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 $6.2 million into country NSW through a range of targeted grants and scholarships. To date, the RAS Foundation has supported over 600 rural scholarship students to reach their educational dreams and awarded 70 organisations vital community building funding.

Donations to the RAS Foundation Education Fund are tax deductible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Grants Awarded</th>
<th>Funds Distributed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RAS Foundation Community Futures Grant (formerly $25,000 Question)</td>
<td>12 years</td>
<td>55 grants</td>
<td>$997,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>JB Fairfax Award for Rural &amp; Regional Journalism</td>
<td>13 years</td>
<td>13 grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural Scholarships (TAFE &amp; University)</td>
<td>11 years</td>
<td>598 Scholarships</td>
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<td>Sydney Royal Wine Scholarships</td>
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<td>24 Scholarships</td>
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<td>RASF Nuffield NSW Scholarships</td>
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<td>2 Scholarships</td>
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<tr>
<td>E3 Grant (retired)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Grants to 59 schools</td>
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<td>RAS Foundation Community Kitchen</td>
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<td>23 Community Kitchens</td>
<td>$280,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>RASF Kitchen &amp; Christmas Toy Distribution</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,357,600</td>
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</table>

Total $6,211,200
RAS Foundation Rural Scholarships provide a financial helping hand for 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. These scholarships help students of all ages achieve their education goals and aspirations and embrace a diverse range of tertiary education and training studies.

ABBY RYAN GILGANDRA
Bachelor of Education (K-12)
Abby Ryan is studying a Bachelor of Education (K-12) majoring in English at Charles Sturt University in Bathurst, fulfilling a goal she has had from a young age. Growing up in a small rural town in western NSW Abby is acutely aware how important it is that teachers in regional areas understand the realities of living and learning in these communities. Returning to regional NSW upon graduation, Abby wants to the opportunity to connect with her students and provide a quality education.
Scholarship donated by: Susan Maple-Brown

ALEX WATSON-DEAL WAGGA WAGGA
Certificate III in Agriculture
Alex Watson-Deal is currently studying a Certificate III in Agriculture in order to gain practical skills in livestock handling and machinery use/maintenance to compliment the Bachelor of Agricultural Science she is also undertaking. Alex believes the combination of hands-on skills and theory will stand her in good stead in pursuit of a career in agriculture, believing using both will help her to effectively communicate and form relationships with growers/farmers in rural areas.
Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family

AMBER O’NEILL WAGGA WAGGA
Bachelor of Veterinary Biology / Bachelor of Veterinary Science (Integrated Honours)
Amber O’Neill is a final year Veterinary Science student at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Although she enjoys working with cattle and has a special interest in alpaca medicine, she is hoping to work in a small general rural practice. Amber is an Australian Alpaca Judge and is completing an Honours project examining passive transfer of immunity in camelids.
Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family
ASHLEY ALDRICH  ULLADULLA
Certificate II in Animal Studies
Ashley Aldrich is undertaking a Certificate II in Animal Studies at Nowra TAFE Campus with the aspiration to further her education and become a Veterinarian Nurse. Ashley wants to play a role in the health and welfare of animals, particularly on farms, and believes this is the best way she can have some influence on the future of Australian agriculture. She wants to learn more about animal welfare and assisting primary producers in this area.
Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation

AVA MEDLEY  DUBBO
Bachelor of Biomedical Science
Ava Medley is a first-year student at the University of Newcastle studying a Bachelor of Biomedical Science. Growing up in Dubbo, she was aware of the significant health inequities of rural and remote communities and the vast potential for improvement. She hopes, at the completion of her course, to return to regional NSW and play a role contributing to scientific advances and improving the health of her community.
Scholarship donated by: Mary Weal

BRAD CHAPMAN  FINE FLOWER
Bachelor of Education (Secondary) Humanities
Brad Chapman grew up on the family beef cattle station at Fine Flower and although he is not following the farming path he does want to stay in a regional community. Studying his Bachelor of Secondary Education, Brad believes he can play a role supporting rural and regional youth and ensuring they are receive positive opportunities at school. Through his own experiences he understands how vital it is that teachers engage with regional students.
Scholarship donated by: Susan Maple-Brown

BREANNA HOLMES  TUMUT
Certificate IV in Agriculture
Breanna Holmes, from Tumut, is studying a Certificate IV in Agriculture and would like a career involved in the breeding of stud cattle, including artificial insemination, embryo transfer and genomics. Breanna’s interest began when she took part in her high school’s Show cattle program “RYCE” (Rural Youth Cattle Enrichment), and now she is on the way to becoming a first-generation beef producer, making breeding decisions and creating a product for the consumer.
Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation

BRIDGET SMITH  YEoval
Bachelor of Occupational Therapy
Bridget Smith is from a fifth-generation farming family in Yeoval, Central West NSW, and completed high school via video conferencing alongside nine others at Yeoval Central School. Now studying Occupational Therapy at the University of Newcastle, she aims to address the great need for allied health professionals in rural areas. With a particular focus on paediatrics, Bridget will return to the Central West upon graduation in order to provide this much needed service.
Scholarship donated by: Laurie Cowled/RAS Foundation

BRIONY WILLETT  COROWA
Bachelor of Social Work
Briony Willett is a 3rd year student, studying a Bachelor of Social Work at Charles Sturt University via distance education. Regional communities are often lacking mental health support and facilities, a problem Briony is acutely aware of and the motivator behind her studies. Briony wants to work in child and youth services in her local community and hopes to offer positive support and aid for people who access mental health services.
Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation
CAITLYN GALAGHER WEEM WAA
Bachelor of Nursing
Caitlyn Galagher grew up in the small town of Wee Waa located in North West NSW. Her interest in nursing began when she was young and never wavered, and she completed a traineeship in Nursing at Wee Waa Community Hospital and a Certificate III in Acute Care Nursing whilst still at school. She is studying a Bachelor of Nursing at the University of New England and will return to Wee Waa to address the shortage of medical professionals in rural communities.

