

2017 GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS



RAS^F

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NSW
FOUNDATION

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) Foundation was created in 2007 with a mission to help build strong and sustainable rural and regional communities through education and community development. This year the RAS Foundation will celebrate its 10 year anniversary.

Together with the generous donations from our supporters, the RAS Foundation has invested over \$2.86 million into country NSW through a range of targeted grants and scholarships. This includes support of over 370 rural scholarship students to reach their educational dreams, and the awarding of vital community building grants in 37 communities.

All donations to the RAS Foundation are tax deductible. 100% of every donation received goes directly towards our programs ensuring rural and regional NSW remains strong and vibrant now and into the future.

GIVING TO DATE

Program:	RAS Foundation Community Futures Grant
Duration:	9 years
Grants Awarded:	28
Funds Distributed:	\$606,000
Program:	JB Fairfax Award for Rural and Regional Journalism
Duration:	9 years
Grants Awarded:	9
Funds Distributed:	\$90,000
Program:	Rural Scholarships
Duration:	7 years
Grants Awarded:	371 scholarships
Funds Distributed:	\$1,721,500
Program:	E3 Grant (retired)
Duration:	4 years
Grants Awarded:	Grants to 59 schools
Funds Distributed:	\$266,000
Program:	RAS Foundation Community Kitchen
Duration:	6 years
Grants Awarded:	6 Sydney Royal Easter Show demonstration kitchens
Funds Distributed:	\$185,000

Total	\$2,868,500
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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 or vocation, education and training studies.



HARRIET AMEY DUBBO

Harriet Amey, 24, is completing her final year of a Doctor of Physiotherapy at Macquarie University. Harriet's years of studying in Dubbo and Sydney have underlined a gap in clinical services in rural and suburban areas and she feels driven to address the shortage of physiotherapists in rural hospitals. After completing her studies, Harriet plans to return to her hometown or re-locate even further west to provide essential health care and help ease the burden of travel costs for rural patients.

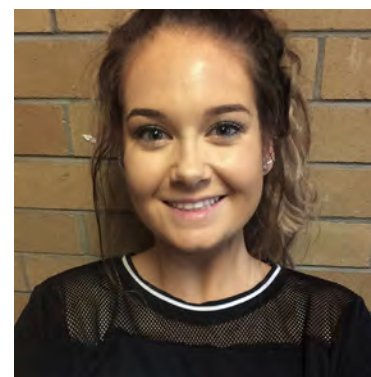
Scholarship donated by: Rali Foundation



LACHLAN BARDEN NARRABRI

Twenty-year-old Lachlan Barden is in his second year of a four year double degree in Information Technology and Business at the University of Newcastle. With a strong interest in the computing industry he looks forward to gaining more skills in this ever changing area of advancement. Lachlan hopes to one day help fill the void of IT professionals in rural communities and put back the skills he acquires into a community much like the one he has grown up in.

Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation



BRIDGET BENNETT TOTTENHAM

Growing up on a beef and wheat farm outside Tottenham in the State's west, 19-year-old Bridget Bennett completed her high school studies through distance education and the innovative use of video conferencing facilities. She is now enjoying applying herself to her studies which will earn her a Bachelor of Radiation Science from the University of Newcastle. Bridget is currently in her second year and enjoys getting home on the holidays to help out on the farm.

Scholarship donated by: Mary Weal



GRACE BEST GRENFELL

Grace Best is in her second year of a double degree in Mathematics and Science at the University of Newcastle. Having grown up on a family property and attended small local schools herself, the 20-year-old was awarded the Premier's Volunteering Award for her hundreds of hours' community service. Grace is determined to return to rural NSW to instil the same love of learning, but this time as a teacher, sharing her passion for maths and science with the next generation of school children.

Scholarship donated by: Susan Maple-Brown



ELLEN BIRTLES QUEENBEYAN

Ellen Birtles, 19, is continuing her second year at Tocal Agricultural College and is currently completing her Certificate IV in Agriculture. Her keen interest in the sheep and wool industry has allowed her to take opportunities to develop her knowledge and practical skills on various properties around rural NSW. After drought made it impossible to remain on her family farm, Ellen's passion for agriculture motivates her to get back into rural communities and reconnect with her roots.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation



KATE BLAIR-HICKMAN BLAXLAND

17-year-old Kate Blair-Hickman credits her mother for nudging her towards a career in agriculture. The teenager from Blaxland in the Blue Mountains secured a place at Tocal Agricultural College where she is studying Certificate IV in Agriculture, Certificate IV in Wool Classing and her Diploma of Agriculture. Kate hopes that by developing her knowledge and practical skills she can enter the agricultural workforce and contribute to a more sustainable industry that will continue to grow and thrive.

Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation



KELSEA BOOTS CAMDEN

Growing up in Camden and now calling Orange home, 23-year-old Kelsea Boots is in her fourth year of a Bachelor of Dental Science at Charles Sturt University. Kelsea's professional interest in dentistry and the positive effect it has on patients began when she worked as a dental assistant in the Royal Australian Navy. Kelsea has enjoyed a number of rural placements throughout her studies, and has a long-term goal to establish a flying dental service in order to provide essential oral care to remote areas of Australia.

