



2019 GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

RAS^F

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NSW
FOUNDATION

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW Foundation (RAS Foundation) was created in 2007 with a mission to support the development of sustainable and resilient regional and rural communities across New South Wales by promoting individual and community growth via educational scholarships and community grants.

Together with generous donations from our supporters, the RAS Foundation has invested over \$4.2 million into country NSW through a range of targeted grants and scholarships. To date, the RAS Foundation has supported over 470 rural scholarship students to reach their educational dreams and awarded 57 organisations vital community building funding.

Donations to the RAS Foundation Education Fund are tax deductible.

GIVING TO DATE

Program:	RAS Foundation Community Futures Grant (formerly \$25,000 Question)
Duration:	11 years
Grants Awarded:	42 grants
Funds Distributed:	\$794,074
Program:	JB Fairfax Award for Rural & Regional Journalism
Duration:	11 years
Grants Awarded:	11 grants
Funds Distributed:	\$110,000
Program:	Rural Scholarships (TAFE & University)
Duration:	9 years
Grants Awarded:	471 Scholarships
Funds Distributed:	\$2,335,000
Program:	E3 Grant (retired)
Duration:	4 years
Grants Awarded:	Grants to 59 schools
Funds Distributed:	\$266,000
Program:	RAS Foundation Community Kitchen
Duration:	8 years
Grants Awarded:	15 Community Kitchens
Funds Distributed:	\$258,219.60
Program:	RASF Kitchen & Christmas Toy Distribution
Value of Goods Distributed:	\$457,000

Total	\$4,220,293.60
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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.



SALLY BOARDMAN LEETON
Bachelor of Medical Studies/Doctor of Medicine

Sally grew up in the heart of the Riverina before moving to Sydney to study and is currently in her fourth year of Medicine at the University of New South Wales. She is passionate about rural and remote health both in Australia and developing nations worldwide, and is aware of the significant need for better health provision in rural areas. Sally aims to become a Rural Generalist – a general practitioner specialising in the areas of Obstetrics & Gynaecology and/or Emergency Medicine to contribute to making these much-needed changes happen.



DAVID BOWDEN ADELONG
Certificate III Agriculture

David Bowden, 19 years, is studying his Certificate III in Agriculture at the Primary Industries TAFE North Wagga. Working during the week with an earthmoving and spraying contractor, and on the weekends at a local dairy, means David is kept very busy. David's passion lies within the Dairy industry and he hopes to one day expand his herd from two milking cows to many more. David is an active member of the Adelong Show Society and volunteers in the vegetable and produce section and he is an active Rural Fire Service volunteer.



EBONY BURKE WAUCHOPE
Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science (Radiation Therapy) (Honours)

Ebony Burke, 20 years, is undertaking her second year of Medical Radiation Science (Honours, Radiation Therapy) at the University of Newcastle. Hailing from the small, Mid North Coast town of Beechwood, Ebony has seen first-hand the struggles some face accessing the necessary medical treatment required, especially in oncology. Ebony plans to give back to these rural New South Wales by working in regional and remote communities as a qualified radiation therapist.

**ZAC CHERRY** DUBBO**Certificate IV in Training and Assessment**

Enjoying a career as a registered nurse, 24-year old Zac understands the important role health professionals play within rural communities and is undertaking his Certificate IV in Training and Assessment in order to improve healthcare across his region. With these new qualifications, he will be able to work as a Nurse Educator or Paramedic Educator as well as a first aid trainer.

**ZOE CLARKE** FORBES**Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science (Radiation Therapy) (Honours)**

23-year-old Zoe grew up with the desire to help others and an interest in allied health services. This led Zoe to study a Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science (Radiation Therapy) (Honours) at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga. With limited regional radiation therapy centres, Zoe is excited to educate individuals on the benefits radiation therapy can have. Zoe hopes that in the future, she is able to grow the access to radiation therapy and contribute to equal health services for rural and regional communities.

