



# 2015 GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

**RASF**  
ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NSW  
FOUNDATION

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) Foundation was created in 2007 and makes a difference in rural and regional NSW by providing grants and scholarships for education and community development.

Together with our generous donors and supporters, the RAS Foundation helps rural Australians realise their potential and achieve their ambitions. Education and youth leadership are vital 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 helps to keep rural and regional NSW strong and vibrant now and into the future.

## GIVING TO DATE

*Program:* **RAS Foundation Community Futures Grant**

*Duration:* 7 years

*Grants Awarded:* 20 Grants

*Funds Distributed:* \$430,000

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

*Duration:* 7 years

*Grants Awarded:* 7 Grants

*Funds Distributed:* \$70,000

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

*Duration:* 5 years

*Grants Awarded:* 234 scholarships

*Funds Distributed:* \$1,129,000

*Program:* **E3 Grant** (retired)

*Duration:* 4 years

*Grants Awarded:* Grants to 59 schools

*Funds Distributed:* \$266,000

*Program:* **RAS Foundation Community Kitchen**

*Duration:* 4 years

*Grants Awarded:* 5 Sydney Royal Show demonstration kitchens

*Funds Distributed:* \$110,000

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**Total**

**\$2,005,000**

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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 education and training studies.



## **Abbie Anderson - Wee Waa**

Abbie Anderson is in her third year of a biomedical science degree at the University of New England in Armidale. Working in her local pharmacy in Wee Waa as a teenager was the trigger for this 20-year-old's interest in health and science. As a young Indigenous woman, Abbie is proud of the land she grew up on and passionate about rural life, a background that inspired her goal to become a leader and educator in the medical field, and to give back to country communities.

*Scholarship donated by: UNE Foundation/McLean Foundation*



## **Alexis Lenton - Broken Hill**

Alexis Lenton is commencing her first year of nursing externally through the University of South Australia, Adelaide. Nursing has been the 19-year-old's dream ever since she helped care for her elderly grandparents before they passed away. Studying remotely has given Alexis the opportunity to work as an assistant in nursing locally at the Broken Hill Base Hospital and she is relishing the opportunity to give back to the community she loves so early in her career.

*Scholarship donated by: McLean Foundation*



## **Amy Derrick - Temora**

23-year-old Amy Derrick cares about small rural communities and is particularly interested in the healthcare available to local residents. Amy is in her first year of postgraduate Doctor of Medicine Studies at the University of Queensland, and believes a rural doctor can play a greater role than a healthcare provider. When she graduates, Amy looks forward to becoming the type of rural doctor who is able to perceive community issues in their early stages and instigate change for the better.

*Scholarship donated by: OCS Fun Pty Ltd*



### **Andrew Marshall - Wingan**

Andrew Marshall, 20-years, is a first year animal science student at the University of New England in Armidale. He aspires to contribute to the sustainable production of livestock, and in turn a viable future for the agricultural industry. From the time he was 15 years-of-age, Andrew relished hands-on farming experience, helping out on a neighbour's 10,000 acre property. Now he looks forward to becoming a primary producer himself, ultimately running a high producing property.

*Scholarship donated by: Coal & Allied Community Development Fund*



### **Annie Nichols - Lower Belford**

Annie Nichols, 21-years, is a fourth year physiotherapy student at the University of Newcastle. From a young age, Annie became inspired to help improve access to healthcare in rural areas, after witnessing firsthand how a lack of services can impact the local community. She strongly believes in the importance community involvement, and one day hopes to work with the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

*Scholarship donated by: Rali Foundation*



### **Brittany McVicar - Attunga**

Brittany McVicar is in her fourth and final year of rural science at the University of New England, Armidale. A childhood spent on a small property west of Tamworth sparked her interest in agriculture, which only developed further when she studied agriculture as an elective in high school. The 22-year-old has a goal to become an agronomist, a specialty that will benefit rural and regional communities.