Scholarship donated by: Rali Foundation



MITCHUM BOWER MILTON

23-year-old Mitchum Bower is a third year medical student at the University of NSW, studying at the Coffs Harbour campus. Mitchum has seen the positive role rural doctors play in their community, and is aware of the impact and benefits of being more than just a healthcare provider. He aims to bring attention to the vast specialist shortage in rural areas, begin to bridge the inequality that divides regional areas, and improve rural health care.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation



OLIVIA BROOKS ORANGE

Olivia Brooks, 20, is a third year Medical student at the University of New South Wales, situated at the Port Macquarie Rural Clinical School. Olivia's time at her local Aboriginal Health Service during work experience has given her a strong passion for equality in healthcare, and a drive to improve health outcomes for those most in need. Inspired by countless health professionals throughout her life, Olivia hopes to emulate the qualities of an empathetic, professional and approachable doctor in rural Australia.

Scholarship donated by: Exponet



NATHAN BURKE WEE WAA

21-year-old Nathan Burke is a third year Bachelor of Science student at the University of Newcastle. Nathan is motivated to engage with rural and regional students in an educational role to promote his love of science and engineering as careers of the future. Aware of the need to raise the profile of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) subjects, Nathan has worked on teaching programs that provide lesson plans and resources for regional teachers and students.

Scholarship donated by: G O'Neill



ELLIE CHRISAKIS BROKEN HILL

Ellie Chrisakis, 19, is in her second year studying a Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science at Charles Sturt University. Work experience in Year 10 at Broken Hill Hospital opened her eyes to radiography as a career, showing her the importance of early diagnosis and the depth of technology with medical imaging. Ellie would like to work with the Royal Flying Doctor Service as a fly-in, fly-out radiographer, a career she sees that would help reduce the stress on regional patients and make the process of diagnosis easier.

Scholarship donated by: McLean Foundation



ELIZA COLES BOOROWA

20-year-old Eliza Coles is a third year student studying her Bachelor of Psychological Science at the University of New England. Eliza is passionate about helping people affected by mental illness. Eliza's long-term goal is to establish a travelling clinic, creating access for rural communities struggling with the issue of mental health. The lack of services in regional areas and the stigma surrounding mental health has long-term effects on whole communities, and Eliza hopes to help people with the clinical support they need.

Scholarship donated by: McLean Foundation/ UNE Foundation



MICHEALA COLLINS BLAYNEY

Micheala Collins is a fourth year Education student (Early Childhood and Primary) at Charles Sturt University. At 21 years of age, Micheala is dedicated to her community through a range of roles and initiatives. She is passionate about youth empowerment and believes education holds the key to break down inequity. Micheala hopes to remain in regional and rural communities working with children with diverse backgrounds and additional needs to help them discover their potential and flourish in their community.

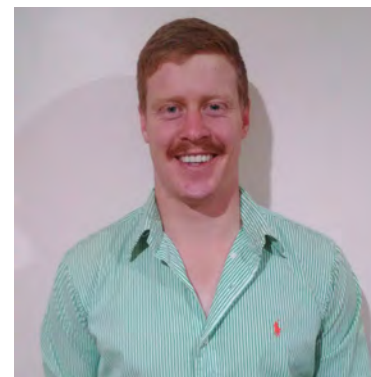
Scholarship donated by: OCS Fun Pty Ltd



TYLA COMERFORD DUBBO

Tyla Comerford, 19, is a first year student at the University of New England, studying a Bachelor of Agriculture/ Bachelor of Business. Tyla is passionate about promoting Australian beef and aspires to set up her own genetics company with a focus on producing a more feed-efficient line of cattle. Tyla cites the growing pressure on Australia to feed an increasing population as her drive for better genetics in cattle production.

Scholarship donated by: Moghul Brahman Stud/ UNE Foundation



BENJAMIN CORBETT ORANGE

Ben Corbett, 25, is currently completing his second year of a Bachelor of Medicine at the University of New England. An active member of the Australian Army Reserves, Ben has been deployed on a range of peace-keeping missions. Having grown up in the central west, Ben understands and values country communities and hopes to reduce the disadvantages they face with access to health care. Ben is passionate about the health of rural Australians and hopes to address the shortage of rural doctors.

Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family/ UNE Foundation



FORBES CORBY BRAIDWOOD

19-year-old Forbes Corby is interested in the corporate side of agriculture after he spent his work experience with agricultural traders. Forbes is completing his second year of a Bachelor of Agriculture/ Bachelor of Business at the University of New England. He hopes to combine his passion and knowledge of agriculture to start a business in agricultural resource marketing that will open new and larger global trading markets for local producers, and assist farmers in a rapidly changing industry.

