give students access to the opportunities she has been afforded.

Scholarship donated by: UNE Foundation / RAS Staff



Lucinda Watt - Cumnock

21-year-old Lucinda Watt is in her final year of an animal science (honours) degree at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Growing up on her family property in Cumnock sparked her passion for agriculture and increased her understanding of the importance of young people getting involved in the industry. Lucinda hopes to work as a consultant to producers in the area of ruminant nutrition, providing education about the relationship between soil and animal health.

Scholarship donated by: Michael and Jenny Millner



Lydia Herbert - Eugowra

Lydia Herbert, 22 years, is a fifth year veterinary science and veterinary biology degree at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Growing up on a farm instilled in Lydia a great passion for animals. She aims to specialise in livestock reproduction and assist producers in developing genetic lines that are ideally suited to their area, production style and selected market. A finalist in The Land Sydney Royal Showgirl competition in 2013, Lydia also hopes to encourage young people to get involved in country shows and support rural Australia.

Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation



Michelle Emmett - Young

22-year-old Michelle Emmett is a third year social work and theology student at the Australian Catholic University in Canberra. She aspires to work in regional and remote areas of NSW with indigenous communities. Michelle is currently planning to undertake practical placement in an isolated indigenous community near Wilcannia where she would be working with abused women and children. Through the provision of education and support, she hopes to provide the individuals she works with, with the tools to lead better lives.

Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation



Mitchell Dwyer - Hobbys Yard

20-year-old Mitchell Dwyer is a first year agricultural science student at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Growing up in rural NSW, his love of agriculture was fostered from an early age, and became further entrenched after completing a year working on a large cattle station in the Northern Territory. Through his degree he will gain wide-ranging knowledge and understanding of various agricultural enterprises which he looks forward to applying in his career endeavours.

Scholarship donated by: Hungry Jacks Australia Pty Ltd



Paige Donnelly - Gunnedah

21-year-old Paige Donnelly is a fourth year nutrition and dietetics student at the University of Newcastle. Not only does she have a keen interest in helping people improve their quality of life, but she also has a strong desire to work specifically with children to educate them on healthy eating. At the end of her degree, she intends to undertake additional qualifications to become a personal trainer. Paige's long term goal is to establish her own private practice focusing on exercise and nutrition.

Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation



Ram Khanal - Lavington, Albury

Born in a Bhutanese refugee camp in Nepal, Ram and his family arrived in Albury in 2009 through the Australian Government's Humanitarian Resettlement Program. The 21-year-old has long held the dream of becoming a doctor - a dream that was born through his 16 years of refugee life. Through dedication and hard work, Ram is currently in his third year of medicinal science at the Australian National University. He has a strong desire to work as a rural doctor in the Albury-Wodonga region.

Scholarship donated by: Graham and Glynn O'Neill



Sally Beer - Deniliquin

Growing up on a rice growing property in Deniliquin, 20-year-old Sally Beer developed a passion for agriculture from a young age. Now in her second year of an agriculture and business degree at the University of New England in Armidale, Sally is working towards a career in mixed production, with a keen interest in becoming a financial advisor. She hopes to undertake an international exchange program to the USA next year so she can gain a greater understanding of overseas markets and their impact on agriculture.

Scholarship donated by: UNE Foundation / RAS Staff



Sam Green - Muswellbrook

21-year-old Sam Green is a third year medicine student at the University of Newcastle. Having experienced firsthand the difficulties in obtaining medical care, Sam is committed to being part of the solution in rural and regional NSW. He intends on completing a Master of Public Health in the future, and coupled with his degree in medicine, believes that he will be able to make a real impact in local communities.

Scholarship donated by: Coal & Allied Community Development Fund



Samantha Townsend - Lyndhurst

20-year-old Samantha Townsend's passion for agriculture, in particular livestock, was sparked as a child helping her grandparents on the family farm. A third year agricultural business management student at Charles Sturt University in Orange, Samantha is keen to work in livestock trading to help producers adapt to the dynamic nature of the agricultural industry. She is also an avid supporter of youth, seen through her work with the Art4Agriculture program and website Youth in AGtion.

Scholarship donated by: Hungry Jack's Australia Pty Ltd



Stephanie Clark - Ardlethan

20-year-old Stephanie Clark is a third year early childhood and primary education student at Charles Sturt University in Albury. Born and raised in the small rural town of Ardlethan in southern NSW, Stephanie has developed a strong sense of community. Once she finishes her degree, her goal is to work in schools enriching the educational experience of students, or be part of a mobile pre-school team visiting children in rural and remote areas.