*Scholarship donated by: UNE Foundation/RAS Foundation*



### **Carly Franks - Glenhaven**

Carly Franks, 21, is completing her third and final year of an agricultural business management degree at Charles Sturt University in Orange. Once Carly started parading sheep and cattle with her high school agriculture show team, she knew a career in Agribusiness was for her. While passionate about sheep, Carly was recently offered an internship position with Cotton Australia and has found the cotton industry equally fascinating. Carly looks forward to supporting Australian agriculture following graduation and eventually be able to 'give back' to rural NSW.

*Scholarship donated by: ICT International*



### **Christopher Hvas - Rylstone**

Christopher Hvas is not only a second year agriculture student at Tocal Agricultural College in Paterson; he's also a skilled sheep and alpaca shearer. The 21-year-old loves hard work, being outdoors and is passionate about the wool industry. An interest in alpacas was fostered from a young age as his grandmother and mother are both breeders. On graduating, Christopher is keen to assist in the development and advancement of the alpaca industry.

*Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation*



### **Claudia Vicary - Barretts Creek**

Claudia Vicary, 21-years, is a fourth year agriculture and law student at the University of New England, Armidale. Claudia grew up on her family's grazing property at Barretts Creek in Northern NSW, and has had a passion for agriculture for as long as she can remember. She aspires to combine the skills she's learning in each of her degrees to start a career in legal advising and policy making for Australian agriculture.

*Scholarship donated by: UNE Foundation/RAS Foundation*



### **Emily Knowles - Wellington**

Emily has always been interested in sport and the rehabilitation of injuries and, as a result, physiotherapy was a natural career choice for the 19-year-old. Emily has always found helping others rewarding. Upon completion of her degree, she looks forward to working in rural hospitals providing rehabilitation services to patients, ultimately allowing them to return to their homes and resume a good quality of life. Emily's hope is that through gaining a Bachelor of Physiotherapy, she can play a part in relieving health shortages in rural areas.

*Scholarship donated by: Cowled Foundation*



### **Emily Ryan - Coonamble**

Emily Ryan, 19-years, is a second year education student at the University of New England. Based on her experience growing up in a small country town, Emily believes there are many advantages to rural education. When she graduates, Emily hopes to teach at a rural school where she can encourage student community involvement through initiatives such as partnership programs between nearby primary and high schools, and local show involvement.

*Scholarship donated by: Agricultural Societies Council of NSW*



### **Emma Sutton - Cassills**

Emma Sutton, 25-years, has always loved animals, but it was the two years she spent working as a Jillaroo on a cattle station in Queensland that inspired her to train to become a veterinarian. Once she completes her degree in veterinary science at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga, the final year student hopes to practice in a rural community. Through her work, Emma wishes to help foster the sustainability of the Australian beef cattle industry, including increasing public awareness about the importance of the ethical treatment of livestock.

*Scholarship donated by: Susan Maple-Brown*



### **Erica Longhurst - Burrawang**

18-year-old Erica Longhurst is in her first year as a medicine student at the University of New South Wales, Randwick. As an 11-year-old, Erica became intrigued with medicine when her sister underwent intricate eye surgery. That sister, who has Down syndrome, is an inspiration for Erica who is keen to research the characteristics of the disorder. On graduating, Erica looks forward to being able to help others in a meaningful way.

*Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation*



### **Gabriela Corcoran - Boorowa**

Growing up in a rural community with access to only one medical practitioner, Gabriela Corcoran can appreciate the importance of rural doctors. The 21-year-old is a fourth year medical student at the University of New South Wales. With a passion for working with people and a keen interest in rural healthcare and mental health issues, Gabriela looks forward to her time as a future GP and becoming fully involved in the community she works in.

*Scholarship donated by: Susan Maple-Brown*



### **Georgina Milne - Young**

21-year-old Georgina Milne is a second year veterinary biology and veterinary science student at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga. Raised on the family's mixed farming enterprise, Georgina has always been passionate about animals. However, it was the two years working as a Jillaroo on remote stations in the Northern Territory which cemented her interest in rural Australia. Georgina's keen interest in animals is leading her to work in a rural practice once she graduates, so she can have a positive influence on livestock health while maximizing herd productivity.