Scholarship donated by: Huntly and Catherine Gordon/ UNE Foundation



ZEB COXSEDGE GILGANDRA

22-year-old Zeb Coxsedg is a final year Mechanical Engineering student at the University of Wollongong. He believes engineering is the basis of development in the agricultural industry and is aware of the need to improve farming techniques and equipment for time saving, efficiency and financial reasons. Upon graduation Zeb aims to contribute to innovative machinery and equipment design, particularly bulk material handling, to help make a difference in the working lives of Australian farmers.

Scholarship donated by: Michael & Jenny Millner



ELIZABETH CRERAR PEARCEDALE

Elizabeth Crerar, 25, is a third year Doctor of Veterinary Medicine student at the University of Sydney. Liz has a special interest in the sheep and wool industry, where she has focussed considerable volunteering efforts. Liz's passion for livestock and agriculture developed from her involvement in the agricultural program offered at her local high school. Birthing lambs and treating sick sheep from the young age of 12 has sparked a special interest in livestock health and Liz is looking forward to the contribution she can make as a rural veterinarian.

Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family



JESSICA DODDS WAGGA WAGGA

Jessica Dodds is a 27-year-old mother of two, studying a Diploma of Nursing at the Cootamundra Riverina Institute of TAFE. Jessica aspires to study further and complete a Bachelor of Nursing in the future. Jessica has extensive experience in the disability sector but also has a passion for mental health and community nursing. She aims to help educate her patients and share in their road to recovery, making an impact on the lives of people in the Riverina.

Scholarship donated by: Exponet Pty Ltd



HEATHER EARNEY BEDGERABONG

Heather Earney grew up on a mixed operation family farm. She never dreamed of working in wool production until she began junior judging at the age of 12, and from there her interest only grew. Now, at the age of 21, Heather is completing her fourth year in Rural Science at the University of New England where she has undertaken an honours project examining the relationship between pelvic dimensions and dystocia. Heather's career aspirations are to work in extension for sheep and wool while continuing to undertake research.

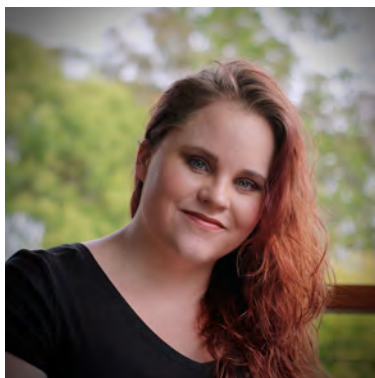
Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family/ UNE Foundation



NATALIE FORD GRIFFITH

Natalie Ford, 23, is in her third year of a Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Veterinary Science at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Growing up in a country town has shaped her passion for production animals and an ambition to become a large animal veterinarian. Natalie has a particular interest in equine medicine and reproduction. Studying Vet provides Natalie with the opportunity to create a lifestyle combining education, a passion for animals and commitment to contribute to rural Australia.

Scholarship donated by: Huntly and Catherine Gordon



JESSICA FORD WOLUMLA

Jessica Ford, 25, is currently completing three specialised medical degrees through Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, by distance education from her home in Wollumla on the south coast. From a young age Jessica has lived with a chronic auto-immune disease. This has given her a unique experience into the difference quality health services can make to the lives of rural patients and their families. Based on her personal life events, it is Jessica's ambition to bring both essential and unique skills to the medical community, in particular country facilities.

Scholarship donated by: McLean Foundation



DANIELLE FORDHAM LITHGOW

Danielle Fordham was raised in the city, but sees her future in the country after a school exchange program first enabled her to spend time on a farm at West Wyalong. The dedicated 20-year-old is studying a Certificate IV and Diploma in Agriculture at Tocal Agricultural College. She is hoping this introduction to agriculture will lead her to University to study a Bachelor in Agrifoods Systems. Danielle has a keen interest in agronomy, sheep production and precision agriculture.

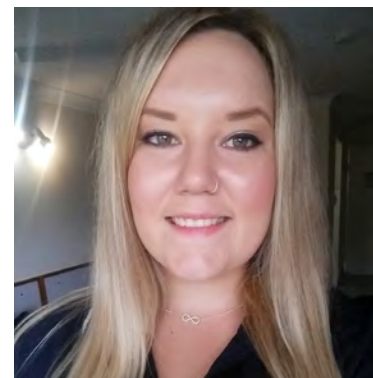
Scholarship donated by: GrainCorp



CLAIRE FRIZELL WOLLOMOMBI

Claire Frizell, 24, is in her final year of a Veterinary Science degree at Charles Sturt University. From a beef and cattle property on the Northern Tablelands, Claire appreciates the vital role veterinarian's play in regional Australia. This year Claire will work on placement with a range of diverse vet clinics in regional and remote Australia. She can't wait to start her career working alongside farmers, breeders and other veterinarians offering important services to rural areas.

Scholarship donated by: Regional Australia Bank



MEGAN GENTZ PORT MACQUARIE

28-year-old Megan Gentz is in her second year of study at Charles Sturt University to be a Paramedic – a dream she has had since she was just 8 years old. A career in emergency medicine will build on Megan's previous work with homeless youth in crisis refuges. Megan plans to complete a Masters of Paramedicine to become a critical care paramedic in remote NSW, helping break down barriers for troubled youth and how they approach emergency medical assistance.

