



2020 GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

RAS^F
ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NSW
FOUNDATION

RAS 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 \$5.6 million into country NSW through a range of targeted grants and scholarships. To date, the RAS Foundation has supported over 540 rural scholarship students to reach their educational dreams and awarded 73 organisations vital community building funding.

Donations to the RAS Foundation Education Fund are tax deductible.

RASF

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NSW
FOUNDATION

GIVING TO DATE

Program: **RAS Foundation Community Grants**

(formerly \$25,000 Question)

Duration: 12 years

Grants Awarded: 50 grants

Funds Distributed: \$895,574

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

Duration: 12 years

Grants Awarded: 12 grants

Funds Distributed: \$120,000

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

Duration: 10 years

Grants Awarded: 544 Scholarships

Funds Distributed: \$2,731,000

Program: **RASF Nuffield NSW Scholarships**

Duration: 1 year

Grants Awarded: 1 Grant

Funds Distributed: \$30,000

Program: **E3 Grant (retired)**

Duration: 4 years

Grants Awarded: Grants to 59 schools

Funds Distributed: \$266,000

Program: **RAS Foundation Community Kitchen**

Duration: 9 years

Grants Awarded: 23 Community Kitchens

Funds Distributed: \$280,671

Program: **RASF Kitchen & Christmas Toy Distribution**

Value of Goods

Distributed: \$1,357,673

Total

\$5,680,824.00

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.

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2020 RURAL SCHOLARSHIPS



JORDAN AMOS – DUBBO

Bachelor of Medical Science and Doctor of Medicine

Jordan is a 21-year-old Wongaibon woman from Dubbo NSW and is a third-year medical student at the University of Newcastle. Jordan hopes to become a Rural Generalist and work collaboratively with Indigenous communities. She wants to provide a health care service that is culturally safe and supportive for Indigenous people and to become a role model for others and teach them the importance of Indigenous health.

Scholarship donated by: RAS Foundation



CORNELIO A. ALBINO – YOUNG

Certificate IV in VET Nursing

With a Bachelor of Science in Animal Husbandry and Doctor of Veterinary Science and Medicine from Central Luzon State University, Philippines already completed, 46-year old Cornelio is studying to qualify in order to practice in Australia. Working in his local community as head of breeding at a pig farm, Cornelio's main areas of interest are breeding and health management.

Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation



JESS BELLATO - COLEAMBALLY

Diploma of Nursing

Jess, 18, is studying an Advanced Diploma in Nursing at TAFE in Griffith and a Diploma in Paramedicine through Australian Paramedics College in Queensland, and will then study Paramedicine at university in 2021. Growing up in a small rural community Jess would like to return to the country following the completion of her degree and give back to rural communities by becoming a first-line responder in emergency situations.

Scholarship donated by: Mrs Susan Maple-Brown

2020 RURAL SCHOLARSHIPS



MITCHUM BOWER - MILTON
**Bachelor of Medical Studies/
Doctor of Medicine (BMed/MD)**

Mitchum, 25, grew up in Milton on the South Coast and is currently completing his penultimate year of Medicine at the University of New South Wales. He has relocated to the UNSW Rural Clinical School in Port Macquarie to broaden his experience in rural medicine. Mitchum appreciates the positive role rural doctors play in their community, being more than just healthcare professionals.

Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation



LUCY BUCKNELL - YASS
**Doctor of Medicine (MD) -
Bonded Medical Place (BMP)**

Lucy, 21, completed a Bachelor of Science at ANU and is now studying Medicine at the University of Sydney. She wants to work as a rural GP in the future with a focus on mental health and assist the local community with managing their health journey. Coming from a rural background Lucy believes she has a greater understanding of the problems that affect those in rural regions.

Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation



INDIA BURDEN – BEGA
**Bachelor of Education (Technology and
Applied Studies) Major Agriculture**

India, 21, is currently studying a Bachelor of Education (Technology and Applied Studies), majoring in Agriculture at Charles Sturt University. India has lived in rural communities her entire life and has a thorough understanding of the importance of a strong agricultural industry. She wants to teach agriculture to rural students and those disadvantaged by location and hopefully inspire passion and interest within others.

Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family

2020 RURAL SCHOLARSHIPS



BEAU BUTLER – BALRANALD
Certificate III Agricultural Mechanical Technology

Living away from home to complete his apprenticeship, 18-year old Beau is eager to return home once he is qualified and establish himself as a diesel mechanic. Growing up on a remote property, he understands the isolation and lack of services for many farming communities, and he hopes to provide a mobile mechanical service for remote areas in the far south west of the state.

Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family



HANNAH CARGILL - BRAIDWOOD
Bachelor of Agriculture/ Bachelor of Business

Completing the 3rd year of her Bachelor of Agriculture/Bachelor of Business at the University of New England, 20-year-old Hannah is passionate about the agricultural industry. She hopes her education will help her support rural businesses and communities as they develop strategies for reinforcing resilience to overcome the testing challenges many on the land face.

Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation



BRAD CHAPMAN - FINE FLOWER
Bachelor of Education (Secondary)

Brad, 17, grew up on the family beef cattle property at Fine Flower, north-west of Grafton, but rather than farming he sees his future as a teacher. His own experiences at school with dedicated teachers have driven him towards this goal and he wants to be one of those teachers who can make a difference to the lives of rural students, delivering new technology and collaborative learning to isolated students.