*Scholarship donated by: Bayer Australia Limited*



### **Hannah Slattery - Hay**

18-year-old Hannah Slattery is a first year early childhood and primary education student at Charles Sturt University in Albury. Born and raised in the rural town of Hay, Hannah has developed a strong sense of community. As a future educator she doesn't believe that distance or isolation should be a boundary for a child to learn and flourish. Once Hannah finishes her degree, her goal is to work in rural schools offering students the opportunity to access quality education.

*Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation*



### **Harriet Amey - Dubbo**

22-year-old Harriet Amey is a fourth year health science student majoring in movement at Sydney University. Upon graduating, Harriet intends to undertake a master of physiotherapy and develop a career in that field. Lending a helping-hand to those with disabilities at her local swimming club fuelled her interest in becoming a physiotherapist. When Harriet finishes her studies, she hopes to return to Dubbo, or even further west, to practice and spread the message of good health to those who need it most.

*Scholarship donated by: The Community Mutual Group*



### **Harry Cooper - Curlwaa**

Harry Cooper is a first year agricultural student at Longerenong College, Horsham Victoria. Despite being over the border, the five-hour drive to Longerenong makes it the closest school to the 17-year-old's home town in of Curlwaa NSW. Passionate about the land, Harry has worked on properties for the past five years in his spare time, and has gained experience in many facets of the industry. Harry looks forward to following in his father's footsteps managing properties and hopes to one day have a leadership role in Australian agriculture.

*Scholarship donated by: OCS Fun Pty Ltd*



### **Heather Earney - Bedgerabong**

Second year rural science student from University of New England in Armidale, Heather Earney, has a passion for agriculture, which stems from time spent on her family's farm. Heather has long been involved in country agricultural shows through stewarding, junior judging and her Poll Hereford stud. The 20-year-old's enthusiasm for agriculture has seen her gain work experience in a variety of industries, which she hopes will assist her to pursue a career in whole farm management on completion of her studies.

*Scholarship donated by: UNE Foundation/NSW Stud Merino Breeders Association*



### **Jack Scifleet - Binnaway**

Jack Scifleet is studying a Bachelor of Agricultural Economics, majoring in agribusiness at the University of Sydney. From Binnaway in New South Wales, 20-year-old Jack represents the fourth generation on the family sheep and cattle farm where he is actively employed when he's not away at university. With a passion for agriculture, Jack wants to contribute to the prosperity of family farms across the state and country.

*Scholarship donated by: NSW Stud Merino Breeders Association*



### **Jamie-Lea Drew - Murrumburrah**

Jamie-Lea Drew, 21-years, is currently completing her fourth and final year of primary education studies at the University of Canberra. As a primary school student, she dreamed of emulating her teachers by one day helping students work to their full potential. On completion of her course, Jamie-Lea looks forward to teaching in a rural school and assisting students make their own dreams come true.

*Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation*



**Jane Stent - Quirindi**

24-year-old Jane Stent is in her second year of a Bachelor of Business majoring in applied finance and professional accounting at the University of New England in Armidale. Jane was given the opportunity to work as a trainee accountant in 2013 and was hooked on business instantly. Her dream is to one day own a business providing integrated accounting and finance solutions for clients in rural Australia, with a particular focus on succession planning in both business and family partnerships.

*Scholarship donated by: UNE Foundation*



**Jazmin Daniells - Gunnedah**

Jazmin Daniells, 22, counts herself as lucky to have grown up in NSW's North West, and is currently in her fourth year of medicine at the University of Newcastle. Her interest in medicine stemmed from a high school visit by a Rural Health Club from the University of New South Wales. Jazmin chose this field of study because it will allow her to advocate the needs of rural Australians, through which she hopes to help reduce the discrepancy between rural and urban health outcomes.