Scholarship donated by: Michael & Jenny Millner



KIMBERLEY GILBERT BOOROWA

Kimberley Gilbert is currently in her third year of a Bachelor of Education (Primary & Early Childhood) at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga. Kimberley has been dedicated to a career in teaching and caring for children from a young age and shares her passion within her local Aboriginal community. Kimberley currently works at a local childcare centre and takes pleasure in giving back to her community through education. Kimberley aims to teach in a small regional centre where she can engage parents in a positive way in the school community.

Scholarship donated by: McLean Foundation



BRAYDEN GILLARD WAGGA WAGGA

Brayden Gillard is a third year Education student, majoring in Agricultural Technology at Charles Sturt University. Growing up on a small cattle property, 20-year-old Brayden has always enjoyed being on the land. He is aware of the impact a strong mentor can have on young lives and hopes to fulfil this role in a small regional community. Brayden hopes his teaching methods will inspire more students to consider a career in farming and associated industries.

Scholarship donated by: David and Belinda Davidson



SARAH GURR MUSWELLBROOK

Sarah Gurr is a fourth year Bachelor of Teaching (Humanities) (Honours) student at the University of Newcastle. Growing up, Sarah found comfort in the support and stability in her life that came from her schooling. She hopes to provide students the same dedication and encouragement her teachers provided her. Sarah believes that a quality education will ensure the success of young people and their communities, and she intends to return to rural NSW to help students realise their potential and achieve success.

Scholarship donated by: Horizon Foundation



TAMARA HEIR WALLA WALLA

With a strong interest in large animal production, health and welfare guiding her career, Tamara Heir is a fifth year Veterinary Science student at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Growing up in the Riverina, she has experienced the joys and challenges of the land. Tamara loves working alongside farmers and other industry professionals, using her knowledge and skills to help improve their production and profitability. Tamara hopes to continue making agriculture an industry we can be proud of.

Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family



VANAMALI HERMANS MURWILLUMBAH

Vanamali Hermans, 18, is in her second year of a Bachelor of Arts/Development Studies degree at the Australian National University. After involvement in a range of community campaigns, including the reopening of her hometown's birthing ward, Vanamali developed a passion for advocacy and rural equality. With an interest in the parliamentary representation of regional NSW Vanamali hopes her studies will enable her lobby for the interests of rural communities. She also aims to encourage young women to consider careers in politics.

Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation



LACHLAN JAMES WINGHAM

Lachlan James grew up on a small rural farm outside Wingham on the NSW mid-north coast and is studying Certificate III Agriculture at Tocal Agricultural College. His family shares a passion for agriculture and Lachlan's passion is linked to the sheep industry and wool classing. When Lachlan was just eight years old he purchased his first lot of 10 sheep and a ram. He was instantly hooked and in no time had a small registered stud. Lachlan is interested in breeding sheep for wool and meat production using sustainable methods of farming.

Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family



ANNE JOHNSTON MOREE

Growing up on a mixed operation family farm in the State's far-north instilled a love of the land within Anne Johnston from a young age, and she has always planned to return to regional Australia. Anne is currently in her third year at the University of New England studying a Bachelor of Education (K-12) and is following her childhood dream to be a teacher. She aspires to be part of a movement of capable, committed and passionate educators who are eager and willing to teach in rural communities.

Scholarship donated by: Agricultural Societies Council of NSW Ltd/UNE Foundation



KATHERINE LAHIFF ULLADULLA

19-year-old Kate Lahiff is in her second year of Advanced Nursing at the University of Wollongong. Growing up in the rural community of Ulladulla and having extended family in other rural areas, Kate has observed the gap that exists in the health services available. Katherine wants to use her passion for helping people and her interest in the medical field to be an ambassador for equity in rural health. She aims to provide the best she can in patient-oriented care to serve those in her community.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation



DANIEL LAWSON NAROOMA

Daniel Lawson is a 22-year-old single father studying his fourth year of Veterinary Science at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga. Raised in Narooma – a small rural community on the south coast surrounded by farms ranging from dairy to poultry – Daniel has strong roots from which his passion for animals has flourished. It has long been his ambition to work with primary producers to maximize productivity, animal welfare and profitability to ensure the animal production industry remains viable for future generations. *Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation*



TAMARA LENNON GOONELLABAH

Tamara Lennon, 22, is a fourth year student undertaking a Doctor of Medicine at the University of New South Wales. She has always been interested in health and has a passion for people. Having grown up just east of Lismore, Tamara is inspired by rural doctors who often go above and beyond the scope of their job description to look after their patients. She believes that medicine means facing new challenges every day and she is passionate about making a difference in people's lives. Tamara also has a particular interest in youth mental health. *Scholarship donated by: Cowled Foundation*