Scholarship donated by: Mrs Susan Maple-Brown

2020 RURAL SCHOLARSHIPS



MIKAELA DART - PEAK HILL

Bachelor of Nursing

Coming from the small rural town of Peak Hill, 23-year-old Mikaela is studying a Bachelor of Nursing via distance education at the University of New England in Armidale. Mikaela is passionate about health and in particular emergency nursing and mental health. She is hoping to work in Peak Hill after graduation to help support the much-needed services of rural towns.

Scholarship donated by: UNE Foundation & RAS Foundation



NATHANIEL DEANS - CENTRAL WEST

Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/ Bachelor of Veterinary Science

Nathaniel is studying a Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science at CSU Wagga Wagga and is looking forward to the intricate role he will play as a veterinarian in a rural community. Nathaniel, 27, from a farming family near Coonamble endeavours to make positive contributions to the wellbeing and health of both farmers and livestock within rural Australia.

Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family



BRITTANY DOOLAN - COONABARABRAN

Bachelor of Science

Brittany, 18, is in her first year of a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Psychology at the University of Sydney. Being a third-generation farmer and an active member of her local town fostered a passion to raise awareness about mental health issues within rural areas. Brittany hopes to work as a psychologist and make a positive impact on the future health and wellbeing of rural communities.

Scholarship donated by: Mogul Brahman Stud

2020 RURAL SCHOLARSHIPS



JESSE DOOLAN - COONABARABRAN
Bachelor of Science (Honours)

Jesse, 22, is currently studying a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Geoscience at the University of Sydney. Originally from the small town of Coonabarabran, he saw the connection between people and the land and is looking at the impacts of land ownership to better understand the broader patterns of political and socio-economic function of rural Australia. Jesse's goal in life is to improve the state of rural Australia.

Scholarship donated by: Mrs Susan Maple-Brown



TEGAN DOUGLAS - NYNGAN
Bachelor of Education (Secondary Mathematics)

Tegan is in her fourth year of a Bachelor of Education in Secondary Mathematics and Biology at the University of New England's Armidale campus. Upon graduating, 22-year-old Tasha is looking forward to returning to Western NSW as a trained mathematician and help address the imbalance of maths trained teachers providing quality education to rural and remote students in STEM-related subjects.

Scholarship donated by: RAS Foundation



CAIT DOWNES - WEE WAA
Bachelor of Nursing

Choosing to pursue her love of human biology 18-year-old Cait is studying a Bachelor of Nursing at UNE Armidale and will then go on to complete postgrad studies in Midwifery. All too often rural areas miss out on essential medical services, including those for expectant mothers, and Cait believes she will be a valuable asset to any town with her dual qualifications in nursing and midwifery.

Scholarship donated by: Agricultural Societies Council of NSW Ltd

2020 RURAL SCHOLARSHIPS



KATE FARQUHAR - TAMWORTH

Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Advanced Studies (Agriculture)

Studying a Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Advanced Studies (Agriculture) at the University of Sydney, Kate, 21, grew up on a beef grazing property outside Manilla NSW. Kate's specialisation in animal production will allow her to increase the productivity and fertility of genetic pools. She wants to help small farms become economically viable, carrying on the rural way of life for future generations.

Scholarship donated by: Michael & Jenny Millner



CAITLYN GALAGHER - WEE WAA

Bachelor of Nursing

Throughout Years 11 and 12 Caitlyn, 18, was able to undertake a traineeship in Nursing at Wee Waa Community Hospital and attained a Certificate III in Acute Care Nursing whilst completing her HSC. Now studying a Bachelor of Nursing at the University of New England she wants to help fill the gap left by the shortage of nurses in rural communities and play a positive role in health care for remote towns.

Scholarship donated by: Coolawarra Alpacas



BIANCA GARNHAM - TEMORA

Bachelor Veterinary Biology/Bachelor Veterinary Science

In her 6th and final year of Veterinary Science at Charles Sturt University, Bianca, 34, hopes to use her qualifications to benefit the farming community. With plans to become a large animal veterinarian in her home town of Temora, Bianca is also interested in assisting farmers with improving livestock productivity and the positive impact this can have on entire farming communities.

Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation

2020 RURAL SCHOLARSHIPS



JAMES GRANT – TEMORA

Doctor of Medicine and Surgery (MChD)

James, 24, is completing his second year of medical study in Canberra, enrolled in a rural stream that prepares him for practice in remote locations. Growing up on a farm near Temora, he is aware of the disparity that exists in healthcare between rural and urban Australians, inspiring him to pursue a career as a rural doctor. He hopes to work in retrieval medicine, Indigenous health and community advocacy.

Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation



TARA GRAY - YERRINBOOL

Certificate III in Agriculture – Agricultural Production

Tara, 18, is completing her Certificate III in Agriculture at Tocal Agricultural College. Growing up in the Southern Highlands Tara was involved with her high school Show team and working farm, resulting in an interest in agriculture and desire to continue living and working on the land. She hopes to work with livestock, cattle or sheep, and play a role in Australia's ever-evolving agricultural industry.

Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation



JACK GRENTLELL - WAGGA WAGGA

Doctor of Medicine and Surgery (MChD)

Jack is 25-years-old and grew up in the Riverina with a strong commitment to the region. Now in his 2nd year studying to be a Doctor of Medicine and Surgery at the Australian National University, and with first-hand knowledge of the issues faced in regional communities, he is passionate about helping to drive the necessary change to address healthcare shortcomings in rural Australia.

Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation

2020 RURAL SCHOLARSHIPS



SAVANNA GRIFFITH - PORT MACQUARIE
**Bachelor of Medical Studies/
Doctor of Medicine**

Savanna, 24, is a 4th-year medical student studying at the University of NSW. She has lived in Port Macquarie her whole life and is fortunate to have been completing her medical degree at the Rural Clinical School. Moving to Sydney this year for paediatric studies and research Savanna hopes to gain valuable skills to take back to her rural community.

Scholarship donated by: RAS Foundation



TASHA HURLEY – CONDOBOLIN
**Bachelor of Agricultural Business
Management**

Tasha, 19, is currently undertaking her second year in a Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. She hopes to contribute to the marketing and promotion of the Australian Agricultural industry and its produce. Tasha will move back to regional NSW once she completes her degree and work to promote Australia's reputation for quality food, grain and fibre.

Scholarship donated by: Mary Weal



ASHLEY HVASS - RYLSTONE
Bachelor of Nursing

Ashley, 22, is a third-year nursing student at the University of Newcastle with plans to return to her local area and provide medical assistance where needed. With first-hand knowledge of the inequality in services offered to regional NSW compared to metropolitan areas, Ashley is hoping to redress the imbalance in availability and quality and help make a difference as a rural nurse.

*Scholarship donated by: Coolawarra
Alpacas*

2020 RURAL SCHOLARSHIPS



RACHEL HYDE - CESSNOCK
Certificate IV in Wool Classing

Rachel is completing her Certificate IV in Wool Classing and commencing a Bachelor of Agriculture/Bachelor of Business at the University of New England Armidale campus, majoring in Marketing, with hopes of finding a place within the agricultural industry. Rachel, 34, wants to apply her knowledge gathered in science and business and marketing practices to contribute globally to the food and fibre industries.

Scholarship donated by: Carmel Dyer-Pitroff



EMELIA INWOOD - BATHURST
Bachelor of Agriculture/Bachelor of Laws

Emelia, 20, is a third-year student undertaking a double degree; Bachelor of Agriculture and Bachelor of Laws at the University of New England. Her strong interest in agriculture stems from growing up on the family property on the outskirts of Bathurst, and she has a desire to work and contribute to rural communities, particularly assisting in the area of agricultural policy development and advancement of industry standards.

Scholarship donated by: NSW Stud Merino Breeders Association



KEELY JOHNS - NEWCASTLE
Certificate III in Agriculture

With the intention of studying Veterinary Medicine at University, Keely is first completing a Certificate III in Agriculture at Tocal College to gain some experience with large animals and livestock including cattle, sheep, horses and poultry. Understanding the high demand for large animal specialists in rural communities, 17-year-old Keely plans to work in such a community and assist in maintaining the health and welfare of all animals.

Scholarship donated by: Coolawarra Alpacas

2020 RURAL SCHOLARSHIPS



ANNA JOHNSTON - COWRA

Bachelor of Rural Science

Looking forward to a career working in the beef cattle industry, 20-year-old Anna is in her first year of a Bachelor of Rural Science at the University of New England. After growing up on the family farm in Cowra, and then spending a gap year on a large cattle station Anna hopes the combination of life experience and her degree will enable her to contribute positively to livestock production in regional Australia.

Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family



DARCY KERR- NEWCASTLE

Certificate IV Agriculture

Darcy wants to help ensure Australia has farming land for future generations and is studying an Agriculture Certificate IV and Diploma at Tocal College. Exploring innovative ways in which to improve productivity and sustainability, 21-year-old Darcy is interested in making natural fibres affordable and accessible whilst integrating sustainable practices into farming. Darcy hopes to run her own farm one day and lead the way for other young women on the land.

Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family



SAMANTHA KING - BEECHWOOD

Bachelor of Education (Secondary)

Samantha, 19, is a first-year student at the University of Newcastle studying a Bachelor of Secondary Education. Having grown up in a small rural community on the NSW Mid North Coast, Samantha is aware of a significant gap in educational services that exists between metropolitan and rural areas. Working in the timber, metal and STEM field, she is looking forward to becoming a role model for younger female rural students.

Scholarship donated by: RAS Foundation

2020 RURAL SCHOLARSHIPS



ANDREW KNOX – MACKSVILLE
**Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/
Bachelor of Veterinary Science**

Growing up on a farm sparked 23-year-old Andrew's passion for animals and developed his understanding of the role of the local Vet, and he knew he wanted to be one. Studying a Bachelor of Veterinary Science/Veterinary Biology at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga, chosen specifically for the university's heavy focus on cattle, he plans to return to Macksville and open a vet clinic

Scholarship donated by: Mogul Brahman Stud



NIKKI-LEE LALOR – WYEE
**Certificate III in Agriculture (Agricultural
Production)**

Although every aspect of the agricultural industry interests 18-year-old Nikki-Lee, she is studying her Certificate III in Agriculture at Tocal College and wants to use it to work in the beef and dairy cattle industry. Hoping to secure a management position on a commercial farm and implement strategies to improve the sustainability of agriculture, Nikki-Lee is aiming to complete her studies with a degree in Agribusiness.

Scholarship donated by: ChemCert Limited



VICTORIA LEE - CUNDLETOWN
**Bachelor of Agriculture/
Bachelor of Business**

Victoria, 22, hopes to work in agricultural exports after completing her Bachelor of Agriculture/Bachelor of Business at the University of New England's Armidale campus. She is focused on relationship development and international promotion, with plans to position herself as a beef producer, Victoria hopes her success inspires other women to pursue agricultural careers.