Scholarship donated by: Rali Foundation



Tess Roser - Bulga

Tess Roser, 21 years, is a third year medicine student at the University of Newcastle. Her decision to follow a career in medicine stems from a desire to help people at an individual and community level, as well as a passion for learning about the human body. Tess' dream since she started her degree was to be part of the Royal Flying Doctor's Service; however she also has an interest in Aboriginal health.

Scholarship donated by: Coal & Allied Community Development Fund



Timothy Bear - Young

Timothy Bear is a third year physiotherapy student at Charles Sturt University in Orange. The 21-year-old is an avid sportsman and it is from here that his fascination with sporting injuries and their rehabilitation was fostered. He believes that physiotherapy can improve a person's quality of life, and hopes to be able to provide this vital service to rural communities once he finishes his degree. Understanding the importance of professional practice, Timothy hopes to be able to undertake additional voluntary placement in a remote orphanage in Vietnam this year.

Scholarship donated by: Jafem Limited Trustee for the Justin McCuaig Foundation Charitable Trust



Timothy Callan - Braidwood

18-year-old Timothy Callan is a first year agricultural science student at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. He is a fourth generation farmer on his family's grazing farm in Braidwood and believes his studies will provide him with a solid foundation for his end goal as a secondary school science and agriculture teacher. Inspired by his involvement in mentoring programs during high school, he hopes to pass on his agricultural knowledge to young people and create increased interest in agricultural and primary industries.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation



Tyler Austin - Merriwa

18-year-old Tyler Austin is a first year agricultural science student at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Growing up in the small rural town of Merriwa, agriculture has always been his passion. Once he finishes his degree, he hopes to become an agronomist so he can have a positive impact on the industry and work towards a sustainable future. An active member of his local community, he was instrumental in reintroducing the poultry section to his local agricultural show after a 33 year absence.

Scholarship donated by: Coal & Allied Community Development Fund



Walter Prowse - Singleton

Walter Prowse, 20 years, is in the third year of a mathematics teaching degree at the University of Newcastle. He prides himself on his ability to connect with people, and coupled with his passion for maths, decided to pursue a teaching career. Recognising the shortage of mathematics teachers in rural NSW, Walter hopes to show students that maths can be fun, while at the same time providing a quality learning experience.

Scholarship donated by: Coal & Allied Community Development Fund



Zeb Coxsedge - Gilgandra

20-year-old Zeb Coxsedge is a second year mechanical engineering student at the University of Wollongong. His interest in engineering was sparked following a stint of work experience with Mr HDT in Dubbo, where he worked on high performance engines. He believes mechanical engineering forms the backbone of technological developments in agriculture. Zeb dreams of one day working on projects of all sizes and looks forward to playing his part in helping rural communities.

Scholarship donated by: Allan Farrar / RAS Foundation

COMMUNITY FUTURES GRANT

RAS Foundation Community Futures Grants encourage and champion rural youth leadership through the provision of up to \$25,000 to fund community projects that address a need or issue. Projects, that once complete, will result in enhanced social and economic outcomes for the wider community.

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Adam Macrae - Coonamble

Adam Macrae, 33, is a farmer and agriculture teacher at Coonamble High School. Adam and the school will use the grant to set-up a mobile agricultural workshop, teaching youth skills to aid participation in industrial-scale training activities. The workshop hopes to open pathways for long term employment and create a new generation of skilled workers contributing to the local industry.



Andrew Rawsthorne - Trundle

Andrew Rawsthorne, 34, is a Trundle Citizen of the Year and the leader of the Trundle Main Street Rejuvenation Sustainability & Arts Hub program. Andrew, in partnership with the Trundle & District Progress Association, will use the grant towards the restoration of one of Australia's widest streets, renovating its buildings and storefronts. The plan includes the introduction of an arts hub and 'artist in residency' program as well as a place for locals to market their own produce, furniture, clothes and art.



Sally Empringham - Nevertire

Sally Empringham, 34, will partner with We of the Nevertire Inc to rebuild the fences surrounding Noel Waters Oval. The oval holds the Nevertire Family Muster, an important local event that raises \$13,000 every year for several community groups. The upgrade will ensure the recommencement and longevity of the muster and increase participation in other community events and clubs held at the oval.