CASSIE MACBEAN BEGA

Medicine has always been a passion for 36-year-old Cassie MacBean, who hopes to one day work as a GP or emergency physician in a rural hospital. Cassie believes that every Australian deserves quality health care and looks forward to bridging the gap between rural and metropolitan services. Having previously worked as a pathologist and supported her husband through leukaemia, Cassie hopes to offer her patients compassion, respect and to become a trusted confidant in her community. *Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation/UNE Foundation*



CAITLIN MAGINNIS DUBBO

Caitlin Maginnis, 22, is completing her final year of a Bachelor of Social Science studying at Charles Sturt University in Dubbo. Aware of the impacts of suicide, grief and loss in rural and regional towns, Caitlin is pursuing a career in Social Work. Her studies have helped her understand ways to support families and youth suffering from domestic violence, suicide and mental health issues. Caitlin hopes to support, educate and empower families and young people in crisis to make better choices to improve their lives. *Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation*



ALICE MAGNER CASINO

Twenty-one-year-old Alice Magner is passionate about her local community, youth education and involvement in agriculture. She is a third year Bachelor of Arts/ Bachelor of Education student at Southern Cross University in Lismore. Alice is excited to play a role in educating future generations, especially disadvantaged young people and those in rural and remote areas. She hopes to use her position as a teacher to inspire and nurture the next generation as they learn and grow into leaders within their communities. *Scholarship donated by: Agricultural Societies Council of NSW Ltd*



KATRINA NASH CUDAL

Katrina Nash, 20, is a third year Law and Journalism student at Newcastle University. Growing up on the land has enabled Katrina to recognise the need for greater discussion on regional issues, in particular mental health. Katrina hopes to eliminate the stigma and create more discussion on this topic. Katrina believes that journalists have a platform to influence readers and she looks forward to educating those in metropolitan areas about issues that farming communities face. *Scholarship donated by: Australian Country Magazine*



INGA NEILSEN BRAIDWOOD

Inga Neilsen, 19, is undertaking her first year at the University of Technology Sydney studying a double degree in a Bachelor of Laws/ Bachelor of Communication (Journalism). Inga is a passionate advocate for rural issues and received an award for outstanding service to Eden Monaro in 2015. She cares deeply about issues such as foreign ownership, impact on farmers of changes to live exports and rural suicide. Inga aims to use her degree to give rural Australia a voice by broadcasting rural affairs to both regional and metropolitan viewers.

Scholarship donated by: Robert J White, AO



AMBER O'NEILL PENRITH

Amber O'Neill, 21, is studying a Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Veterinary Science at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga. She is focussed on her goal of helping create sustainable, efficient and effective livestock production. Amber's work in schools, alpaca judging and the showgirl movement keeps her busy outside university. She has an active interest in Alpaca breeding and hopes to inspire more people to get involved in this highly diverse industry.

Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation



SALLY NICHOLLS ORANGE

Sally Nicholls, 21, is a fourth year Physiotherapy student at Charles Sturt University. Her long term goal is to open a private practice specialising in paediatrics and women's health in the central west. She believes that rural and remote Australians experience many barriers to health care, with a need to integrate physiotherapy services. She loves that practicing physiotherapy in rural NSW is more than just a career – it's about being a leader, a mentor and a contributor.

Scholarship donated by: Agricultural Societies Council of NSW Ltd



KATHERINE REID BREDBO

Katherine Reid has travelled more than 900km from home to start her first year as a Rural Science student at the University of New England. The nineteen-year-old's interest in agriculture started from a young age after growing up on the family farm, and has continued into adulthood working with sheep. Katherine is fascinated by the wool industry and is motivated to carve out a career path for herself in this exciting industry. Her ambition is to work in genetics and wool production.

Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family/UNE Foundation



LIAM NORRIE EUGOWRA

Liam Norrie has grown up on a family owned and operated enterprise specialising in prime lamb production and winter cropping in the State's central west. With a strong interest in agronomy and agricultural diversity, 19-year-old Liam is in his second year of a Bachelor of Agricultural Science at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga. He aims to assist growers in reaching maximum potential in a mixed farming system and hopes to play a pivotal role in the future of rural NSW.

Scholarship donated by: Jemalong Irrigation Limited



MEG RICE PARKES

Meg Rice is in her third year studying a Bachelor of Agriculture and Law at the University of New England in Armidale to further her interest in agricultural production systems, business and natural resource management. Through her studies she hopes to gain a greater understanding of the issues and policies surrounding the agricultural industry. A highly involved community member in her hometown of Parkes, Meg looks forward to contributing to the growth of agriculture.

Scholarship donated by: Royal Agricultural Society of NSW /UNE Foundation



WESLEY ROHR KANDOS

Wesley Rohr is a final year student studying a Bachelor of Veterinary Science/Bachelor of Veterinary Biology at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Growing up on a small beef and sheep property, his passion for animal production and all things equine was evident from an early age and further developed while mustering in the Pilbara in WA. Wes is incredibly grateful for the supportive rural community he grew up in and aspires to play a role in similar rural communities through the provision of veterinary services.