Scholarship donated by: UNE Foundation & RAS Foundation

2020 RURAL SCHOLARSHIPS



CASSIE MACBEAN - INVERGOWRIE
Bachelor of Medicine - Joint Medical Program

Cassie is a 5th-year medical student at the University of New England, Armidale. Now she is in the final year of medicine Cassie is looking forward to taking up an internship in rural NSW next year. She is particularly interested in bridging the gap between rural and metropolitan healthcare and improving mental health services to drought-stricken communities.

Scholarship donated by: Regional Australia Bank



DANIELLE MANNES - COLEMBALLY
Bachelor of Exercise Physiology and Rehabilitation

Danielle, 18, is currently completing her first year of study in a Bachelor of Exercise Physiology and Rehabilitation at the University of Canberra. Having grown up on her family farm in the Riverina, Danielle understands the difficulties faced by those living in rural areas with a lack of services, particularly in the Allied Health industry. Danielle hopes to return to her local region with much-needed rehab skills.

Scholarship donated by: RAS Foundation



CAMERON MCMILLAN - FORBES
Certificate III in Electrotechnology

Growing up in a farming environment and witnessing first-hand the effects of drought, 18-year-old Cameron is undertaking an electrical apprenticeship and travelling 160kms home to work alongside his father on weekends. His goal is to complete his electrical apprenticeship and continue his trade in a rural town, fulfilling his lifelong goal of becoming an electrician whilst also becoming an active member of a rural community.

Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family

2020 RURAL SCHOLARSHIPS



SOPHIE MENSER - ORANGE

Diploma of Nursing

Sophie Menser, 20, is a budding RN with her Diploma of Enrolled Nursing almost completed. She is driven by firsthand experiences of the health inequities that rural and remote Australia faces and is passionate about providing updated resources to give back to the communities that inspire her. Sophie's ultimate goal is to become a flight nurse with the Royal Flying Doctors Service or medical retrieval teams.

Scholarship donated by: CanAssist



REBEKAH MESSNER - BATHURST

Bachelor of Midwifery

Rebekah is a first-year midwifery student at the University of Canberra. She completed her HSC through TAFE and studied a bridging course in Science through Charles Sturt University before being accepted into the Bachelor of Midwifery degree. Rebekah, 19, understands there is a great need for better maternity care and services in rural and regional NSW and wants to do what she can to improve these situations.

Scholarship donated by: Laurie Cowled & RAS Foundation



ANGIE MOLYNEUX - MYALL PARK

Bachelor of Agricultural Science

Angie, 20, is in her 3rd year of a Bachelor of Agricultural Science at Charles Sturt University Wagga Wagga. Angie wants to contribute to the future of rural communities by delivering specialised agronomic expertise to assist farmers with decision making and believes studying agriculture in a rural setting has given her the confidence she needs to succeed in her chosen field.

Scholarship donated by: RAS Foundation

2020 RURAL SCHOLARSHIPS



SARAH NESBITT - COOMA

Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)

Growing up on a property on the Monaro, 22-year-old Sarah's passion for the land and agriculture evolved, establishing a Charolais Cattle Stud "Curragindi Charolais" at Cooma. She completed her HSC and ranked 1st in three subjects; Agriculture, Primary Industries and Industrial Technology before enrolling in a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) at the University of Wollongong. Sarah plans to apply her degree to the agricultural industry.

Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation



CATHERINE NICHOLLS - KYOGLE

Certificate III in Individual Support

Living on the land and being brought up in Kyogle has allowed Catherine, 23, to appreciate the smaller things in life and realise the opportunities that rural communities often miss out on. Hoping to improve this inequality she is studying in order to provide aged care and community support, assisting members of her rural community and making a difference in their lives.

Scholarship donated by: Mrs Susan Maple-Brown



DEANNE NICHOLLS - BREWARRINA

Bachelor Medical Radiation Science (Medical Imaging)

Deanne attends Charles Sturt University at Port Macquarie where she is currently studying her 4th and final year in Medical Radiation Science specialising in Medical Imaging. Health and helping people have always been a passion of 32-year-old Deanne's and she believes that everyone should have access to the same level of health care no matter where you live on the map.

Scholarship donated by: Carmel Dyer-Pitroff

2020 RURAL SCHOLARSHIPS



KATE OVERALL - WEETHALLE

Bachelor of Science

Kate, 19, is studying a Bachelor of Science (Ecology and Conservation Biology) at the University of Wollongong and has a strong drive to find the balance between farming and sustainability, ensuring farming can thrive alongside the preservation of the environment. Kate grew up in the isolated community of Weethalle and hopes to return to her community and help it adapt to changes in our climate and stay viable and strong.

Scholarship donated by: Nell & Hermon Slade Trust



EMMA PEARSON - ARMIDALE

Certificate IV in Agriculture & Diploma in Agriculture

Growing up on the family property of 3,500 acres, 40km northwest of Armidale running cattle, lambs and Merino sheep it was inevitable Emma, 17, would study a Certificate IV in Agriculture and Diploma in Agriculture at Tocal College. Her interest has been nurtured by her work at the local sale yards and on the family property and should lead to a career running her own property.

Scholarship donated by: NSW Stud Merino Breeders Association



WILSON PENNEY – TAMWORTH

Certificate III in Agriculture

Growing up in a farming family from the Moree district 16-year-old Wilson has a long-nurtured interest in beef cattle. Studying a Certificate III in Agriculture at Tocal College, Wilson would like to live and work in rural Australia and believes continuing his education and obtaining his certificates and eventually, a Diploma in Agriculture will improve his job prospects and secure work on a large cattle station.