Shane Debreceeny - Comboyne

Shane Debreceeny, 31, is a dairy farmer from Comboyne. In collaboration with the Comboyne A&H Society, Shane will use the grant to replace the roofless poultry pavilion with a multipurpose building for the entire community. Among other uses, the new centre will host poultry exhibitions, allow the cricket team to host matches, provide a fitness centre and act as a camping shelter for traveling workers during picking season. The new facility will strengthen community spirit, the local economy and population growth in Comboyne.

JB FAIRFAX AWARD FOR RURAL JOURNALISM

This award aims to unearth a talented, young writer who is passionate about communicating the rich stories and issues from rural and regional Australia and is committed to pursuing a career in rural journalism upon graduation.



Charlotte King - Forbes

Originally from Forbes, Charlotte King is a fifth year journalism/law student at the University of Canberra. Going to university and living in Canberra has given her some great life experiences, but it has always been her intention to return to and report on issues affecting rural NSW. She is passionate about rural issues, from access to healthcare and quality education to issues such as climate change and animal welfare. Seeing the 'city' side of these debates has educated and increased her awareness of the complexities faced by regional Australians.

Scholarship donated by: Mr JB Fairfax AO

SYDNEY ROYAL WINE SCHOLARSHIP

This award encourages students who demonstrate strong leadership qualities and who are passionate about and committed to making a contribution to the Australian wine industry and their community.



Nicholas Schirripa - Griffith

Nick Schirripa is a fourth year wine science and viticulture student at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. A third generation farmer, Nick remembers fondly the time spent on the family farm helping his dad and uncles cultivate grapes, rockmelons, wheat, rice and pumpkins. Deciding to undertake a degree that combined his love of the wine industry and farming, Nick aspires to become a viticulturist and inspire the next generation to take up a career in this rewarding industry.

Scholarship donated by: RAS Wine Committee

SYDNEY ROYAL DAIRY PRODUCE SCHOLARSHIP

This award encourages students who demonstrate strong leadership qualities and who are passionate about and committed to making a contribution to the NSW dairy produce industry and their community.



Tamara Biffin - Cawdor

A third-year animal and veterinary bioscience student at the University of Sydney, Tamara is the daughter of dairy farmers. Growing up on the family dairy and working alongside her grandfather, father and brother has led her to develop a strong interest in the industry. She aspires to work as a dairy/ruminant nutritional consultant and/or feed researcher. This will see her encouraging healthier, higher producing animals (both in quantity and quality) through developing feeds that can be more efficiently utilised and that are affordable to farmers.

Scholarship donated by: Country Valley

COMMUNITY KITCHEN

DONATED BY MASTERS HOME IMPROVEMENT

Donated by Masters Home Improvement, this large demonstration kitchen and its appliances is awarded to rural and regional NSW communities to breath new life into a community facility.

The recipient of the RAS Foundation Community Kitchen for 2014 is Brewarrina Show and Rodeo Committee.

Masters Home Improvement also donated the Sydney Royal Easter Show demonstration electrical items to

- Rand School of Arts Hall
- Goolgowi Community Hall
- Molong Advancement Group - Community Hall and Recreation Ground



Brewarrina Show and Rodeo Committee

Brewarrina is a remote community located in north western NSW, 900kms from Sydney. The Brewarrina Showground is the focal point for community events and functions that draw the community together and attract visitors to the region. Brewarrina Show and Rodeo Committee are working with a number of community groups and their local Council to replace the existing kitchen building at the Showgrounds with a larger, multi-purpose facility that will have the capacity to seat over 200 people. The new kitchen will complement their plans to build new restrooms and a BBQ area.

DONORS

We sincerely thank the following donors and sponsors for their generous support of the RAS Foundation in 2014.

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- 

THE RAS FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A large, stylized graphic of a leaf or branch, rendered in a light purple color, extends from the right side of the page towards the bottom left. It has several smaller, similar leaf shapes branching off from it, creating a sense of movement and growth.

Mr Michael Millner

Mr Glenn Dudley

Mrs Robyn Clubb

Ms Sally Evans

Dr Cameron Archer

Ms Fiona Higgins

Mr David Brownhill

Ms Susan Bower

A large, stylized graphic of a leaf or branch, rendered in a light purple color against a dark purple background. The leaf is positioned diagonally, starting from the top left and extending towards the bottom right. It has several smaller, curved leaflets branching off from the main stem.

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