**PHILADELPHIA COLEMAN** TOWNSVILLE**Certificate III in Agriculture - Agricultural Production**

Philadelphia 20, has a love for the land and a strong interest in all areas of agriculture. She grew up in Townsville QLD before moving to Salt Ash NSW. She's passionate about helping the community and demonstrates this through her involvement in the Rural Fire Service. Philadelphia is in her first year at Tocal College studying a Certificate III in Agricultural Production and plans to pursue a career in the management of livestock stations. Philadelphia aims to also complete her Certificate IV in Agriculture and Diploma in Land Management.

**ELLEN COOTE** MOREE**Bachelor of Education K-12 & Drama**

Ellen Coote commenced a Bachelor of Education (Secondary Arts) majoring in English & Drama and Ancient History studies at the University of New England in Armidale this year. Ellen grew up on a property west of Moree and her passion for the arts was fostered at a young age. Ellen is actively involved in the local creative arts community as a part of the cast in local productions as well as a Speech & Drama Tutor to young students. Ellen hopes to share her passion for teaching and explore opportunities for art events for rural communities.

**RACHAEL CROSBIE** ORANGE**Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/ Bachelor of Veterinary Science**

Rachael Crosbie, 23, is a fourth year Veterinary Biology/Veterinary Science student at Charles Sturt University Wagga Wagga. Having spent much of her time growing up on her grandparent's farm in the central west of NSW, she has always had a passion for animals and agriculture. With the call of the land in her veins, she looks forward to contributing to sustainable animal production and supporting our rural communities.

**MEG CROUCH** CONDOBOLIN**Diploma in Agriculture**

Working on the family's mixed enterprise farm located in Condobolin NSW, 21 year old Meg is interested in all aspects of farm operations, with a slight leaning towards livestock and a small amount of cropping. Their main enterprise is merino sheep, with 2500 breeding ewes that they join to their own family bred rams. Studying her Diploma in Agriculture and Wool Classing is arming Meg with many new skills and different practices that she can bring back to the farm.

**ALEXANDER CUTHILL** SYDNEY**Bachelor of Medicine**

Alex Cuthill is a final year medical student at the University of Newcastle. Despite growing up in Sydney, his passion lies in rural NSW. He is an advocate for all that regional and rural NSW has to offer, both professionally and personally. Through his medical studies, he hopes to one day contribute to providing better health care for regional and remote communities, believing every town in NSW deserves a GP who campaigns for their community and is dedicated to the health, vitality, and prosperity of the region.

**KAREENA DAWSON** ARMIDALE**Certificate III in Agriculture**

Kareena Dawson, 16, is currently studying Certificate III in Agriculture at Tocal Agricultural College and also aims to complete the Certificate IV and Diploma in Agriculture. Growing up on a merino sheep and beef cattle property outside of Armidale she has always had a love for merino sheep and murray grey cattle. At 14 years of age, she registered her own Murray Grey Stud and shows them at local shows. Kareena is also passionate about genetics and agronomy. In the completion of her studies at Tocal, Kareena hopes to further her education and study Agronomy and Genetics at university.

**DYLAN DIXON** WEE WAA**Cert III - Engineering and Fabrication**

Dylan, 17, loves working with his hands and fixing things and is aware that trade qualifications such as his are vital in regional communities. Wanting to secure employment fixing machinery, Dylan sees an important role for himself making sure the people who operate machinery and farm equipment have everything ready to go for the season. Tradespeople are in short supply within the Wee Waa community, and Dylan is eager to return home and work as a valued member of his home town.

**POLLYANNA EASEY** QUIRINDI**Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Honours)**

Pollyanna Easey, 23, is currently undertaking her final year of a Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Honours) through the University of Newcastle's Department of Rural Health in Tamworth. Pollyanna's honours project explores the parenting experience of a child with developmental dysplasia of the hip, the most prevalent paediatric orthopaedic condition. Growing up in Quirindi, she was often exposed to the gap in health resources available in rural communities. Pollyanna hopes to remain in Tamworth and provide a high-quality allied health service.