Scholarship donated by: David & Belinda Davidson

2020 RURAL SCHOLARSHIPS



BENJAMIN PRICE – WOODSTOCK/COWRA
Certificate III in Carpentry

Benjamin, 19, is a second-year carpentry apprentice in Canowindra. Born and raised on a beef property on the South Coast in Moruya he has spent the past nine years on a farm in Woodstock, Cowra. Benjamin has a love for creating and building things and his carpentry apprenticeship combines his passions for farming and building, ultimately to assist regional areas and the farmers of the future.

Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation



LAURA PYMBLE - ANGLEDPOOL
Bachelor of Nursing

A second-year nursing student at the University of New England in Armidale, 19-year-old Laura was born and raised in the small opal mining town of Lightning Ridge. Following her Bachelor's degree, she hopes to study a two-year midwifery degree. Laura would like to return to rural NSW and work as a registered nurse and midwife, addressing the chronic shortage of health care workers in rural communities.

Scholarship donated by: UNE Foundation & RAS Foundation



BLAIR RANKIN - BATHURST
Bachelor of Physiotherapy

After completing a Bachelor of Health and Rehabilitation Science in 2018, 23-year-old Blair has gone on to undertake a Bachelor of Physiotherapy at Charles Sturt University, Albury. With her degree, she hopes to educate and empower people to chase their dreams and achieve their rehabilitation goals. In particular, she would like to work with children in disadvantaged communities and provide access to physiotherapy.

Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation

2020 RURAL SCHOLARSHIPS



JACSON REARDON – TEMORA

Certificate III in Agricultural Mechanical Technology

Jacson, 18, grew up in the rural shire of Temora and hopes to stay there and pursue a career as a mechanic, specifically working on farming machinery and equipment.

Undertaking an apprenticeship whilst at TAFE, he has been recognised as a high performance apprentice through the Top Gun program, giving him an incredible head start on his career.

Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation



EMMA RICE - PARKES

Masters of Teaching

Emma, 21, grew up on a mixed livestock and cropping property in Parkes and has always had an interest in combining both agricultural science and the education of young people in rural areas. Emma completed a Bachelor of Agriculture at UNE and is now enrolled to study a Master of Teaching (Secondary) at UNE. She believes the longevity of regional communities is reliant on quality schools and educational facilities.

Scholarship donated by: UNE Foundation & RAS Foundation



LUKE RICHARDS - HORSLEY

Certificate IV & Diploma of Agriculture

Studying at Tocal College for a Certificate IV and Diploma of Agriculture has helped 18-year old Luke extend his knowledge and experience across a range of aspects in the agriculture industry. Luke has a particular interest in cropping and cattle, believing these are the fields most likely to advance because of the research and development studies being undertaken by large organisations within the agricultural industry.

Scholarship donated by: Mogul Brahman Stud

2020 RURAL SCHOLARSHIPS



JOANNE RICHENS - COOLAMON

Bachelor of Nursing

Joanne, 43, is in the 3rd year of a Bachelor of Nursing at Charles Sturt University, realising a lifelong dream. Waiting for her children to grow up before enrolling at university, Joanne is determined to contribute to regional NSW and prove that it is never too late to achieve and to discover your professional calling in life.

Scholarship donated by: Mrs Susan Maple-Brown



MADISON RILEY – LISMORE

Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing

Studying agriculture certificates and working on various farming properties along the way confirmed this was the path for 23-year-old Madison. Settling on a career as a Veterinary Nurse, Madison is studying at New England TAFE, Tamworth campus and undertaking work placement through Nandewar Animal Health Services clinics in the Bingara, Barraba and Manilla districts. It is the resilience of rural communities driving her to succeed in the pursuit of her career.

Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family



WILL ROBERTS - ARIAH PARK

Diploma of Agriculture

Will Roberts, 19, completed his Certificate IV in Agriculture in 2019 and is currently studying a Diploma in Agriculture at the Primary Industries Institute in Wagga Wagga. After growing up on a farm in the Temora Shire, he is working to build a feedlot enterprise for the future and would like to stay in his local area and play a positive agricultural role in his community.

Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family

2020 RURAL SCHOLARSHIPS



JESSIE ROSS - NARRABRI

Bachelor of Exercise & Sports Science

A career as a physiotherapist will allow 19-year-old Jessie to combine her interest in sport and health, with her love of people and caring for them. Knowing there is a shortage of physiotherapists in rural communities Jessie has commenced her first year of a Bachelor of Exercise and Sport Sciences at the University of New England. Jessie wants to improve people's health and quality of life.

Scholarship donated by: UNE Foundation & RAS Foundation



EMILY SCHOFIELD - BROKEN HILL

Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care

Emily, 20 years-old is studying a Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care at Sunraysia Institute of TAFE, Mildura campus, moving away from home in Broken Hill to do class-based study. After completing a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care in 2019 Emily decided to continue her studies in order to achieve her goal of working as a classroom teacher in a regional community.

Scholarship donated by: OCS Fun Pty Ltd



SWASTIKA SHARMA - DUBBO

Bachelor of Medical Sciences

Swazi believes working as a doctor in rural areas is one way in which she can give back to the communities she has gained so much from. Born in Nepal but growing up in regional NSW 18-year-old Swazi has experienced remote communities suffering due to the lack of medical specialists available. This influenced her decision to complete a Bachelor of Medical Sciences with further postgraduate studies in medicine.