*Scholarship donated by: Rali Foundation*



**Jessica Gleeson - Tamworth**

Jessica Gleeson is a third year nursing student at the University of New England in Armidale. The determined 21-year-old plans to focus her career within areas of clinical practice including emergency and midwifery. As nurses are often the first points of contact for patients in regional areas, Jessica is inspired to become an advocate for rural and remote nursing. On graduation, she plans to expand her knowledge and skills through post-graduate studies.

*Scholarship donated by: UNE Foundation/2015 Sun Run and Cole Classic Donors*



**Jessica Nelson - Burrell Creek**

19-year-old Jessica Nelson is a first year speech pathology student at the University of Newcastle. Growing up in Taree, Jessica developed a strong sense of community and a desire to help improve the lives of others. Her fascination with the evolution of language and significance of speech in society inspired her ambition to support those with communication and swallowing disorders. At the end of her degree, she aims to help deliver equitable healthcare to rural NSW to ensure both children and the elderly have access to high-quality and consistent speech therapy without the need to travel.

*Scholarship donated by: Michael and Jenny Millner*



**Jonathon Butt - Yass**

From a young age, 26-year-old Jonathon Butt found involvement in community service programs satisfying, rewarding and enjoyable. Jonathon is studying disability care at Narrandera TAFE while also working at a local disability support house where he helps his clients live more fulfilling and quality lives. Through his studies, Jonathon hopes to gain knowledge and skills to help improve opportunities and outcomes for those living with disabilities in rural and regional areas.

*Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation*



**Kasey Williams - Abermain**

19-year-old Kasey Williams is in her second year of environmental engineering studies at the University of Newcastle. Hailing from a town where mining and agriculture are both prominent industries, she looks forward to using her degree to assist the two in sustainably co-existing for future generations. Kasey would eventually like to specialise in mine rehabilitation in rural areas - that is the restoration of land that has been mined to be repurposed for community and or agricultural purposes.

*Scholarship donated by: Coal & Allied Community Development Fund*



### **Katherine Grellman - Wee Waa**

Katherine Grellman is in her fourth year of a medical studies/doctor of medicine degree at the University of New South Wales in Albury. Katherine developed a strong interest in the rehabilitation of patients after her family's long-standing involvement with their local Rescue Helicopter Service. She has a passion for science and problem solving, and as a result of her many volunteer roles, she understands the value and rewards of helping others. While graduation is still a couple of years away, Katherine looks forward to fulfilling her dream to become a rehabilitation specialist in rural or regional NSW.

*Scholarship donated by: Mary and Peter Weal*



### **Kelsea Boots - Harrington Park**

Kelsea Boots is in her second year of dental sciences at Charles Sturt University in Orange. The 21-year-old's professional interest and experience in dentistry started during her gap year working as a dental assistant with the Royal Australian Navy. Through her studies, Kelsea is looking forward to undertaking a number of rural placements, and her long-term goal is to establish a flying dental service to provide essential oral care to remote areas.

*Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation*



### **Laura Nesbitt - Cooma**

Laura Nesbitt is in her second year studying veterinary biology and veterinary science at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga. With a passion for animals and agriculture, the 19-year-old has wanted to be a veterinarian since she was in kindergarten. Laura enjoys expanding her animal knowledge at a local vet clinic in Cooma where she has volunteered since 2011. Once qualified, she is eager to work with agricultural producers, encouraging farming families to stay on the land through efficient livestock production in the future.

*Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation*



### **Lucy McMullen - Wagga Wagga**

Lucy McMullen is completing her fifth year of a Doctor of Medicine at the University of New South Wales in Wagga Wagga. Volunteering at the Wagga Wagga Base Hospital during high school, as well as helping as a carer with local Riverina charity, Country Hope, inspired Lucy to pursue a career in medicine. Lucy is passionate about equalising rural health standards and educating patients to encourage them to take responsibility for their own well-being. Her long term goal is to specialise as a physician and practice in the country.