Scholarship donated by: Coolawarra Alpacas

CAITLIN ARMSON-GRAHAM SYDNEY
Certificate III in Agriculture
Caitlin Armson-Graham is studying a Certificate III in Agriculture through Australian Agricultural Training with hopes of pursuing a career teaching agriculture. This Certificate, in combination with her Bachelor of Agriculture, will improve her on-farm skills and give her more confidence within the field. Caitlin plans to go on to study a Masters in Education and play a vital role sharing her passion for agriculture in the classroom and hopefully inspire a new breed of agriculturalists.

Scholarship donated by: Coolawarra Alpacas

CAROLINE DUDDY JUNEE
Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/ Bachelor of Veterinary Science
Caroline Duddy is in her fifth year of veterinary science at Charles Sturt University and wants to become a specialist in veterinary pathology or oncology. Growing up in a small town, she plans to stay as rural as she can and work in a rural mixed practice. Ultimately, Caroline would like to answer the call for much-needed pathologists and raise awareness for funding for disease investigation.

Scholarship donated by: NSW Stud Merino Breeders’ Association

CARMEN MACGREGOR QUAAMA
Doctor of Medicine
Carmen MacGregor is studying a Doctor of Medicine at the University of Wollongong, moving away from her hometown of Quaama, near Cobargo. Wanting to become a doctor since the age of fourteen, she believes access to quality health care is crucial for improving health outcomes in regional NSW. Carmen hopes to provide medical care and support within country areas, and contribute in a manner that is authentic, compassionate and competent.

Scholarship donated by: Agricultural Societies Council of NSW

CHARLEY SCHULZ TEMORA
Bachelor of Environmental Science and Management
Charley Schulz was raised in the rural town of Temora, country New South Wales, growing up on a mixed cropping and livestock property. Surrounded by the bush, she developed an appreciation for the landscape and the invaluable resources it provides. Studying a Bachelor of Environmental Science and Management with Charles Sturt University in Albury, Charley wants to protect and repair the environment in rural Australia.

Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation

CALEB KADMON WOLLONGONG
Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Education
Caleb Kadmom is from the Illawarra region and wants to return as soon as his studies are complete. Studying a Bachelor of Education/ Bachelor of Science he plans on becoming a high school science teacher, following in the footsteps of the teacher he found most inspirational. Caleb believes students in regional areas need strong role models and can be pushed to achieve, and wants to inspire the curious minds of the future and play a positive role in shaping young lives.

Scholarship donated by: Nell & Hermon Slade Trust
CHRISTIAAN MILLS  GALSTON  
Certificate III in Agriculture  
Christiaan Mills was born in Johannesburg, South Africa, migrating to Australia when he was in primary school. At school in the Hawkesbury-Berowra region his interest in agriculture first grew, as he was immersed in the history and respect for farming. Studying a Certificate III in Agriculture at Tocal College, Christiaan wants to gain practical farm operation skills and a greater understanding of practices undertaken in farming before commencing a career in this area. 
Scholarship donated by: ChemCert Limited

CHRISTIE HAYWARD  SYDNEY  
Certificate III in Engineering- Heavy Fabrication  
Christie Hayward is doing a boilermaker apprenticeship and studying for her Certificate III in Engineering-Heavy Fabrication after discovering an aptitude for metal work in high school. The study and apprenticeship will give her valuable skills that are much needed throughout regional NSW. Christie plans on moving into a rural community and working on metals including fencing and with machinery. 
Scholarship donated by: Coolawarra Alpacas

CONNOR WHITEMAN  GILGANDRA  
Bachelor of Animal Science  
Work experience at Gilgandra Veterinary Clinic was all it took to convince 20-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: Mogul Brahman Stud

DENNIS GORDON  ARMIDALE  
Certificate IV in Building and Construction  
Dennis Gordon was born in Armidale and later moved to Newcastle where he has settled and immersed himself and his young family in the local indigenous community, eager to take on a role as a mentor. He has completed his Certificate III in Carpentry and is now studying a Certificate IV in Building and Construction which will allow him to start his own small building company and provide apprenticeship pathways for young indigenous men and women. 
Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family

DIMITY EVANS  URALLA  
Bachelor of Rural Science  
Dimity Evans is from the Uralla Shire in the New England region and has a passion for agriculture, particularly beef cattle. Seeking a career in either genetics or animal nutrition, she is studying in order to influence and forge improvements in agricultural production. Dimity hopes to further expand her knowledge with time spent studying abroad and to have a positive impact on the future of beef across the state. 
Scholarship donated by: Agricultural Societies Council of NSW