**DANIKA ELLEY** SWAN BAY**Diploma of Food Science and Technology**

Danika is from the rural town of Swan Bay, in northern New South Wales, and moved to the regional town of Coffs Harbour when she was sixteen. Danika aims to give back to the communities that inspired her passion for the food industry by one day running her own business, a café-delicatessen featuring her own range of food products and collaborating with local producers and merchants. To achieve this goal, Danika is studying a Diploma of Food Science and Technology at William Angliss Institute, Melbourne.

**PEYTON FORD** MUDGEES**Bachelor of Agricultural Production & Management/Diploma & Advanced Diploma of Agriculture**

Peyton has a passion for agriculture and the importance of this industry in the future. Growing up with a farmhand/manager father, she was involved with rural life from an early age, leading to a desire to study her Bachelor of Agricultural production and management at the University of New England. Peyton also hopes to undertake her Masters of Education and begin teaching agriculture to students in rural communities.

**DAV FRANCIS** LAKE WYANGAN**Bachelor of Paramedicine**

Dafydd Francis, or Dav, is a second year Paramedic student living in Bathurst NSW. Dav believes he was shaped by his rural community of Griffith and wants to give back to rural and regional communities by working in isolated regions and improving the health status and emergency response times these regions so desperately need.

**ERIN GOLDEN** GRIFFITH**Bachelor of International Studies/Media (Communications & Journalism)**

Growing up in the rural town of Griffith, nineteen year old Erin has always had a passion for storytelling. Erin is at the University of New South Wales with a double degree in International Studies/Media (Communications and Journalism). Erin hopes to return to rural NSW after her degree to share the positive stories of the community and agricultural development that are often overshadowed by tragedy or lack the exposure they deserve.

**BIANCA GARNHAM** TEMORA**Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science**

After recovering from a serious illness in her mid-twenties, Bianca Garnham, 33 years, developed a deep passion for medicine and science. This, together with her passion for animals and her history of caring for rescue and foster animals, meant Bianca looked toward veterinary science to fulfil her life's purpose. As a fifth year student at Charles Sturt University, Bianca travels over one hundred kilometres per day to attend her classes in Wagga Wagga.

**VERONIKE HARTMEIER** BENDOC**Diploma of Agribusiness Management**

After completing year 12, Veronike worked for a year at a sheep station in Western Australia, a two and a half million-acre property that runs 70,000 merinos. She then began working as a wool handler and completed her Certificate IV in Wool Classing. Securing a position with a wool broking firm led to the decision to study a Diploma in Agribusiness and pursue a career in the sheep and wool industry.

**REBECCA GEORGE** NEVERTIRE**Bachelor of Business / Bachelor of Agriculture**

Rebecca George, 22 years, is from the small town of Nevertire, over five hundred kilometres northwest of Sydney. Currently completing her fourth year of a Bachelor of Agriculture/Bachelor of Business at the University of New England, Rebecca's interests lie in beef cattle & dry land cropping. In the future, Rebecca hopes to work with producers to achieve more sustainable methods of farming whilst increasing efficiency.

**TEANNA HAYWOOD** TAMWORTH**Bachelor of Medical Studies and Doctor of Medicine**

Teanna Haywood grew up thirty kilometres west of Tamworth on a cattle property. The twenty-one year old has been involved in the agricultural industry in some way or another her entire life. Currently in her third year studying Medicine at Port Macquarie through the University of New South Wales Rural Medical School, Teanna hopes to specialise in obstetrics and gynaecology and practice in a rural area.



SHELLEY HOLLINGWORTH BROKEN HILL
Diploma of Nursing

Twenty-three year old, Shelley Hollingworth, is currently studying a Diploma of Nursing at TAFE in Broken Hill. Born and raised in Broken Hill, Shelley has a strong passion for the small, rural community in which she lives and wants to give back once she has completed her course. Studying in a remote community has its difficulties as classes are held via video conference with Dubbo TAFE. In the future, Shelley hopes to study a Bachelor of Nursing and knows she will have to leave Broken Hill to complete this.