Scholarship donated by: Moghul Brahman Stud



SAM ROSS COORANBONG

Eighteen-year-old Sam Ross is motivated to become a paramedic in rural or remote Australia and is in his second year of a Bachelor of Clinical Practice (Paramedicine) at Charles Sturt University, Port Macquarie. Sam has a strong desire to help those in need and has seen considerable inequities in the rural emergency space. He believes that being part of a rural or regional ambulance station will provide opportunities to interact with and give back to the community. Sam is eager to help drive the evolution of rural emergency care.

Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family



SAMUEL SCARLETT COOMA

Coming from a long line of merino farming on the Monaro, Samuel Scarlett is eager to work in the sheep and wool industry. The 20-year-old is currently in his third year of a Bachelor of Animal Science (Honours) at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. He plans to conduct an honours project investigating nutrition and genetics in wool and their role in fleece quality. Samuel aspires to assist in research and help consult producers to keep both them and the merino industry thriving.

Scholarship donated by: NSW Stud Merino Breeders Association



JACK SCIFLEET BINNAWAY

Twenty-one-year-old Jack Scifleet is combining his passion for agriculture and business through a Bachelor of Agricultural Economics at the University of Sydney. In his final year of study, Jack is the fourth generation on his family's sheep and cattle property located in the state's central west. Jack is grateful for the opportunity to study in Sydney, even though it takes him a long way from the family farm. Jack looks forward to the opportunity to give back to the rural communities that have given him so much.

Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation



HOPE SEMMLER COBAR

As the eldest of three in a single parent family, Hope Semmler had a passion for working with animals from a young age. She is now working towards her dream of completing a Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/ Bachelor of Veterinary Science at Charles Sturt University, where she is in her fifth-year. As a child growing up in far western NSW, Hope has gained an awareness of the scarcity of veterinary services in some regional areas and she aspires to provide the best services possible to help fill this gap.

Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family



MARY SHELLEY TELEGRAPH POINT

Pursuing a career as a rural doctor has been a long-term goal of Mary Shelley and has fuelled her motivation to study a Bachelor of Medical Studies/Doctor of Medicine at the University of New South Wales. Based at the Rural Medical School at Port Macquarie, Mary hopes to practice in rural or outback NSW. Mary's considerable volunteering efforts across a number of local charities earned her the 2016 Dame Marie Bashir Peace Prize. She is passionate about helping overcome health inequities faced by rural and remote Australians.

Scholarship donated by: B & B Rides and Games & Goldenway Amusements Pty Ltd



ZOE SIBBALD NYNGAN

Zoe Sibbald, 19, is a second year Speech Pathology student studying at Charles Sturt University, Albury. Growing up in rural NSW, Zoe realised the demand for speech pathologists in small communities when she saw the long distances her mother travelled with her siblings to access these services. Zoe believes there is a strong demand for additional services in Western NSW. With an interest in paediatrics, Zoe plans to complete her course and help improve access to allied health for rural children and their families.

Scholarship donated by: Nell & Hermon Slade Trust



SAMANTHA SMART DUBBO

Seventeen-year-old Samantha Smart is studying a Certificate III in Agricultural Production at Tocal Agricultural College. Samantha discovered her love of livestock at school while preparing steers to show. Samantha hopes to go on a working holiday to learn more about agriculture, before returning to the Australian cattle or dairy industries. She hopes to one day manage a mixed farming enterprise and demonstrate that environmentally sustainable farming can also be financially sustainable.

Scholarship donated by: Rali Foundation



KIERAN SMITH INVERELL

Kieran Smith is in his second-year studying a Bachelor of Rural Science at the University of New England. The 21-year-old has always been passionate about selective breeding and genetics. Kieran is a regular at junior sheep, cattle and wool-judging at shows and he represented NSW on the shearing and wool-handling teams at the national titles. His goal is to use the knowledge gained from his studies to improve the fertility and productivity of livestock across Australia.

Scholarship donated by: Royal Agricultural Society of NSW/ UNE Foundation



ASHLEA SMITH TAREE

As a primary teacher educating children with behavioural disabilities, Ashlea Smith was inspired to gain greater insight to holistically help her students. Now 26, she is in her third year of a Bachelor of Psychological Science at the University of New England, studying by distance. Seeing the high level of need in her low socio-economic area, Ashlea is passionate about transformation, particularly in children, who will then impact their community positively for change. She hopes to achieve this in collaboration with her local church.

Scholarship donated by: Michael & Jenny Millner/ UNE Foundation



SAMANTHA SPARK WORRIGEE

Samantha Spark, 20 years, is in her second year of a double degree in Veterinary Biology and Veterinary Science at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Growing up on the south coast of NSW, her aspiration to become a large animal Veterinarian grew with her work at a local Vet Hospital and volunteer work on local farms. Sam has a particular interest in the dairy industry. She is excited about the prospect of working with producers and assisting all animals from valuable stud stock to precious family pets.