*Scholarship donated by: Carmel Dyer-Pitroff*



### **Matthew Jones - Tamworth**

Matthew Jones is a fourth year rural science student at the University of New England, Armidale. The 22-year-old chose that course of study because of the breadth of subjects across all aspects of agriculture. Matthew's keen passion for the industry stems from spending busy days as a child at his grandparents farm. On completion of his degree, Matthew looks forward to channelling his passion for agriculture into a career as a livestock agent, ultimately contributing to a strong and sustainable agricultural industry in this country.

*Scholarship donated by: UNE Foundation/RAS Staff*



### **Matthew Watt - Trundle**

Matthew Watt is currently completing his diploma of agriculture at Dubbo TAFE, after which he plans to become a student at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga. The 18-year-old is enthusiastic about the agricultural industry and is keen to build his skills through helping local farmers manage crops and livestock. Matthew's ultimate goal is to become a secondary school teacher, where he looks forward to providing students with the opportunity to gain a greater knowledge and understanding of agriculture.

*Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation*



**Meg Norrie - Eugowra**

Meg Norrie, 21, is in her fourth and final year of a primary education degree at Charles Sturt University in Bathurst. Growing up on the family farm, a mixed enterprise of cropping and sheep, Meg has always had a strong desire to be an active member of a rural community. This resolve was cemented in 2013 after a four week practical teaching placement in Bourke. After graduation, Meg looks forward to providing a safe, welcoming and engaging environment for all her students.

*Scholarship donated by: Rali Foundation*

**Meg Parsons - Gum Flat**

Meg Parsons is a fifth year veterinary science student at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Throughout her childhood, the 22-year-old knew she wanted to work with animals, but it wasn't until a stint at a veterinary clinic that she truly knew her calling. When she graduates, Meg looks forward to grounding her experience as a mixed-practice vet working in communities where veterinarians and animal health care professionals are lacking.

*Scholarship donated by: Michael and Jenny Millner*

**Monica King - Forbes**

20-year-old Monica King is in the third year of a veterinary biology/veterinary science degree at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga. Raised on the family sheep and cropping farm in Central Western NSW, she developed a passion for rural living, agriculture, dealing with animals and interacting with people. From Monica's experiences on the family farm, she is aware of the necessity of veterinarians in the animal production sector, and the impact shortages can have. Monica aspires to work as a rural veterinarian when she graduates. She hopes to use her position to encourage sustainable, welfare-friendly animal production and to be an advocate for rural areas and issues.

*Scholarship donated by: Jemalong Irrigation Limited*

**Natalie Ford - Hanwood**

22-year-old Natalie Ford is completing her fourth and final year of an animal science degree, concurrently with her first year of a veterinary science degree at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. She counts herself lucky to have grown up in country NSW and attributes her love of animals to her rural upbringing. In her university holidays, Natalie enjoyed working as an equine nurse, which reinforced her desire to work as a large animal veterinarian. After graduating, Natalie looks forward to living and working in the Riverina community.

*Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation*

**Natalie Murphy - Narrandera**

21-year-old Natalie Murphy is in her fourth and final year of a primary education degree at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga. Natalie believes teachers can directly invest in future generations and she looks forward to helping her own students develop social and communication skills to enable them to be great leaders. Natalie has a passion to create a classroom that provides students with learning opportunities through practical and engaging activities and she can't wait to start her career as a teacher.

*Scholarship donated by: Huntly and Catherine Gordon*

**Olivia Hamblin - Nevertire**

Olivia Hamblin, 19, is a first year science student at the University of New South Wales. Growing up on the family farm in Central Western NSW, she was acutely aware of the lack of access to many aspects of healthcare in rural communities. Olivia plans to continue studies into medicine and eventually practice in rural NSW, with a view to breaking down barriers rural patients face due to their remote geographical location.

*Scholarship donated by: Exponet*



### **Paige Hall - Young**

18-year-old Paige Hall is studying a double degree in law and criminology at the Australian National University in Canberra. A natural fascination in reading about the criminal mind drew this first year student to her chosen field. On graduation, Paige looks forward to working with young people to help prevent juvenile crime in regional and rural NSW.

*Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation*



### **Rachel Maher - Coonabarabran**

Rachel Maher is finally fulfilling a childhood dream to become a registered nurse. The 38-year-old mother of six is in her third and final year of a nursing degree at the University of Newcastle, Ourimbah. Rachel looks forward to working in rural communities and will strive to reduce the need for community members to travel to hospitals by delivering preventative healthcare and education.

*Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation*



### **Phoebe Prowse - Singleton**

19-year-old Phoebe Prowse is a second year dental science student at Charles Sturt University in Orange. An active member of her community, Phoebe has always had a passion for helping others. Never being afraid of the dentist herself, she looks forward to being able to allay the fears of patients in her care. Phoebe hopes that through her studies she will be able to provide a valuable health service to people living in rural and regional NSW.

*Scholarship donated by: Coal & Allied Community Development Fund*



### **Sam Cone - Denman**

Sam Cone, a second year medical student at the University of New South Wales, plans to train to become a surgeon and play an active role in regional areas. Influenced by his mother, a rural GP, he appreciates the positive effect good healthcare can have on people's lives, and understands the distances people from regional areas have to travel to get it. On graduation, the 20-year-old aims to promote the urgent need for doctors and specialists in rural areas.

*Scholarship donated by: Coal & Allied Community Development Fund*



### **Prudence Capp - Wallacetown**

26-year-old Prue Capp is a sixth generation beef cattle farmer from the Hunter Valley. While operating her own equine dentistry business since 2010, Prue decided to build on her knowledge with further studies and is currently a third year veterinary biology and veterinary science student at Charles Sturt University. Once she completes her degree, Prue will be able to achieve her goal to become a large animal veterinarian servicing rural communities. She hopes to combine her previous agribusiness degree in order to work towards educating the public about the importance of animal welfare to farmers and producers.

*Scholarship donated by: Coal & Allied Community Development Fund*



### **Samantha Harris - Bunyah**

Samantha Harris is in her second year of an education degree majoring in agricultural technologies at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga. The 19-year-old grew up on a working dairy farm and developed a passion for agriculture and primary industries subjects while at high school. Samantha is determined to forge a career as an educator in the industry, and looks forward to passing on her knowledge to the next generation about what she has learned from her studies and working on a dairy farm.

*Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation*



**Sophie Smethurst - Upper Lansdowne**

Sophie Smethurst is currently studying a Certificate III in Agriculture at Tocal Agricultural College. Sophie has a passion for the industry and is focused on learning how to farm more sustainably. Sophie believes in hard work and is excited to build on her knowledge to develop a career she believes will aid the future of agriculture in Australia.

*Scholarship donated by: McLean Foundation/  
RAS Foundation*



**Teegan Hughes – Inverell**

With a keen interest in psychology and mental health, 24-year-old Teegan Hughes already has a Bachelor of Psychological Science with Honours under her belt. Teegan has a passion for helping children and is now undertaking a Master of Functional Behaviour Assessment, specialising in Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). After graduating, Teegan's long term plan is to set up a centre in the Inverell area to support families and provide much needed assistance to children with ASD.

*Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation*



**Trisinta Bernasconi - Taree**

Trisinta Bernasconi's decision to pursue a career in social work stems from her belief in the increasing need for this service in rural communities, having seen the hardship families can face as a result of drug and alcohol abuse. At 18 years of age, the Taree local and first year Bachelor of Social Work student at Charles Sturt University is also completing a community services diploma at North Coast TAFE. Trisinta hopes to be able to work with children and families in the Manning Valley in her selected field.