TASHA HURLEY CONDOBOLIN
Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management

Tasha grew up on a large property 100km from the nearest town, a drought baby with a love for all things agriculture. Having completed her secondary education as a boarding student at All Saints College, Bathurst, she returned home to the worst drought on record for her Gap year. She is now studying a Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management at Charles Sturt University Wagga Wagga and hopes to work in the production, promotion, and marketing of Australian Agricultural produce.



INGRID HONNER JUNEE
Diploma of Nursing

Ingrid Honner, 18 years, lives on the family farm 5kms outside of Junee. She is in her first year studying a Diploma of Nursing through Cootamundra TAFE. At the completion of her studies, Ingrid hopes to work in local areas, providing medical assistance to those living in rural communities.



CLAIRE HUTTON TAMWORTH
Bachelor of Nursing

A childhood in Ariah Park and Tamworth developed a strong sense of community for Claire and she played an active role in church events. With a love of sports, including swimming, netball and water polo, she also has a keen interest in health, leading to her current path studying a Bachelor of Nursing at Newcastle University.



GEORGIA HOWELL AMPHITHEATRE
Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science

Georgia Howell, 22, is in her fifth year of a Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Veterinary Science at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga. Growing up in a farming family, her passion for agriculture was ingrained from a young age and her aspiration to become a veterinarian stemmed from a desire to ensure the productivity and sustainability of Australia's livestock industries through working closely with producers.



CHRISTOPHER HVASS RYLSTONE
Bachelor of Agriculture

Christopher Hvass, 25, is studying a Bachelor of Agriculture at the University of New England. A keen interest in agriculture and the environment have been a driving force in his studies. Hailing from Rylstone in the Central Tablelands, he completed his sheep wool and alpaca fleece classing certificates and is heavily involved in the Australian alpaca industry. As an active member of his local Rural Fire Service and local SES unit, Christopher believes in giving back to the community that has given him so much opportunity for growth.



SARA LAH WAGGA WAGGA
Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/ Bachelor of Veterinary Science

Sara Lah, 24, is in her fourth year of a Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/ Veterinary Science at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Growing up in a remote region of the Kimberly sparked Sara's love for production animals and raised her awareness for the need for veterinarians in remote areas. Her goal is to become a large animal veterinarian with a focus in reproduction and herd health in the cattle or sheep industries in rural New South Wales.



KARA LONGMAN ROCKLEY
Diploma of Community Services

Kara Longman is raising her four year old daughter alone after removing herself from a domestic violence situation. Kara has a Certificate IV in Community Services and began a Diploma in Community Services this year. She is passionate about social injustice and gender inequalities and is a member of the Bathurst community-based family violence interagency group. Kara hopes to use her qualifications and experience to help build stronger families through empowering women in the Central Western NSW.



RHYS LANGTRY MARRAR
Diploma in Agriculture

Rhys Langtry, 20, lives with his parents and sister on the family farm, forty kilometres north of Wagga Wagga. Last year Rhys completed a Certificate IV in Agriculture at the Primary Industries Centre in Wagga Wagga and is this year completing his Diploma in Agriculture. Rhys has a passion for cropping, agronomy, soil conservation and minimum tillage. Rhys hopes to extend his knowledge by attending workshops offered by Charles Sturt University and FarmLink and to one day study different agricultural practices overseas and bring his new learnings back home to Australia.



CASSIE MACBEAN INVERGOWRIE
Bachelor of Medicine - Joint Medical Program

Cassie is a fourth year medical student at the University of New England. She lives in Armidale and has chosen to complete her final two years of clinical training at the Tablelands Clinical School in Armidale. Her passion is for rural health, with a particular desire to improve mental health care services and support for those who live in rural areas with leukaemia and cancer. In her spare time, she has been involved in local mentoring programs and fundraising for the Leukaemia Foundation.