Scholarship donated by: Carmel Dyer-Pitroff

2020 RURAL SCHOLARSHIPS



JASMINE SHIELDS – QUEANBEYAN
Certificate IV in Agriculture

Becoming involved with agriculture at school, 18-year-old Jasmine from Queanbeyan, NSW, is studying in order to see where agriculture can take her. Currently an Australian Champion in Angora Goat and Mohair Judging, whilst also training to be a qualified judge, she hopes to take her studies further and go on to university before establishing her own agricultural business and become an advocate for the industry.

Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation



KAYLA SIMPSON WOOD - FORSTER
Bachelor of Social Work

Kayla, 24, is a 3rd year Bachelor of Social Work student, completing her degree on campus at Port Macquarie with some distance education as well through Charles Sturt University. She has a desire to further her knowledge within her local Indigenous community and ultimately would like to become a school counsellor and play a positive role in the lives of disadvantaged and disaffected youth.

Scholarship donated by: Graham O'Neill



SAMANTHA SMITH - MENDOORAN
Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science

Samantha, 23, is in the 5th-year of her Veterinary Science degree at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga, NSW. She grew up on a sheep and cattle property located in between Mendooran and Coonabarabran in central west NSW and aspires to work in a rural mixed practice after graduation, giving back to farming families by providing health care to the animals in the area.

Scholarship donated by: Agricultural Societies Council of NSW Ltd

2020 RURAL SCHOLARSHIPS



BRIDGET SUTTON - COOLAH

Bachelor of Nursing

Currently a 2nd year Nursing student at the University of Newcastle, Bridget's inspiration to become a registered nurse comes from the first-hand struggles of her father requiring extensive health care in a rural setting and wanting to help improve this service for regional communities. Bridget, 20, believes rural nurses have a vital role for both physical and mental issues and will return home to play this part.

Scholarship donated by: Mrs Susan Maple-Brown



KATE JADE TAYLOR - MANILLA

Bachelor of Agriculture

Growing up on a small acreage property near Manilla in North West NSW, Kate's passion for agriculture started with the variety of animals they had, including cattle, sheep and horses. Currently studying a Bachelor of Agriculture at the University of New England in Armidale, Kate, 18, hopes to also undertake a Master of Teaching and go on to a career teaching and sharing her love of the land with future generations.

Scholarship donated by: Mogul Brahman Stud



HEATHER WALKER - GRENFELL

Certificate IV in Wool Classing & Certificate III in Agriculture

Heather, 18, is currently studying through the Cowra TAFE institute, a Certificate IV in Wool Classing, and TAFE DIGITAL: Online for her Certificate III in Agriculture. Undertaking the courses will help her develop knowledge in key areas of agriculture. The next step will be university for her Bachelor of Education TAS (Technology and Applied Studies), with hopes of becoming an agriculture teacher.

Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation

2020 RURAL SCHOLARSHIPS



LACHLAN WATKIN - MOSSGIEL
Bachelor of Agricultural Production and Management

Currently in his 3rd year at UNE Armidale Lachlan, 21, is studying a Bachelor of Agriculture Production and Management – through Rural Biz Training. He is majoring in livestock production because he has a particular interest in wool and beef and hopes to return to his area of Western NSW to implement new ideas and skills and become a leader in Agriculture/Production.

Scholarship donated by: NSW Stud Merino Breeders Association



GEORGINA WHATMORE - TAMWORTH
Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/ Bachelor of Veterinary Science

Georgina is currently in her fifth year studying a Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/ Veterinary Science at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga. Growing up on sheep and cattle properties in the New England region has given 24-year-old Georgina her appreciation for the role that veterinarians can play and she would like to become proficient in all aspects of artificial breeding and work with farmers to achieve breeding objectives.

Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family



JAMES WHEATON - WALGETT
Bachelor of Medical Science/Doctor of Medicine

A fourth-year medical student at the University of New England, 27-year-old James believes medical professionals have a unique privilege to engage in rural communities and looks forward to contributing on a permanent basis. James grew up in the Walgett district, and is aware of the limitations faced in rural communities and hopes to use his personal experience to address various inequalities.

Scholarship donated by: UNE Foundation & RAS Foundation

2020 RURAL SCHOLARSHIPS



LACHLAN WHITE - SCONE

Bachelor of Science, Bachelor Advanced Studies Agriculture

Lachlan, 20, is studying a Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Advanced Studies Agriculture at the University of Sydney and is president of the University of Sydney Agricultural Society. He would like to play a role in the development of rural NSW as a consulting agronomist assisting farmers to combine sustainability with profitability, and eventually run his own farm as well.

Scholarship donated by: ChemCert Limited



KY WHITE - COOTAMUNDRA

Electro-technology Electrician

Growing up on a small mixed farming operation on the outskirts of Cootamundra, Ky has a keen desire to stay in his local community and provide a much-needed service. Currently doing his apprenticeship as an electrician in electro-technology, and employed by a local business whilst studying at Riverina TAFE College, Wagga Wagga, 18-year-old Ky is motivated by the stability such a career provides.

Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation



CONNOR WHITEMAN - GILANDRA

Bachelor of Animal Science

Work experience at Gilgandra Veterinary Clinic was all it took to convince 19-year-old Connor that a career in the veterinary industry was the right path to follow. He has relocated 450kms from home to study at Charles Sturt University and take advantage of the hands-on components of his degree. Connor would ideally like to work in a rural practice dealing with large animals and herd health/reproduction.

Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family

2020 RURAL SCHOLARSHIPS



CHARLOTTE WISEMAN – MENAI
Certificate IV in Agriculture - Farm Supervisor and Agribusiness

From Menai, Charlotte, 19, is studying a Certificate IV in Agriculture, Certificate IV in Wool Classing and a Diploma of Agriculture at Tocal College. Charlotte's love for farming and rural NSW stems from her family farm in Bungonia and studying Primary Industries at High School. Charlotte sees her future in the sheep and wool industry, with her own stud focusing on sustainable farming practices.

Scholarship donated by: David & Belinda Davidson & RAS Foundation



MOLLY WRIGHT - PEAK HILL
Diploma of Agribusiness Management

Molly is in the second year of her Diploma of Agribusiness Management through Wagga Wagga PIC and also working within the family enterprise of sheep, beef, cattle and cropping. Wanting to promote agriculture and her regional community, 20-year old Molly is focused on the business and management aspects of running a property, along with sustainable techniques. Molly hopes to also assist others in regional areas.

Scholarship donated by: Michael & Jenny Millner

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.



MAISIE ADAMS

Maisie Adams is a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Law (Hons) students at Monash University. Growing up on a cattle farm in Staghorn Flat, Maisie had a love of horses and a talent for cattle mustering, but her true calling was always writing and story-telling. Moving away from home and enrolling in a double degree at Victoria's Monash University confirmed for Maisie that journalism was her destiny and one that would allow her to pursue a meaningful career and, most importantly, move back and settle in a rural area. Telling the stories of those in regional districts, shining a light on rural issues, and pursuing a professional career as a writer has been made a little easier for Maisie with thanks to the RAS Foundation and the JB Fairfax Scholarship for Rural and Regional Journalism.

SYDNEY ROYAL WINE ASSESSMENT 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 the RAS Wine Committee



CHRISSIE-ANNE SMITH

Studying Wine Science at Charles Sturt University, stewarding at a variety of wine hnows, doing contract vineyard work throughout the Canberra district wine region and establishing the Yazz Wine Fest in Canberra are more than enough reasons for the judging panel to be impressed by Sydney Royal Wine Assessment Scholarship recipient Chrissie-Anne Smith. Whilst her Wine Science degree will develop her skills in wine making, the Wine Assessment course run through the Australian Wine Research Institute will enhance Chrissie-Anne's ability to recognise and judge different wine styles and blends as well as regional character and to develop her sensory analysis capabilities.



NICOLE WILSON

Hunter Valley winemaker Nicole Wilson, of Margan Family Winemakers, enjoys challenging herself in the name of advancing the Australian wine industry. From stewarding to associate judging, fruit processing to barrel work and forklift operations Nicole has willingly done it all and isn't finished yet. Ultimately she wants to be the finest winemaker she can, producing prestigious wines and inspiring others to do the same. Believing judging experience trains the palate and therefore enhances your own wine-making, Nicole would like to participate in more wine shows as a judge and improve her ability to critically analyse wines, helped along by the Wine Assessment Scholarship.

SYDNEY ROYAL WINE STUDY 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 the RAS Wine Committee



JORDAN PICKLES

Adelaide is the undisputed wine capital of Australia, with over 200 cellar doors and five outstanding wine regions, so it is no surprise the Bachelor of Viticulture & Oenology at the University of Adelaide is one of the most highly recognised in the world. Currently in his 3rd year, student Jordan Pickles undertook the degree because of his passion for and love of wine. The craft of winemaking and the pleasure of tasting remarkable wines excite and motivate Jordan, and he is determined to take his place amongst our leading wine industry personnel. Jordan hopes to use funds from his Sydney Royal Wine Study Scholarship to visit international wine regions and undertake courses outside of his university degree.



BILLY XYNAS

The first step in winemaking is making must – the crushed juice containing skin, seeds and stems of the grapes. However, earlier harvesting of fruit, due to climate changes, has led to fruit with higher than ideal sugar levels so it has been approved by Food Standards Australia and New Zealand that water can be added to the must, which dilutes the sugar. The long term consequences of this and the creative impacts it could have on the Australian wine industry form the basis of the PHD thesis of Sydney Royal Wine Study Scholarship recipient Billy Xynas. The Scholarship will relieve Billy of some financial pressures, which can only be beneficial for future generations of wine lovers across Australia and internationally.

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.

CARCOAR SHOWGROUND – JO TAIT

A lack of tables and seating at Carcoar Showground has long impacted on the enjoyment of patrons at Carcoar Show and other events. The ongoing cost and organisation of hiring the equipment was unsustainable so Jo Tait sourced portable seats and tables that can be utilised at Showground events and hired by others for use by the village of Carcoar as a whole. Ready-made storage in the pavilion ensures the longevity of the tables and seats, whilst their carefully chosen design is weather-proof and easy to move around the grounds.

DENILIQVIN SHOWGROUND - ERIKA HEFFER

Upgrading the facilities at Deniliquin Showground with benches, tables, and improved housing and access ramps for livestock should increase use of the Showground and make events more attractive and financially viable. Erika Heffer hopes the work, carried out by community members, will improve safety, reduce potential damage, and enhance the overall experience for all at Showground events. With the local agricultural society, sporting groups and schools making use of the facilities the project will be of enormous benefit to the entire community.