DOUGLAS SNOW  WAGGA WAGGA  
Bachelor Social Work  
Doug Snow is a retired RAAF veteran who has not let a diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis stop him from focusing on his education, pursuing a Bachelor of Social Work. Doug has been a volunteer with the Murrumbidgee Local Health Palliative care service for three years and this experience spurred him on to study. Upon graduation he expects to pursue a career as an advocate for Palliative care and to work behind-the-scenes addressing the challenges of providing quality palliative care to rural and regional Australia. 
Scholarship donated by: CanAssist
EMILY BLANK JILLIBY
Certificate III in Agriculture
Emily Blank is completing her Certificate III in Agriculture at Tocal College, and hopes to forge a career working towards sustainable agriculture. Focussing on innovation and development, Emily is aware of the need for smarter farming and exploring more avenues of environmentally aware and ecological agriculture. Using her education and experience she hopes to influence the next generation and encourage more young people to explore career choices in this field.
Scholarship donated by: Coolawarra Alpacas

EMILY WILMSHURST WEST PENNANT HILLS
Bachelor of Agriculture/Bachelor of Business
Emily Wilmshurst is in her second year of a Bachelor of Agriculture/Bachelor of Business at the University of New England, Armidale. Despite growing up in the city, she is keen for her future to be country based and focused, where she can further her interests in poultry and cattle production. At the completion of her degree, Emily hopes to use the knowledge she has gained to work alongside rural communities in advancing and growing awareness for Australian agriculture.
Scholarship donated by: Mogul Brahman Stud/UNE Foundation

GEORGIA BENNETTS COOLAH
Bachelor of Secondary Science (Major in Agriculture)
Georgia Bennetts from Coolah NSW is studying a Bachelor of Secondary Science majoring in Agriculture. Her passion for livestock and agriculture developed from her involvement in the agricultural program offered at her high school and a part-time job at the local Veterinary Clinic. After graduating she hopes to secure a teaching position in a rural community.
Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family/UNE Foundation

EMILY MITCHELL COFFS HARBOUR
Bachelor of Psychology
Growing up in a small coastal town has given Emily Mitchell a firm understanding of the importance of a close knit and supportive environment, driving her towards her studies of a Bachelor of Psychology. Emily has a great interest in aspects of the human condition, and her degree will enable her to learn more about how and why people do the things they do, and how to help people navigate through life. Emily wants to play an active role in her regional community.
Scholarship donated by: Mogul Brahman Stud

EDEN ROSZKIEWICZ BASIN VIEW
Bachelor of Agriculture
Eden Roszkiewicz discovered a passion for agriculture in high school and immersed herself in the world of alpacas, including shearing, breeding and competing on the agricultural Show circuit. Undertaking a Bachelor of Agriculture, to enhance her understanding of the agricultural industry as a whole, Eden wants to help develop ecologically sensitive farming practices that enable farmers to produce more with less resources and less environmental impact.
Scholarship donated by: Coolawarra Alpacas

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Scholarship donated by: Coolawarra Alpacas

HAMISH MACLURE TARCUTTA
Certificate IV in Agriculture
Hamish Maclure is currently studying a Certificate IV in Agriculture at TAFE NSW and doing a rural traineeship. Hamish has lived on a family owned and operated mixed farm near Tarcutta NSW his whole life and hopes to be part of the business in the future and bring home the skills required to ensure its sustainability. He enjoys all aspects of the farm but loves livestock management and wool production.
Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family

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Scholarship donated by: Coolawarra Alpacas
HEATH DUMMETT VERONA  
Certificate III in Agriculture  
Heath Dummett is studying a Certificate III in Agriculture at Tocal College knowing this will provide him with the practical knowledge he needs to contribute to the agricultural industry. Heath is focused on playing a role in driving a sustainable future for primary producers and those making a living on the land. The Certificate III is giving him greater skills for developing more efficient methods of food and fibre production and hands-on experience with machinery and livestock.  
Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation

HEATHER WALKER GRENFELL  
Bachelor of Education TAS (Technology and Applied Studies)  
Heather Walker lives in a small country town in the Central West and is studying a Bachelor of Education - Technology and Applied Studies - through Charles Sturt University’s online mode of study. She is also studying a TAFE Certificate IV in Wool Classing and TAFE DIGITAL: Online Certificate III in Agriculture. She believes these will help her development as an agricultural teacher.  
Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation

ISABELLA MASON WEST WYALONG  
Bachelor of Teaching Primary  
Isabella Mason from West Wyalong NSW is studying a Bachelor of Primary Education and is keen to take up a position as a primary school teacher in a regional community. Isabella sees all the positives from a childhood spent growing up in a rural community and wants to ensure primary school children experience the same opportunities she did – with access to education, sports and the sense of belonging so prevalent in small towns.  
Scholarship donated by: Susan Maple-Brown

HEATHER WALKER GRENFELL  
Bachelor of Education TAS (Technology and Applied Studies)  
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Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation

INDIA BURDEN BEGA  
Bachelor of Education (Technology and Applied Studies) Major Agriculture  
India, 22, 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: Michael & Jenny Millner

JACINTA BRADLEY TUMBARRUMBA  
Certificate IV Agriculture  
Jacinta Bradley’s thirst for agriculture started from a young age on the family farm, leading into showing of poultry, cattle and horses along with studying agriculture at school. Post school she worked on a merino property, and her enthusiasm for the sheep and wool industry took off. She has completed her Wool Classing Certificate and is studying a Certificate IV in Agriculture with plans to commence a Diploma in Agriculture and become a productive member of the Australian agricultural industry.  
Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family