KIRSTIE LENTON BROKEN HILL
Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science (Medical Imaging)

Kirstie, 22 years, is currently in her fourth and final year of a Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science (Medical Imaging) at Charles Sturt University Wagga Wagga. Growing up in Broken Hill she experienced the desperate need for more health services and health specialists in rural and remote communities, and this was a prime motivation for undertaking her studies. She is passionate about helping people and making a positive impact on the future of rural communities in NSW.



ABBEY MCKELL PORT MACQUARIE
Bachelor of Medical Studies/Doctor of Medicine

Growing up on the Mid North Coast Abbey is determined to stay living and working in a rural area. She is in her third year at the University of New South Wales studying her Bachelor of Medical Studies/Doctor of Medicine. Fortunately for Abbey, the degree is offered at the Port Macquarie campus, keeping her in the rural region she is most passionate about helping.



JAIMELEE MILLINER BINNAWAY
Bachelor of Medical Studies and Doctor of Medicine

Jaimelee Milliner, 22, is a third-year medical student at the University of New South Wales in Port Macquarie. Growing up in Western NSW one lesson struck a chord with her, the inequality in healthcare in rural areas. Not having access to a General Practitioner in her hometown or surrounding small towns is what drives Jaimelee to return to western New South Wales to serve the community.



INGA NEILSEN BRAIDWOOD
Bachelor of Laws/ Bachelor of Communication (Journalism)

Inga Nielsen, 21, is undertaking her third year at the University of Technology Sydney studying 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. Inga aims to use her journalism degree to give rural Australia a voice by broadcasting rural affairs and promoting successful women in rural industries.



LAUREN MOODY NARROMINE
Bachelor of Veterinary Biology / Bachelor of Veterinary Science

Lauren Moody, 19, is a 2nd year Veterinary Biology/ Veterinary science degree at Charles Sturt University Wagga Wagga. Lauren grew up on the family farm at Hermidale. Raising poddy calves and caring for sick and injured animals ignited Lauren's passion to become a vet. In her high school years Lauren and her family moved to their current farm at Narromine and Lauren got involved with the St Johns College Dubbo show cattle team. This lead Lauren to starting her own Limousin Stud at 13 and began her passion for genetics and breeding stock.



HARRY OBST DUNEDOO
Certificate IV in Agriculture Production

Currently in his second year at Tocal Agricultural College studying Certificate IV in Agriculture, 19 year old Harry developed a love of agriculture after growing up on his family's sheep and cattle property near Dunedoo in the Central West. After completing his Certificate IV he plans to work on a large cattle property to gain more experience in the industry. Harry dreams of one day managing his own enterprise and has a strong interest in Genetics and Beef production.



HAYLEE MURRELL GUNNEDAH
Bachelor of Rural Science

Haylee is in her first year of a Bachelor of Rural Science at the University of New England. Gunnedah born and bred, she was the 2018 Showgirl and hopes to continue being involved in rural communities through her lifetime. Her passion for agriculture has come from living in such a diverse, rich agricultural area and at just 18 years of age, she already knows she wants a career that will help make a difference to Australian Agriculture.



LUKE PLATTS BOMBALA
Bachelor of Agrifood Systems/ Advanced Diploma of Agriculture

Bombala local, Luke Platts, is studying a Bachelor of Agrifood Systems at the University of New England in Armidale and completing his VET units through Rural Biz Training. Having grown up on a sheep and cattle property, Luke has always had an interest in agriculture. Working within a wide variety of agricultural enterprises, along with undertaking tertiary education over the past two years, has only enhanced his passion for agricultural production systems.



KATHERINE (KATE) PONDER LOUTH
Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood and Primary)

Kate grew up on a property one hundred kilometres west of Louth on the eastern side of the Darling River, ninety-nine kilometres south west of Bourke. Kate attended Distance Education until starting year seven at boarding school. Kate, 21, is in her fourth year at the University of New England, completing a Bachelor of Education for Early Childhood and Primary. Kate always wanted to be a teacher, influenced by her mother and grandmother. Kate hopes to teach in a rural or remote area.