DRAKE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP - CLARE URQUHART

Filling a workshop with tools and training opportunities in the New England region of Drake is driven by Clare Urquhart's desire to assist with disaster relief and rebuilding. The Community Workshop project, Container of Dreams, aims to arm locals with the equipment and know-how to build tiny houses for bushfire victims and conduct workshops to help others become more self-sufficient with repairs and construction work. The workshop will benefit not only those at risk of homelessness but also help create a stronger community and potentially create livelihoods for local residents.

GLENN INNES SHOWGROUND - VAL LENNAN

The Glenn Innes Show Society Inc Ladies Auxiliary, through Val Lennon, are in dire need of new refrigeration for use at the Showground, including a cold food display cabinet, shelving for their cool room and a commercial refrigerator and freezer. This new equipment will bring the Auxiliary up to date with Food Safety and Handling requirements as well as open up opportunities for hiring the facilities for a wider range of functions. Volunteers will work alongside contractors to ensure the remodelling of the cool room and installation of new refrigeration is carried out in accordance with safety and environmental guidelines.

NYNGAN SHOWGROUND - KATHLEEN KORN

Lining up outside the kiosk at Nyngan Showground customers are exposed to the elements, as are the volunteers inside due to the lack of protection by way of an awning over the serving windows. Given the year-round use of the Showground by community groups including the Show Society and Pony Club the need for shade from the sun and rain cover is an absolute necessity. Kathleen Korn knows local volunteers will assist with the construction and installation of awning, improving the facilities and taking the first step in the long overdue enhancement of the Showgrounds.

OAKLANDS CWA - HEATHER KERR

The Oaklands branch of the Country Women's Association operates from a beautifully restored building, however wheelchair/ramp access was never installed. Heather Kerr has taken on the project of fitting an entrance platform and ramp with a handrail, providing easy and safe access for all. The CWA rooms are used by many local groups, including a Mother's Group, mobile pre-school and Landcare. Community members are also able to book the venue for private functions but access for mobility challenged visitors has been a concern. The project will unite the CWA volunteers with Men's Shed members and provide improved access for all.

TENTERFIELD SHOWGROUND - ROBYN MURRAY

Robyn took on the project of upgrading the kitchen at Tenterfield Showground with the aim of encouraging the community to make use of the grandstand dining room for private and community events. Hiring out the kitchen and dining hall will result in funds for the Showground Trust – in turn allowing greater upgrades for the Showground overall. With the Showground also utilised as an evacuation centre during natural disasters the improvements will have far-reaching benefits. Robyn hopes the project will bring volunteers together for working bees and social interaction, resulting in a kitchen Tenterfield can take pride in and enjoy.

WHITE CLIFFS GYMKHANA CLUB - HONOR TAYLOR

A track without running rails is a paddock, but a track with damaged rails is a danger to horses and riders. Recognising the need to replace the running rails at White Cliffs Gymkhana Club's home in the Far West region of NSW Honor Taylor is relying on a team of volunteers to help install brand-new running rails. The rails will enhance the facilities and make the track a more attractive option for sporting events and in turn, provide economic benefits for White Cliffs via tourist dollars and an influx of visitors.

RAS FOUNDATION COMMUNITY KITCHEN GRANT

Due to the cancellation of the 2020 Sydney Royal Easter Show the RASF did not have a community kitchen to share with recipients of the RASF Community Kitchen Grant. The RASF awarded a combination of either cash and/or whitegoods toward the following projects.

Parkes Show Society

Parkes has a proud history from the gold rush onwards and is considered a thriving commercial centre for Central NSW, however, the Parkes Showground has been functioning with a luncheon room and kitchen constructed in 1926, with only one working stove and a broken dishwasher. Trying to attract corporate interest and agriculture-based bookings has been difficult when every client looking for a function space has to bring their own equipment. The RASF Community Kitchen Grant will go towards delivering the much-needed cabinetry and appliances Parkes needs to turn the Showground into a fundraising and social hub for the people of Parkes.

Walgett Show Society

The people of Walgett have come together at their Showground going back to 1887, connecting community members and boosting morale, helping each other through hard times and celebrating the good. The lack of working kitchen facilities is hampering efforts to continue community events, with improved wiring and electrical work long overdue. The RASF Community Kitchen Grant will provide funds for new electric wiring, easing one major area of strain in the Showground kitchen.

Wauchope Show Society

In times of natural disasters communities often gather at the local showground, as was the case in Wauchope during the Summer 2019/2020 bushfire emergency. Unfortunately Wauchope Showground did not have a fully equipped kitchen and feeding evacuees was incredibly difficult. A refurbished kitchen will allow the Showground to be used for a variety of events, including fundraising and training exercises for a variety of groups. The RASF Community Kitchen Grant will provide cash for cabinetry and appliances to the Wauchope Show Society kitchen.

RAS FOUNDATION COMMUNITY KITCHEN GRANT

Moree Show Society

Located under the grandstand, the kitchen at Moree Showground is unsafe and no longer used by community groups. In need of an overhaul, the kitchen requires appliances for the heritage-listed grandstand to once again be a showpiece for the community. The RASF Community Kitchen Grant will provide cash for appliances to boost the kitchen renovation.

Cootamundra Show Society

An admin/catering building without a kitchen isn't helping anyone in the Cootamundra community but will be an enormous boost once it is fitted out. The kitchen could become the hub for community get-togethers and provide greater social interaction for volunteers as well. The RASF Community Kitchen Grant will provide cash for appliances to boost the renovation.

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We sincerely thank the following donors and supporters for their generous support of the RAS Foundation in 2020.

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