*Scholarship donated by: Exponet/RAS Foundation*



**Tristan Baker - Tottenham**

17-year-old Tristan Baker is studying heavy diesel mechanics at Dubbo TAFE, in addition to undertaking a traineeship to complete his Certificate II in Farm Management. As a young boy, Tristan developed an interest in working with engines which led to an after-school job at a local machinery workshop. Tristan looks forward to helping farmers maintain their tractors, headers, truck and air seeders, and believes this is an essential service in the bush. One day he hopes to successfully run the family farm at Tottenham.

*Scholarship donated by: Robert J White AO*



**William Murphy - Bribbaree**

William Murphy is a second year physiotherapist student at Charles Sturt University in Albury. The 20-year-old developed a curiosity in human movement and anatomy through his varied sporting interests. During recent work experience, William saw the impact of scarce rural health resources and the important service physiotherapists play in rural communities. William believes physiotherapy will be a rewarding career as he hopes to help reduce healthcare discrepancies between urban and rural areas.

*Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation*



**Zeb Coxsedge - Gilgandra**

21-year-old Zeb Coxsedge is a mechanical engineering student at the University of Wollongong, and is fortunate enough to be able to receive this scholarship for a second time. Growing up, Zeb was a self-taught unqualified mechanic. Through gaining formal knowledge, skills and experience, Zeb has come to believe mechanical engineering is the basis of technological developments in agriculture. Once qualified, he looks forward to contributing to innovative machinery and equipment design changes that will make a difference to the working lives of our farmers.

*Scholarship donated by: GrainCorp*

# COMMUNITY FUTURES GRANT

RAS Foundation Community Futures Grants encourage and champion rural youth leadership by providing up to \$25,000 funding for community projects that address a local need and result in enhanced social and economic outcomes for the wider community.



### **Chris Duley - Wanaaring**

Chris Duley, 35, is a School Principal and will partner with Far West NSW Medicare Local to develop a local community garden. As Wanaaring's nearest grocery store is 200km away, the project aims to provide local families with a sustainable local supply of supply of fruit and vegetables. The community garden will include an outdoor work bench with a sink, a pizza oven and seating so that families can cook meals onsite and the space can be used as an alternative learning centre for school children.



### **David Ryan - Uralla**

David Ryan, 29, is a Market Gardener and will partner with Uralla Neighbourhood Centre to further develop his local community garden. The project site will function as a learning centre and community hub, and will include a pond, temperature regulated seed storage room and greenhouse. The grant will also be utilized to buy an earth brick machine, which will be used for garden projects at local schools and aged care facilities. It is hoped the garden will be low maintenance, waterless and bio-diverse, and that it will produce nutritious food for disadvantaged groups and the wider community.



### **Helen De Costa - Braidwood**

University student Helen De Costa, 19, will partner with Braidwood Showground Committee to replace the Show Cattle Yards at Braidwood Showground. The upgrade will allow for more livestock to be safely housed for judging during the Braidwood Show, and also aims to encourage use of the Showground for other community activities including Polocrosse, Pony Club, Rodeo and Camp Drafting.



**Katie Rowe - Gulargambone**

Katie Rowe, 29, is a teacher from Gulargambone Central School who will work with a project team of students to develop a natural play space for 0 to seven year olds in the courtyard of local community café 2828. The space will provide a safe, secure and educational place for children to play; as well as an opportunity for likeminded parents and grandparents to socialise and connect.



**Megan Callow - Junee**

Megan Callow, 29, is a member of the Junee Show Society Committee, Showgirl Organising Committee and Chief Steward of the Millinery section. Megan and the Junee Show Society will use the grant to upgrade the Belling Hall which will include lining and installing plaster ceilings and walls, and replacing the entrance with a ramp to make it more accessible for parents with children and those with disabilities. The upgrade will enable the hall to be used for more community functions, events and seminars, and will provide more space for Arts & Crafts exhibits during the Junee Show.



**Paris Norton - Coonabarabran**

Paris Norton, 23, is an Arts Administration Officer and will partner with Centacare Coonabarabran to run a weekly workshop titled 'Creation Point' where local women can come together to learn and practice traditional Indigenous weaving. As weaving is a highly regarded skill within the arts and retail market, the project aims to provide participants with the opportunity to use their new skill to produce quality pieces for sale, as well as encourage future workshops where weaving can be taught in schools, community organisations and at cultural events such as NAIDOC week.