BENJAMIN PRICE WOODSTOCK
Certificate III Carpentry

Benjamin, 18, is a first-year carpentry apprentice in Canowindra. He was born and raised on a beef property on the South Coast in Moruya, then moved with his family to a farm in Woodstock, Cowra. He has always been involved in his local community and Agricultural shows, allowing his interest in agriculture to flourish. Benjamin enjoys working with horses, cattle, and sheep, as well as driving and servicing machinery. He has a love for creating and building things and aspires to combine his passions of farming and building to assist the farmers of the future.



WILLIAM ROBERTS ARIAH PARK
Certificate IV in Agriculture

Growing up on a farm in the Temora Shire, 18 year old Will has been destined for a farming career. He is currently studying a Certificate IV in Agriculture at the Primary Industries Institute in Wagga Wagga and travels three days a week to study. He works 2 days a week as a trainee at a mixed farming enterprise and spends his spare time working on the family farm, including weekend sheep shearing.



MOLLY SCHLUNKE BOWNING
Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science

Third year Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science (Medical Imaging) student, Molly Schlunke, is studying at the University of Canberra. Molly hails from a fifth generation farming family in Bowning NSW. With a passion for both agriculture and health within rural communities, Molly believes that the health of farming communities is often overlooked. Her long-term goal is to move back to the family farm and work as a radiographer in her local area, aiming to improve the quality of health within her local community.



ALASTAIR SCOTT ARMIDALE
Bachelor of Rural Science

19 year old, Alastair Scott, is going into his third year of studying a Bachelor of Rural Science at the University of New England. Growing up on a cattle property in Central Queensland has given Alastair a passion for breeding and judging cattle. Early exposure to agriculture has carved a keen interest in the productivity and profitability of the agricultural industry. At the completion of his studies, Alastair wants to immerse himself and his skills into the Australian livestock industry.



KAYLA SIMPSON FORSTER
Bachelor of Social Science (Psychology)

Kayla Simpson, 23, is currently in her third year Bachelor of Social Science (Psychology). Kayla is studying on campus at Charles Sturt University Port Macquarie, whilst working part time in the Taree Youth Refuge and living in Forster. She has a desire to further her knowledge in her current work place and her local indigenous community and to eventually become a school counsellor.



MIKAYLA STYNES VINCENTIA
Bachelor of Science (Health) Master of Nursing
 Mikayla Stynes, 18 years, was born in Nowra and grew up in the small town of Vincentia on the South Coast of New South Wales. She is enrolled at the University of Wollongong, Shoalhaven campus, to study a Bachelor of Nursing and will be the first indigenous woman in her family to attend university. Her interests lie in paediatrics and in improving the health of the indigenous people in her community.



MICHAEL VAN DIGGELEN MUDGEES
Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary
 Mike van Diggelen, 24, is a fourth year Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science student at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga. Michael hopes to undertake further training in Theriogenology post-graduation. Over the past two years, in his role as president of the CSU Veterinary Student Association, Mike has established a Rural Practitioner Weekend with vets from Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland and has been a strong advocate for all graduating vets to obtain free mental health first aid training.



CHARLOTTE WISEMAN MENAI
Certificate III in Agriculture (Agricultural Production)
 Charlotte Wiseman 18, from Menai NSW, is studying a Certificate III in Agriculture at Tocal College. Her love for Rural NSW stems from her family farm in Bungonia and studying Primary Industries at her local High School. During high school she competed in local agriculture shows and participated in junior judging, giving her an understanding of a different side of agriculture. She sees her future in the sheep and wool industry and wishes to start her own sheep stud with a focus on sustainable practices.