Scholarship donated by: Bayer Australia Limited



NIKKI STANDEN PARKES

Nikki Standen is currently in her fourth year studying Visual Arts and Special Education teaching at the University of Newcastle. Nikki has had a community-driven upbringing in Parkes and has always possessed a love of art, and a passion for helping those with special needs. She wishes to develop and bring her knowledge back to rural NSW where she can provide high quality education and help create links between community and school.

Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation



DANIEL STEINBECK GOSFORD

Daniel Steinbeck, 28, is studying a Bachelor of Clinical Practice (Paramedics) at Charles Sturt University. He has a passion for giving back to the community and believes deeply in the benefits of volunteering. Daniel is the founding member of the Student Heart Project, a not for profit initiative that raises funds for life-saving defibrillators around the mid-north coast. Daniel aims to secure work in a regional area to help bridge the gap in healthcare care and contribute to the ongoing education of local community groups.

Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation



EMILY SUANN WAGGA WAGGA

Emily Suann is a final year Veterinary Science student at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. From an early age, Emily had a keen interest in her family's farm on the NSW south coast along with a passion for thoroughbreds and the racing industry. Emily is currently completing an honours research project on the diagnosis of equine Cushing's disease. On completion of her studies she hopes to combine her interests of equine industries and animal production in a rural mixed practice.

Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family



THOMAS TSANG TAREE

Thomas Tsang, 17, is a first year student at the University of New South Wales, studying a Bachelor of Medical Studies/Doctor of Medicine. Thomas hadn't considered medicine until his father experienced a medical emergency, and there was no specialist to perform the operation locally. Following the operation in Sydney, Thomas took up the role of reporting his father's condition to the surgeon by phone after they returned home. Thomas hopes to specialise in ophthalmology after he has completed his studies.

Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation



JASLYN TUCKWELL BUNYAH

Jaslyn Tuckwell is in her third year of a Bachelor of Agriculture, majoring in General Agricultural Production at the University of New England. Growing up in the small dairy and beef community, she was always eager to assist in the yards or help out on her neighbour's dairy farm. In 2014 Jaslyn started working as a farm hand on a local dairy in Gloucester while completing her study externally. Jaslyn hopes her passion will one day be a driving force in the dairy industry.

Scholarship donated by: McLean Foundation/ UNE Foundation



TOBY WALKER BINGARA

Born and raised on the land, Toby Walker, 16, looks forward to a future where he can buy and manage his own farm. Soon to complete an Advanced Diploma in Agriculture with TAFE, New England, Toby will follow this with shearing school and a Certificate in Wool Classing. Toby then plans to travel rural Australia, shearing and wool classing to earn the money to finance his dream. He is eager to learn more about sustainability and biological farming methods, which he intends to incorporate into his farming plan.

Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation



RYLEY WICKHAM GOONOO GOONOO

Ryley Wickham, is a 17-year-old agriculture student in his second year of study at Tocal Agricultural College. His passion for the land began at a young age and Ryley plans to focus his studies on beef cattle and genetics. He also has a heart for people from the land and sees the importance of providing support networks for them through his community involvement. Ryley intends to pursue a career that will innovate the way technology is developed and used within the agricultural industry.

Scholarship donated by: Carmel Dyer-Pitroff



AMY WINROW ARMIDALE

Amy Winrow, a 37-year-old mother of four is completing a Graduate Diploma of Teaching and Learning at University of Southern Queensland. Life has been a balancing act for single-mother Amy and she has gained considerable value from the role that TAFE has provided as a bridge back to study. She sees education as a powerful tool for change and would like to work in secondary teaching. Amy hopes to take on a role of teacher, mentor, role model and supporter to disadvantaged youth in her community.

Scholarship donated by: Regional Australia Bank

JB FAIRFAX AWARD FOR RURAL AND REGIONAL 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 journalism upon graduation.



ELISE PFEIFFER SINGLETON

A Bachelor of Communications (Journalism) student at the University of Newcastle, Elise has always aspired to be a rural journalist. Working part-time at the Singleton Argus, she has experienced both the joys and hardships of rural communities through her writing and has enjoyed the sense of belonging it has given her to her home town and the wider Hunter community. After graduation Elise plans to live in a remote area and use writing to give back to the places and people who helped shape her. She aspires to be a voice for rural communities, believing their vitality relies on their ability to communicate both locally and on a wider platform.

Scholarship donated by: Mr JB Fairfax AO

SYDNEY ROYAL WINE SCHOLARSHIP

This award encourages and supports students who demonstrate passion, strong leadership qualities and who are committed to making a contribution to the Australian wine industry. For the very first time, a runner-up scholarship was awarded this year due to the high quality of scholarship applicants.



HANNAH MCKAY MARGARET RIVER (WINNER)

Hannah McKay is in her fourth year of a Bachelor of Viticulture at Charles Sturt University, studying by distance from her base in the Margaret River region of Western Australia. Following a business career Hannah forged a new path to follow her passion for plants and wine with a goal to apply her skills in the Australian wine industry. Initially working in vineyards in the Southern Highlands region, Hannah relocated to WA to pursue viticulture on a larger scale and was employed following her first vintage with Vasse Felix. Hannah has a particular interest in incorporating traditional farming practices, land management techniques and native species in a vineyard setting.