JACK EGAN DUNEDOO  
Certificate III in Performance Horse  
Jack Egan is studying a Certificate III in Performance Horse at Tocal College. He is originally from the small country town of Gulgong located in the Central West and has dedicated a lot of time to the Gulgong pony club as a competitor and volunteer as well as helping out on the farm. Jack’s career goal is to become a mounted police officer, which would combine his love of horses with his desire to help others in the community.  
Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family
JESSICA RYAN  WAGGA WAGGA
Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management
Jessica Ryan is undertaking an agribusiness degree to help with the family business and allow her to play a role shaping change in the agricultural industry. Aiming to become an advocate for farmers and the farming lifestyle, she wants to give a voice to farmers and work on bridging the gap between city and country. Whether her career lies in farming business or takes the step into management or politics, Jessica is aware of the need to listen to farmers.
Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family

JESSICA DALEY  WAUCHOPE
Bachelor of Veterinary Technology
Jessica Daley aims to pursue a career as a vet, and is studying Veterinary Technology at CSU, Wagga Wagga. Coming from a farming background at Wauchope on the Mid North Coast, Jess has been actively involved in all aspects of her family’s farming business and is passionate about all animals. She hopes to use her skills and education to make a positive contribution to the health and wellbeing of both large and small animals in rural communities.
Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family

JACK TEMPLE  TIRRANNAVILLE
Certificate III in Pathways to Further Study
Jack Temple is studying the Year 11 & 12 equivalent at TAFE whilst also completing short courses in order to gain work skills in welding, small engines and other qualifications. These should help him secure an apprenticeship as a Heavy Diesel Technician. Jack wants a future combining farming and machinery and believes a mechanical trade qualification will allow him to live and work in a rural setting, servicing and repairing farm machinery.
Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation

JAIMELEE MILLINER  BINNAWAY
Bachelor of Medical Studies/Doctor of Medicine
Jaimelee Milliner is a fifth-year medical student studying at a rural campus in Port Macquarie. She is passionate about rural medicine and providing equitable access to health services, particularly after growing up in a small town in the Central West without a General Practitioner. By returning to the Central West as a GP, she aims to address the imbalance and promote rural health.
Scholarship donated by: Mogul Brahman Stud

JARRAH RANSOME  GUNDAGAI
Bachelor of Animal Science
Jarrah Ransome is studying a Bachelor of Animal Science, majoring in Livestock Production at the University of New England, Armidale. Growing up in the small town of Gundagai, Jarrah is aware of the influence agriculture has on small communities and local industry professionals and hopes to play her part as a positive influence within her community. She wants to make a difference and flourish as a leader within the Australian agricultural industry.
Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation

JAYDE TEMPLE  TIRRANNAVILLE
Certificate in Pathways to Further Study
Jayde Temple is studying the Year 11 & 12 equivalent at TAFE whilst also completing short courses in order to gain work skills in welding, small engines and other qualifications. These should help him secure an apprenticeship as a Heavy Diesel Technician. Jayde wants a future combining farming and machinery and believes a mechanical trade qualification will allow him to live and work in a rural setting, servicing and repairing farm machinery.
Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation

KATE NELSON  TOOLEYBUC
Bachelor of Education (K–12)
Kate Nelson is completing a Bachelor of Education at Charles Sturt University, Albury with the aim of working in rural schools to provide an accessible quality education for students in rural and remote regions. She believes the ability to read and write is the building block to success in life and wants to help lay that foundation for children. Kate knows that good teachers change lives and that is her aim, to teach the leaders of the future and see regional communities thrive.
Scholarship donated by: Mogul Brahman Stud

JAIMELEE MILLINER  TOOLEYBUC
Bachelor of Medical Studies/Doctor of Medicine
Jaimelee Milliner is a fifth-year medical student studying at a rural campus in Port Macquarie. She is passionate about rural medicine and providing equitable access to health services, particularly after growing up in a small town in the Central West without a General Practitioner. By returning to the Central West as a GP, she aims to address the imbalance and promote rural health.
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Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation
**KHOBY MCDONALD** CONDOBOLIN

Bachelor of Business

Khoby McDonald is studying a Bachelor of Business at the Sydney campus of La Trobe University. Growing up on a farm an hour west of Condobolin determined for Khoby that his future lies in agriculture, and he is likely to pursue a career in farming, perhaps as a primary producer. Khoby believes this degree will help him understand the financial and marketing aspects of running a farm as a business and ensure he makes the most of it. He plans on staying within a regional community and becoming an active member of the community.

_Scholarship donated by: RAS Foundation_

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**MADDISON TEBBET** MEDLOW BATH

Certificate III in Agricultural Production

Maddison Tebbet wants to broaden her knowledge of agriculture and establish a career within the industry, so is studying a Certificate III in Agricultural Production. Learning livestock husbandry, crop and pasture production, farm skills and safe working practices will ensure Maddison is a valuable employee in a broad range of on-farm or agribusiness roles. Maddison is determined to stay in a regional community and continue to learn as the industry evolves and new technologies are implemented.

_Scholarship donated by: Quayclean_

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**LILY MORRIS** TOMERONG

Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science

Lily Morris has grown up on the South Coast of NSW and is studying a Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science. Lily’s interest in the health and welfare of animals, and her love of working with animals, have her perfectly placed to pursue a career as a rural veterinarian. A particular interest in horses and cattle ensures she will stay in a regional area.

_Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation_

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**KEELY JOHNS** NEWCASTLE

Certificate IV in Agriculture

Keely Johns is completing a Certificate IV in Agriculture at Tocal College, after finishing a Certificate III last year. Keely would like to go on to university and study a Bachelor of Veterinary Science but first recognizes the importance of understanding all agricultural practices in relation to large animal medicine. She now has skills and experience in areas including working in yards, low stress stock handling, mustering, understanding breeding programs, and developing pasture plans for livestock.

_Scholarship donated by: Coolawarra Alpacas_

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**LUCY BUCKNELL** YASS

Doctor of Medicine

Lucy, 22, completed a Bachelor of Science degree 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 to 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: OCS Fun Pty Ltd/RAS Foundation_

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**LILLY MORRIS** TOMERONG

Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science

Lily Morris has grown up on the South Coast of NSW and is studying a Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science. Lily’s interest in the health and welfare of animals, and her love of working with animals, have her perfectly placed to pursue a career as a rural veterinarian. A particular interest in horses and cattle ensures she will stay in a regional area.

_Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation_

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**KEELEY JOHNS** NEWCASTLE

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Lucy, 22, completed a Bachelor of Science degree 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 to 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: OCS Fun Pty Ltd/RAS Foundation_

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**LILY MORRIS** TOMERONG

Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science

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**LILY MORRIS** TOMERONG

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_Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation_
MATTHEW SHEPPARD  
**Bonny Hills**

Doctor of Medicine and Surgery

Matthew Sheppard has commenced a Doctor of Medicine and Surgery with the aims of undertaking practice in areas of low socioeconomic status. Matthew grew up in Bonny Hills, a village of 3,000 people just south of Port Macquarie and is acutely aware of the inequality in medical services offered to regional communities. His aim is to provide no-cost medical care to people in need, believing access to assistance is fundamental to the overall health of a community.

Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation

OLIVIA HAMILTON  
**Cootamundra**

Bachelor of Health Science

Olivia Hamilton enrolled in the Bachelor of Health Science at ANU as a pathway program to the Doctor of Medicine and Surgery in order to address the large health inequities that exist between rural and metropolitan areas. Being raised in the small country town of Cootamundra, and aware of the varying levels of health care access, she plans on returning after her studies, hopefully with a specialisation in paediatrics or neurology.

Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation

PHOEBE NELSON  
**Tooleybuc**

Bachelor of Education (K–12)

Phoebe Nelson is a first-year primary/secondary education student at Charles Sturt University in Albury. She grew up in the Western Riverina district of NSW at Tooleybuc, almost a thousand km from Sydney. Phoebe has spent all her life living in rural areas of New South Wales. She has a special affinity with animals and once finishing her degree in education, seeks to bring her passion to engaging students in succeeding in all aspects of education in rural and remote school settings.

Scholarship donated by: OCS Fun Pty Ltd

MITCHUM BOWER  
**Milton**

Bachelor of Medical Studies / Doctor of Medicine

Mitchum Bower grew up in Milton on the South Coast and is currently completing his final year of medicine at the University of New South Wales. Having recently relocated to the UNSW Rural Clinical School in Port Macquarie, Mitchum appreciates the positive role rural doctors play in their community, being more than just healthcare professionals. He has a deep-rooted passion for reducing healthcare inequalities in regional and rural Australia.

Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation

MICQUELLA GRIMA  
**Orchard Hills**

Bachelor of Agriculture/Bachelor of Business (Agribusiness)

Micquella Grima has commenced her first year of a Bachelor of Agriculture and Bachelor of Business majoring in Agribusiness at the University of New England. Travelling around regional NSW on cattle, sheep and cropping properties as a child instilled a passion for agriculture and supporting rural communities. This has driven her interest in livestock genetics and broadacre agronomy.

Scholarship donated by: Mogul Brahman Stud/UNE Foundation

MATTHEW MANNES  
**Coleambally**

Bachelor of Social Work

Matthew Mannes grew up on a farm outside the small town of Coleambally and experienced firsthand the restricted access to support services faced by those living in rural and remote areas. Undertaking his Bachelor of Social Work, Matthew is committed to promoting the needs of those living in rural NSW and ensuring the provision of equal opportunities to individuals and families within disadvantaged demographics.

Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation

PHOEBE NELSON  
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Scholarship donated by: OCS Fun Pty Ltd
RAIYA GYLES  GRIFFITH
Bachelor of Occupational Therapy
Raiya Gyles is studying a Bachelor of Occupational Therapy with the goal of returning to Griffith and providing much-needed health services to her local community. She would like to focus on working with children and the elderly and ensuring they can be independent and feel confident and strong with their physical capabilities. Raiya was an active participant in the Save our Hospital rally in Griffith in 2017 and could one day work within this facility providing a specialty health service. Scholarship donated by: Graham O’Neil

PHOEBE SKENE  COWRA
Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science (Honours) (Diagnostic Radiography)
Phoebe Skene grew up on a cattle and cropping farm outside of Cowra and is now studying a Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science (Honours) (Diagnostic Radiography) at the University of Newcastle. She hopes to work as a radiographer and play a role in improving the health opportunities for rural and regional NSW. Phoebe would like to work in a wide range of different rural communities in order to broaden her knowledge and expertise and provide quality health services. Scholarship donated by: Susan Maple-Brown