MOLLY WRIGHT PEAK HILL
Diploma of Agribusiness Management
 Molly Wright, 19, grew up on the family farm of 6,800 acres, in Peak Hill NSW and graduated as DUX of Peak Hill Central School in 2016. After completing her Certificate IV in Agriculture and Wool Classing she is now studying her Diploma of Agribusiness Management through Wagga PIC whilst working in the family farming enterprise of sheep, beef cattle and cropping. Molly loves farm life and wants to enhance her knowledge in the agribusiness field and promote agriculture in her local and regional communities.

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.



JARROD SANSON MEDOWIE

Jarrod recently completed his Bachelor of Communication at the University of Newcastle with a double major in journalism and public relations and is now undertaking Honours.

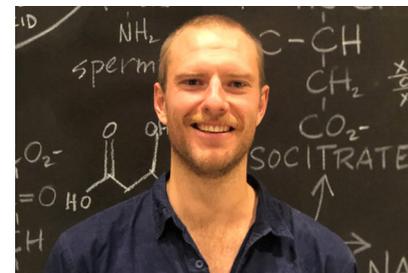
Jarrod chose journalism as a career path because he wants to contribute to the public good on a daily basis. He believes the key to good journalism in an unpredictable future is finding the right balance between satisfying a digital audience's needs and staying true to old fundamentals like truthfulness, accuracy, and fairness.

(image courtesy ABC)

SYDNEY ROYAL WINE SCHOLARSHIPS

These national awards encourage and support students who demonstrate passion, strong leadership qualities and who are committed to making a contribution to the Australian wine industry.

Scholarships donated by RAS Wine Committee



WILLIAM SCHIBECI BATHURST WINNER

Sydney Royal Wine Study Scholarship

William grew up in Bathurst New South Wales and found his love for wine after getting a job at a small bottleshop in Chinatown, Sydney at the age of 21. Through this job, he managed to score his first vintage position at Brokenwood in the Hunter Valley. In 2016 he began studying Viticulture and Oenology at the University of Adelaide. After completing the first 2 years of the degree he decided to take a year off and work 3 vintages around the world, one in the Hunter Valley, one in Central Otago and the last in Napa Valley, California. He will return to his studies next year.



PAUL JACKSON ADELAIDE RUNNER-UP

Sydney Royal Wine Study Scholarship

Paul entered the wine industry a decade ago after a childhood spent helping his dad make homebrew beer led to an interest in fermentation. After a couple of vintages working in McLaren Vale and Margaret River he set off to make wine internationally and worked in Germany, USA, Portugal, and New Zealand for some top producers. At the urging of several winemaking mentors, he took up the Bachelor of Wine Science and Viticulture at the University of Adelaide. He is passionate about quality and innovation in the industry and believes no one else is better positioned than Australian winemakers to take the vanguard of the new movement for craft beer, wine, and spirits.

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NADJA WALLINGTON CANOWINDRA
Sydney Royal Wine Assessment
Scholarship

Winemaker Nadja grew up on the family vineyard and went on to study winemaking and viticulture at Charles Sturt University before heading overseas to learn more. Attracted by the way in which the wine industry combines agriculture, art, and science she has enjoyed hands-on learning in the USA, South Africa and France. Since 2014 Nadja has worked in Orange as a part of the winemaking team at Philip Shaw Wines.



SAMANTHA PAYNE SYDNEY
Sydney Royal Wine Assessment
Scholarship

Samantha is a Sommelier and Writer, who consults on multiple wine lists in Sydney. She hosts various wine-fuelled events and vineyard tours all around Australia whilst also writing regularly about wine, spirits, food, and travel for various publications domestically and internationally. She has been featured in Concrete Playground, Decanter, Conde Nast Traveler, Broadsheet, Gourmet Traveller Wine, plus many more. A 2015 Wine Australia 'Future Leader of Wine' Alumni and host of wine video channel 'How to Drink Wine with Samantha' on The Guardian and fullglasses.com

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.



BRONWYN JOHNSTONE BELLATA
Bellata War Memorial Hall

Bronwyn's project aims to renovate the kitchen hall to allow more groups to access the hall and provide functions for the community. The main expense will be adding much-needed air conditioning to the hall. An upgraded Hall will attract more functions and events, benefitting the community both economically and socially.