## JB FAIRFAX AWARD FOR RURAL JOURNALISM

This award aims to unearth a talented, young writer each year 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.



**Claire Fenwicke - Armidale**

Claire Fenwicke is a fifth year journalism student at the University of Wollongong. Growing up on a sheep and cattle farm in Walcha, Claire has felt inspired to write all her life after experiencing the triumphs and also the challenges of rural living, including drought on the family farm. She hopes to give a stronger voice to those living in the bush to enable city communities to become more informed about the issues that affect their country counterparts. In turn, Claire also feels that she can help bridge the gap in communicating information and new ideas from the city that could benefit those in country areas. While Claire is passionate about the written word she also has an interest in radio, and she looks forward to returning to a large regional centre to begin her journalism career once she has graduated.

*Scholarship donated by: John B Fairfax AO*

## SYDNEY ROYAL WINE SCHOLARSHIP

This award encourages and supports 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.



### **Sam Collins - Adelaide**

Sam Collins is a 4th year viticulture and oenology student at the University of Adelaide and is an active member of the South Australian wine community. Unlike many of his peers, winemaking doesn't run in Sam's family - his interest was sparked by a desire to combine his passion for French and chemistry, and a yearning for a practical, hands-on career. Sam has immersed himself in the wine industry, juggling roles in wine production and sales, as well as front-of-house hospitality, whilst at University. Sam is currently preparing to complete a 10 week vintage working in a commercial winery and aspires one day of enrolling in the celebrated Institute of Masters of Wine program.

*Scholarship donated by: RAS Wine Committee*

## SYDNEY ROYAL DAIRY PRODUCE SCHOLARSHIP

This award encourages and supports 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.



### **Claire Frizell - Wollomombi**

Claire Frizell is an aspiring veterinarian in her fourth year of veterinary science at the Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. A New England local, Claire grew up on a cattle property in Wollomombi and says she never doubted she'd pursue a career working with animals - even spending part of a gap year as a relief milker and calf rearer in a dairy. She is passionate about dairy innovations, and is looking forward to being part of the next generation of dairy farming. Claire is particularly focused on reducing disease and assisting dairy farmers to reach new levels of farm efficiency.

*Scholarship donated by: Country Valley*

## RASF COMMUNITY KITCHEN DONATED BY MASTERS HOME IMPROVEMENT

Each year, a large scale kitchen is built to host cooking demonstrations at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. At the conclusion of the Show this large demonstration kitchen and its appliances are awarded to a rural and regional NSW community to reinvigorate a community facility.

This year, for the very first time, the RAS Foundation was able to award two Community Kitchen Grants going to:

- Young Showground Trust
- Bingara Show Society



### **Young Showground Trust**

Young is a thriving country town on the south western slopes of NSW. In 2014 an arson attack saw the Showground Trust's wonderful kitchen facility destroyed, with the fire also destroying the pavilion the kitchen was housed in. The community was devastated by the loss of this important facility that they had fundraised for many years to put in. Young will now rebuild their pavilion and receive a state of the art kitchen from the RAS Foundation to restore this facility at the centre of their community.

### **Bingara Show Society**

Bingara is a small and vibrant town on the Gwydir River in northern NSW, 550 kms from Sydney. The Bingara Showground is the focal point for a community that has faced one of the worst droughts in more than 50 years. The showground was operating with a pre-1960 kitchen facility which was considerably out-dated and unable to meet the needs of the community. The new kitchen will complement the existing showground facilities and give Bingara the opportunity to encourage more community usage of their showground site.

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We sincerely thank the following donors and sponsors for their generous support of the RAS Foundation in 2015.

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A large, stylized graphic of a leaf or branch, rendered in a dark purple color, extending from the top left towards the bottom right of the page. The leaf has several elongated, pointed segments.

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