SALLY DOWNIE  JEMALONG
Bachelor of Agricultural Science
Sally Downie is studying a Bachelor of Agricultural Science at Charles Sturt University. She grew up on a dairy farm near Forbes before moving to a sheep and cropping property near Trundle. Sally is studying online in order to stay in her community whilst setting herself up for a future in agriculture. In the future she wants to use the degree on her own farm and work as an animal nutritionist. Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family

RUBEY WILLIAMS  BERRIMA
Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management
Rubey Williams and her family run over 1,000 alpacas, sheep and cattle in the Southern Highlands of NSW. She is currently studying a Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management at Charles Sturt University and hopes to establish a large-scale commercial alpaca operation in rural NSW. An operation like this will bring employment, product and service to the area. It will also encourage professional services into the area, such as agronomists and agribusiness consultants. Scholarship donated by: Coolawarra Alpacas

ROHAN COWLEY  INVERELL
Bachelor of Teaching (K-6)
Rohan Cowley is in his second year at the University of New England studying a Bachelor of Teaching K-6. He has long had a strong desire to become a teacher particularly in a remote rural location, believing location, distance, socio-economic disadvantage and accessibility should not define a student or prevent them from realising their goals. Rohan wants to educate, nurture and have a positive impact on students, supporting and inspiring them to be active community members. Scholarship donated by: Susan Maple-Brown /UNE Foundation

SALLY JUDSON  BOGAN GATE
Combined Bachelor of Arts/Laws (BA/LLB)
Sally is from a wheat and sheep farm outside of Bogan Gate and is currently studying a combined Bachelor of Arts (majoring in Australian History) and Laws. Once she graduates and commences her legal career Sally hopes to provide innovative legal services that will allow people to receive assistance and know their rights, no matter their postcode. Sally aims to work in a regional setting, combining her passions for her community, agriculture and the law. Scholarship donated by: Michael & Jenny Millner
SAVANNA GRIFFITH  PORT MACQUARIE
Bachelor of Medical Studies/Doctor of Medicine
Savanna Griffith is a 5th year medical student studying at UNSW. Born and raised in Port Macquarie, she has just moved back following the completion of a research year at the Sydney Children’s Hospital. The return home enables Savanna to complete her degree with a focus on rural healthcare and to build strong connections within the community she hopes to serve.
Scholarship donated by: Regional Australia Bank

SHANNON BEST  GRENFELL
Bachelor of Nursing
Shannon Best is a second-year Bachelor of Nursing student at Charles Sturt University in Bathurst. She grew up on a family farm outside of Grenfell, NSW with a strong awareness of the crucial role nurses play in facilitating important healthcare services for regional communities. Shannon hopes to work with communities like these when she completes her degree, providing the level of care that rural patients deserve.
Scholarship donated by: Quayclean

SHIANE MASON  FINLEY
Pathway Enabling Course
Shiane Mason believes a career in agriculture will allow her to help shape her community and the future of regional NSW, achieved through her Pathwauwy Enabling Course. She wants to assist farmers and primary producers and share knowledge and expertise. A proud indigenous woman, she feels a sense of belonging and community in agriculture and knows this industry is the lifeblood of rural and regional communities.
Scholarship donated by: Susan Maple-Brown /UNE Foundation

STEPHANIE CAMERON  GUYRA
Bachelor of Primary Education
Stephanie Cameron grew up on a family farm west of Guyra. She is the 6th generation on the family farm and has always enjoyed working and assisting with running super fine wool Merinos. She is at the University of New England completing a Bachelor of Primary Education and plans on following this with a Master of Education to become an agriculture teacher and play a role helping shape the future of regional and rural NSW.
Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family/RAS Foundation

STEPHANIE FERGUSON  BATHURST
Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science
Stephanie Ferguson is a Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Veterinary Science student at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga. Growing up on a beef and wool property, she experienced first-hand the hardships that primary producers experience and the difference rural veterinarians can make. Stephanie hopes to work with primary producers to help increase the productivity and profitability of their herds.
Scholarship donated by: NSW Stud Merino Breeders’ Association

SWAZI SHARMA  DUBBO
Bachelor of Medical Sciences
Swazi Sharma is from Dubbo and is studying a Bachelor of Medical Sciences at Macquarie University. She is majoring in anatomy and physiology, with a minor in genomics and medical informatics with hopes of going on to study medicine. Knowing how rural communities suffer due to a lack of medical professionals, Swazi wants to become a doctor and improve the lives of people in these communities.
Scholarship donated by: Carmel Dyer-Pitroff

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2021 RURAL SCHOLARSHIPS

TALISSA POLSEN  
YASS  
Bachelor of Animal Science  
Talissa Polsen has begun a degree in animal science with hopes to transfer to a Bachelor of Veterinary Science/Veterinary Biology. Her love of animals started on the farm she grew up on, and her focus from a young age has always been to study vet science and open her own practice. Talissa wants to create a community where people feel confident in asking for help, opinions and advice regarding animals and animal production. Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation

TARA GRAY  
YERRINBOOL  
Certificate IV in Agriculture  
Tara Gray is doing a Certificate IV in Agriculture at Tocal Agricultural College. She has already completed her Certificate II in Agriculture and her Certificate III in Agriculture Production. She enjoys working with dairy and beef cattle, sheep, studying agribusiness and operating farm machinery. Tara’s goals are to work on a dairy farm, putting her skills to use whilst making a name for herself in the agricultural industry. Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation

TEANNA HAYWOOD  
TAMWORTH  
Bachelor of Medical Studies/Doctor of Medicine  
Teanna Haywood is a fifth-year medical student, studying in Port Macquarie. She grew up on a cattle property outside of Tamworth and had a broad exposure to agriculture including the difficulties rural communities face accessing medical care. Teanna hopes to practice medicine in a remote or rural community in the future, working as a rural obstetric generalist and providing exceptional care in the area of women’s health. Scholarship donated by: Carmel Dyer-Pitroff

TIMOTHY NELSON  
TOOLEYBUC  
Bachelor of Nursing  
Timothy Nelson is a Bachelor of Nursing student at Charles Sturt University, Albury. Timothy is the youngest of triplets and has lived across the Riverina in many rural and remote locations. He has a passion for rural health and after completing his studies at university, Timothy hopes to help lessen the serious gap in medical treatment between rural and urban areas by providing his skills to the local community. Scholarship donated by: David & Belinda Davidson

TORI FULLER  
KEMPSEY  
Master of Health Management  
Torii is from Kempsey on the Mid North Coast and has relocated to Sydney where she completed her Bachelor of Health Science (Mental Health) at Charles Sturt University while working full-time in Adult Community Mental Health. This is where she found her impetus to continue to expand her knowledge and career as a health professional. Tori is now studying a Master of Health Management and will use this to take on a leadership role in her community regarding access to healthcare services. Scholarship donated by: UNE Foundation
ALYS MARSHALL  BURREN JUNCTION

Burren Junction in north west NSW, with its population of 276, has long been famous for its Bore Bath but now the bath has some real competition from fourth-year Bachelor of Journalism and Arts student Alys Marshall. As recipient of the 2021 JB Fairfax Award for Rural Journalism Alys attended the Sydney Royal Easter Show and completed an internship in the Media Centre. Alys also has the opportunity to take up print and radio internships in Sydney and Brisbane. A particular interest in the stories of women on the land and the strength and resilience they show, particularly as farms battle horrendous weather conditions and families are separated by the struggles of seeking education and employment, has Alys hoping to write for publications seeking real stories not just news. Alys believes all Australians should read about life on the land and hopefully gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for rural living.

JB FAIRFAX AWARD FOR RURAL AND REGIONAL JOURNALISM & COMMUNICATIONS

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.

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

ANDRES ARAGAN  Sydney Royal Wine Professional Development

Breaking into the wine industry Andres was seeking mentors and greater accessibility to help with his understanding and education, and now is in a position to play that role himself. The WSET Level 4 Diploma will broaden his wine knowledge and give him the confidence to guide young sommeliers. Andres names research, sustainability and education as his motivations, and is determined to play a role within the wine community, making wine appreciation more consumer-friendly.

JESSICA CLARK  Sydney Royal Wine Professional Development

A desire to make sustainable long-term decisions is one of the factors behind Jessica Clark undertaking the AWRI Advanced Viticulture course, with soils and water conservation top of mind. Understanding the link between the vineyard and the winery is vital, and one she believes will reduce unnecessary physical work and enhance the quality and taste of wine produced.

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MARK LAW
Sydney Royal Wine Professional Development
The Advanced Wine Assessment Course trains the palate to detect subtle nuances between wines of the same grape and vintage, even the same region and will fill the gaps in Mark’s education and skill set. His career has transitioned from sales to sommelier and on to wine merchant, with training and experience furthering his ambitions and deep affection for the Australian wine industry.

NICOLE BILSON
Sydney Royal Wine Professional Development
The AWRI Advanced Wine Assessment Course will see Nicole Bilson take her career to the next level and guarantee her future as a wine educator and ambassador for the Australian wine industry. Nicole is driven by the need to promote the local industry and ensure our judges, winemakers and sommeliers can hold their own against international tastes and tell the stories of Australian wines above all others. Nicole’s scholarship is sponsored by The Len Evans Tutorial Foundation.

GIANNA FUIMARA
Sydney Royal Wine Study
With a world-renowned wine region at its back door it is fitting that the Bachelor of Viticulture & Oenology at the University of Adelaide enticed Gianna to move across from Leeton in NSW. Gianna respects the individuality of each bottle of wine and its ability to tell the story of a region, country and winemaker, and is equally fascinated by the complexity of the industry. Gianna aims to be at the forefront of innovation within the Australian wine industry, blending inspiration from thousands of years of winemaking with modern methods for today’s consumers.

JARED BIANCHINI
Sydney Royal Wine Study
With a childhood spent on harvesters and tractors, and many a ride taking a truckload of grapes to the winery it was inevitable Jared would grow up and find his way into a Bachelor of Wine Science degree. Jared tried his hand at a few things, but a seasonal job at a vineyard in south Tuscany reminded him of his first love and he came home to study and work in the Australian wine industry. Jared hopes to immerse himself in research and development and to explore environmentally friendly techniques in winemaking.

SAMANTHA SUTHERLAND
Sydney Royal Wine Study
Studying a Bachelor of Wine Science at Charles Sturt University, Samantha is taking advantage of the opportunity to meet mentors and form relationships with fellow aspiring vintners. Acknowledging the highs and lows of a career reliant on Mother Nature mixed with science, Samantha is combining her studies with a vast range of volunteer and work experience in areas including judging, trade tastings, hospitality work and vineyards. Samantha’s goal is to craft her own wine and play a role in the community of winemakers in Australia.