TYLER AUSTIN MERRIWA
Merriwa Poultry Pens & Partners Project

Tyler Austin's project aims to improve participation in poultry breeding, exhibition, and enjoyment within the local community. The project will focus on three key outcomes: improve current pen facilities to allow for additional events to be held at the Showground; foster school involvement by providing resources to schools; and supply equipment to local age care facilities for residents to benefit from the therapeutic attributes that caring for animals can provide.



LOUISA HEARN DALGETY

Dalgety Show Society – Horse Yards

The project aims to replace Dalgety Show Society’s aging horse yard facilities with more modern facilities to improve security and safety of horses housed during equestrian events at the Showground. It is anticipated the improved horse yard may attract new events along with sponsorship opportunities and an enhanced sense of community pride.



CASSANDRA STANFORD MUDGEE

Australian Rural Education Centre Co-operative Ltd - Seed Funding for Edu Trailer

Cassandra’s project aims to assist small rural communities in Central NSW reduce social isolation and promote agricultural education. The education trailer would contain equipment and resources to be utilised by local community groups, such as show societies, to create a pop-up exhibit at their event. The aim is to create awareness and education around agriculture and food production, targeting children and young adults.



SHARANNA TURNBULL NARROMINE

Narromine High School P & C Association

The Grant will fund a portable panel round yard for Narromine High’s agriculture students. This will ensure the safety of students and cattle when breaking the cattle into halter for local Show competitions. In addition, the portable yards will be used at the Narromine Show’s Young Farmer Challenge, which is a major fundraiser for Narromine High School’s agriculture plot.



GEOFF PETTETT NABIAC

De Olde Nabitac Klub First Aid Kit & Training

Geoff’s project aims to provide basic safety equipment to protect De Olde Nabitac Klub (DONK) members and the public at display days of vintage motors and machinery at agricultural shows along the Mid Coast and inland NSW. The grant would purchase a First Aid kit, an automated external defibrillator, Orange PVC safety mesh fencing and a small pop up gazebo.



BRIDGET LEE FORBES

Forbes ASC of NSW, Group 10 Central Western - Seed funding for Edu. Trailer

Bridget would like to build a low-cost children’s activity zone in a trailer that can be hired out to other local shows and communities with a focus on agricultural games and activities. The idea was born three years ago at Parkes Show where a free kids’ activity pavilion was set up to encourage families to attend the local show with minimal expense. After an extremely successful first year, the pavilion became a popular location for children to play for hours and gain basic agricultural skills.

RAS FOUNDATION COMMUNITY KITCHEN GRANT

Each year, a large scale kitchen is built to host cooking demonstrations at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. This year, the demonstration kitchen was sponsored by IKEA® and the kitchen appliances, cabinetry and styling items were awarded to rural New South Wales grant applicants to reinvigorate and revitalise their community facilities.



The Nowra East Community Garden Kitchen Project Team, Nowra East Public School and Nowra East Community Pride Group is one of the deserving recipients of a Community Kitchen Grant and says it is life changing for their community. The grant enables them to complete the internal build of their Nowra East Community Kitchen, and facilitate new programs including daily community cooking programs, Aboriginal Koori cook-ups, seniors cooking, multicultural cooking, garden to plate cooking and neighbourhood cooking programs.

Narrabri and District Pony Club also received IKEA® appliances and cabinetry along with a \$4000 cash donation from the RAS Foundation while third placed Guyra Show Society took \$5000 back to their community to put towards the upgrade of their facilities. This year the RAS Foundation was able to make further cash donations of \$2000 each to Cowra Information & Neighbourhood Community Centre Inc, Combara Ladies Club (Combara Hall) and Woodstock Memorial Show Inc.

The IKEA® kitchen and home décor and accessories were gratefully received by BackTrack in Armidale, an organisation that helps young people get back on track, to be used in their residential facility.

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