Scholarship donated by: RAS Wine Committee



NICHOLAS CONOLLY CLARE VALLEY (RUNNER-UP)

Nick Conolly grew up in Sydney and discovered his true passion for wine in 2015 after experiencing the wine industry first hand through work experience in Orange, NSW. After completing a Bachelor of Planning and completing a short placement in Local Government, Nick soon realised his true passion lay in the wine industry. He commenced studying a Bachelor of Wine Science at Charles Sturt University. After commencing his studies, Nick relocated to South Australia where he works full time for Kirrihill Wines in the Clare Valley whilst continuing to study online.

Scholarship donated by: RAS Wine Committee

SYDNEY ROYAL DAIRY PRODUCE SCHOLARSHIP

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



L-R: KATE ROSS (RAS), ELIZABETH TONGE, JOHN FAIRLEY (COUNTRY VALLEY)

ELIZABETH TONGE CASINO

21 year old Elizabeth grew up on her family's dairy farm, located west of Casino in northern NSW. Her rural upbringing fuelled an interest in animal production systems and a passion to work with animals. Elizabeth is currently in her third year of a Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/ Bachelor of Veterinary Science at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga. Elizabeth's community involvement and connection with local farming families is important to her and she is looking forward to a career in the dairy industry assisting farmers to optimise herd health and plan for future sustainability.

Scholarship donated by: Country Valley

COMMUNITY FUTURES GRANTS

RAS Foundation Community Futures Grants encourage and champion rural leadership by providing each successful grant applicant up to \$25,000 to fund a community project that addresses a need or issue in their local community. Projects that once complete, will result in enhanced social and economic outcomes for the wider community.



MICHAEL KELLY DUNGOG

Michael Kelly's project will see Dungog High School harness the potential of agricultural technology by bringing a FarmBot into its classroom. A fixed-position robot, the FarmBot is capable of planting, monitoring, watering and weeding food gardens autonomously. A secondary teacher, Michael's goal is to empower students from Dungog and the wider Hunter Valley district to explore this unique technology. This will open up careers in science, technology, engineering and math which are vital to the future of Australian agriculture.



ELIZABETH CLARK KYOGLE

Following some significant improvements that have taken place at the site, Elizabeth Clark will work with the Kyogle Pony Club to fence the arena boundary to provide a safe and versatile area to be used for a wide range of purposes at the Kyogle Showground. The project will expand opportunities for a number of community groups to hold new and larger events resulting in economic gain for the district. It will also facilitate greater community involvement and give local youth a safe place to participate in community activities.



ALASTAIR MARSHALL BURREN JUNCTION

Local farmer Alastair Marshall is working with a young and energetic committee to see the Burren Junction Hall restored to its former glory. This isolated village currently has no functioning community space and the hall has captured the imagination of locals who are eager to work together to see the space restored to offer more cultural, sporting and entertainment opportunities. The supper room project will bring a new kitchen to the building and enable on site catering for a vibrant program of local events.



CAITLIN WARNER COONABARABRAN

Caitlin Warner, head steward of the cattle section of her local show, is passionate about her local community and showground facilities. With their old 1940's pavilion being dismantled recently due to its unsafe structure, the Showground was in desperate need of a new building for the upcoming annual show. The new pavilion will also be used for a range of regular and annual events that provide a much-needed injection of funds into the local community.



RUSSELL HALLARAN WALGETT

Russell Hallaran recognises the value the Gordon Pavilion offers to the community of Walgett and he is thrilled to be driving the restoration and renewal of the hall's roof. Being the only sizable public hall of its kind in the area, the pavilion is home to many diverse groups in the township and the shire. Those groups have thrown their spirited fundraising efforts into this project and are welcoming this exciting phase in the pavilion's ongoing development.

RAS FOUNDATION COMMUNITY KITCHEN GRANT

Each year, a large scale kitchen is built to host cooking demonstrations at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. After the Show the kitchen appliances donated by Euromaid, along with a generous cash grant for benches and cabinetry, are awarded to a rural NSW community to reinvigorate a community facility.



WINNER: BOGGABRI SHOWGROUND AND PUBLIC RESERVE TRUST

An old rundown kitchen in desperate need of a makeover spurred our judges to award this little town with a big heart a much-needed boost. Boggabri's compelling application highlighted just how many community groups and local events would benefit from new kitchen facilities. This will have a widespread impact on the town of 900 and support the organisations that use the showgrounds for events and functions.

RUNNER UP: MENDOORAN PASTORAL, AGRICULTURAL & HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

For many years the Mendooran PA & H Association has dreamed of a facility that will benefit all their user groups and a local grant made this possible in 2016. However inside the facility was just an empty room. The group has received \$10,000 worth of appliances from Euromaid to fully equip their planned kitchen. The grant panel was inspired by the enthusiasm of this small town and is confident this grant will breathe new life into the events and groups that will use it.

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We sincerely thank the following donors and supporters for their generous support of the RAS Foundation in 2017.

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