THOMAS HOUGTON
Sydney Royal Wine Study
A Bachelor of Agriculture & Technology (Viticulture & Winemaking) will see Thomas graduate ready to commence his career as a winemaker with a broader understanding of marketing, business, research opportunities, and producing high quality fruit in an everchanging climate. Thomas has worked as a cellar hand, tasting host, and assistant winemaker, and has developed a keen interest in the disciplines of science, nature and art in each bottle of wine produced.
RASF NUFFIELD SCHOLARSHIP

Nuffield Farming Scholarships were first awarded in 1947 and forged a trail in the fields of seeds, wool and dairy farming. Nuffield Scholars continue to learn and share knowledge all around the world and the RASF is proud to lend its support by sponsoring a Scholarship.

MICHAEL CAINS  KNIGHTS HILL
Taking his place amongst those who are determined to make positive changes in the agriculture sector, Michael Cains is the 2021 RASF-sponsored Nuffield recipient and will travel from his home in Robertson, NSW to the United States and Canada in order to explore best-practice approaches to raw milk cheese (RMC) production, training and marketing. Michael is the owner of Pecora Dairy, the only sheep milking enterprise in New South Wales, milking 150 ewes to produce award-winning cheeses including a blue, fresh curd and a mould-ripened bloomy. Through his scholarship, Michael plans to investigate global agricultural methods of dairy farming for RMC production, how to harness the presence of beneficial local micro-flora and seasonal conditions, create unique, safe cheeses that reflect the landscape, and analyse the business model of RMC to quantify opportunity for business growth.

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.

NORTH STAR CWA
KYLIE PEARLMAN
North Star is an isolated rural community approximately 742 km north north-west of Sydney, with a dedicated CWA and an 82-year-old Memorial Hall in desperate need of maintenance. The tallowwood floor in the hall has borne the weight of dancers, pre-schoolers, fitness groups, ANZAC Day service attendees, primary school students, and a lot more, and is now in need of some serious nail punching, hole filling, sanding, and sealing. The renovated floor surface will make the Memorial Hall safer, more attractive, and the first option for groups seeking a venue for activities.

AGRICULTURAL PASTORAL AND SHOW SOCIETY OF LOCKHART INC.
WILLIAM ALLITT
Located in the Riverina region of NSW, Lockhart has a Show Society looking for ways to increase community events and enhance the experience for attendees and participants. New equipment including a portable stage and steps, plus tables and chairs will reduce costs associated with hiring equipment, ensuring funds raised at events will stay with the Society. The new stage with easier access will allow for greater inclusion and benefit a wide range of community groups. Event attendees will feel welcomed with extra tables and seating, improving the look of the Showground.

CUMNOCK SHOW SOCIETY
RHONDA WATT
In the west north-west of NSW, the small town of Cumnock has a Show Society kitchen needing more storage space, new equipment, and working areas for prep and cooking. The Showground is a major hub for the community, holding the annual Show, horse events, dog competitions, Council events, and seminars. The kitchen barely complies with health and safety standards and will not survive much longer, and important moneymaking opportunities will be lost. The kitchen upgrade will lead to increased use of the facilities from the community and funds to ensure the Showground can continue to improve and enhance all of its facilities.
UARBRY HALL ASSOCIATION
GRANT PIPER
In the middle of the Central West, a rest stop must be equipped with Public Use Water and Amenities, and that is exactly what the people of Uarbry are after – amenities/public toilets alongside the shaded structure weary travellers are drawn to. The shade structure was built to replace the Historic Uarbry Hall – destroyed by the Sir Ivan bushfire in 2017, but amenities weren’t included. The small community calling this village home wants to attract visitors off the highway and hope picnic tables, shade, toilets, and some peace and quiet could be just the thing to do it.

TRUNDRLE SHOW TRUST
DEBBIE ANDERSON
Trundle Showground, in the Central West of NSW, is home to an impressive range of events including the annual Agricultural Show, Bush Tucker Day, ABBA Festival and Australia’s only flatland hang gliding competition - Wings Out West. The Showground has a full calendar of annual events, but the current facilities struggle to cope, and volunteers are reluctant to assist due to compromised safety and incredibly poor working conditions. The revamp of the hospitality area will make the venue more functional, easier to work in, and ease the workload and stress of volunteers.

INVERELL COMMUNITY GARDENS
JANE O’BRIEN
The Community Garden in Inverell has been an absolute labour of love for all concerned since its inception in 2013. Nine years later and the land on which they grow was reclaimed by the council and they had to find a new home. The move allowed for smarter planning, and shade is a priority for volunteers and visitors. The Garden is an amazing space, providing a social hub, educational area, sense of purpose, creative outlet, and an enhanced sense of belonging to a nurturing community. The construction of shade shelter by a hardy bunch of volunteers will further contribute to this self-sustaining community hub.
THE AG BAG
RASF Patron Mr Dennis Wilson (third from right) lends a hand at the RASF AG Bag stand at the 2021 Sydney Royal Easter Show.
L-R: William Davies (RAS Honorary Councillor), Maria Gioffre (RASF Admin), Bruce Paynter (RASF Board), Robyn Clubb AM (RASF Chair), Caitlin Armson-Graham (RASF Rural Scholar), Mr Dennis Wilson, Brad Chapman (RASF Rural Scholar), Cecilia Logan (RASF Manager)
DONORS

We sincerely thank the following donors and supporters for their generous support of the RAS Foundation in 2021.

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