



2023 GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

RASF
RAS FOUNDATION

RAS FOUNDATION

The 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 \$8.2 million into rural and regional communities through a range of targeted grants and scholarships. To date, the RAS Foundation has supported over 820 rural scholarship students to reach their educational dreams and awarded 154 organisations vital community building funding.

Donations to the RAS Foundation are tax deductible.

GIVING TO DATE

AS AT JUNE 2023

**Program: RASF Community Futures Grant
(including Community Kitchens & E3 Grants)**

Duration: 14 years

Grants Awarded: 154 grants

Funds Distributed: \$1,907,766

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

Duration: 15 years

Grants Awarded: 15

Funds Distributed: \$150,000

Program: Rural Scholarships (including Wine & Dairy Scholarships)

Duration: 13 years

Grants Awarded: 821 Scholarships

Funds Distributed: \$3,961,210

Program: RAS Foundation Kitchen & Christmas Toy Distribution

Duration: 6 years

Funds Distributed: \$1,890,291

Program: RAS Foundation Nuffield Scholarship

Duration: 3 years

Grants Awarded: 3 Scholarships

Funds Distributed: \$90,000

<i>Other:</i>	<i>2021 Ribbon Rug Project for Regional Hospitals</i>	<i>\$42,000</i>
	<i>2021 Forbes High School Stand Tall Sponsorship</i>	<i>\$12,500</i>
	<i>2022 Showground Flood Relief</i>	<i>\$20,000</i>
	<i>2022 Wellington High School Stand Tall Sponsorship</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>
	<i>2023 Helping Eugowra Community Children's Centre</i>	<i>\$58,603</i>
	<i>2023 Mt Austin High School, Wagga Wagga</i>	
	<i>Stand Tall Sponsorship</i>	<i>\$10,400</i>
	<i>2023 RAS Rural Learning Exchange Agricultural</i>	
	<i>Teacher Program</i>	<i>\$25,000</i>

Total \$8,172,770

RURAL SCHOLARSHIPS

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 and the ACT. These scholarships help students of all ages achieve their education goals and aspirations and embrace a diverse range of tertiary education and training studies.



MASON ANDERSON BALRANALD

Certificate III in Engineering – Mechanical Trade

Mason Anderson is in his second year of studying a Certificate III in Engineering – Mechanical at SuniTAFE in Mildura. Growing up in a small rural town on the edge of the Hay plains, Mason's social activities revolved around community sport including football and motorcross which led to him competing in events all over the State. After finishing school, Mason started an apprenticeship with a local rural engineering company which he is enjoying very much and he is thankful to learn new skills in the trade every day.

Scholarship donated by: OCS Fun Pty Ltd

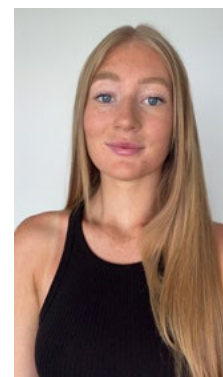


CHLOE BAILEY-HOWELL TERALBA

Bachelors of Veterinary Biology and Veterinary Science

Chloe Bailey Howell, a 22-year-old student, is entering her fourth year of a Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga. She is passionate about animal health and welfare, particularly in relation to production animals, and has a strong desire to pursue a career in rural mixed practice. Chloe's primary area of interest is reproduction, and she aspires to specialise in cattle reproduction as she advances in her career. In addition to her studies, Chloe is actively involved in the Limousin Youth Association, where she aims to support youth in agriculture and provide opportunities for people in the industry.

Scholarship donated by: Mogul Brahman Stud



GABBIE BARRATT INVERELL

Bachelor of Urban Design and Town Planning (honours)

Gabbie Barratt is 18 years old and comes from the Northern NSW town of Inverell. Gabbie has been involved with the Northern District Exhibit (NDE) her whole life, following in the footsteps of her father. This has opened her eyes to the struggles for those living in rural communities. Gabbie would like to work at helping improve conditions in rural NSW, and is studying a Bachelor of Urban Design and Town Planning (Honours) at the Sunshine Coast University. Upon graduation, Gabbie wants to move back to rural NSW and apply her knowledge to help rural and remote communities survive natural disasters.

Scholarship donated by: Millner Family Trust



EMILY BARTON COLLARENEBRI
Bachelor of Agribusiness

At 22 years of age, Emily Barton currently holds the position of livestock manager in a farming business and works as a contract stock worker part-time. Her experience in these roles stems from her upbringing on a property located in Collarenebri, a town in north-west New South Wales. Emily is currently in the final year of her Bachelor of Agribusiness program at the University of New England (UNE). Emily has a particular interest in beef and aspires to specialise in this area. Her passion for beef has been fostered through her involvement with prominent figures in the industry and her participation as a judge in various beef competitions. Notably, she achieved the distinction of Grand Champion Junior Judge at Wingham Beef Week.

Scholarship donated by: UNE Foundation



LAURA BEAUMONT BATHURST
Doctor of Medicine

Laura Beaumont is a final-year medical student at Western Sydney University and is currently based in Bathurst while she undertakes a year-long placement with the Western NSW Local Health District. Having grown up in a small town in the Hunter Valley, Laura has always had an affinity for the country way of life. Throughout her time at university, Laura has presided over her university's rural health club and sat on a number of national committees working to improve healthcare in rural areas. Laura is acutely aware of the importance of bringing high-quality healthcare to all corners of the country and is very excited to be commencing her career as a rural doctor in Orange next year.

Scholarship donated by: Woolworths



KALEB BILES GWABEGAR
Certificate III in Carpentry

Kaleb Biles is studying a Certificate III in Carpentry at TAFE NSW and is a first-year apprentice with a local building firm based in Narrabri. Kaleb is enjoying his apprenticeship and learning about building and renovating homes. Kaleb's love for carpentry started at an early age when he enjoyed working with tools and helping his pop. Kaleb's goal is to start his own building business in a rural and remote area to help ensure that these communities have access to a local qualified builder.

Scholarship donated by: Millner Family Trust



LAURA BOWMAKER BOMADERRY
Bachelor of Nursing (Honours)

Born and raised in the Shoalhaven region on the south coast of NSW, Laura Bowmaker is currently studying a Master in Indigenous Health through the University of Wollongong. Growing up, Laura was keenly aware of the need for more health specialists in rural and remote communities and she hopes to effectively contribute to addressing the health inequities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Laura hopes to explore a strengths-based approach in overcoming the gap in health outcomes and making a difference to her community.

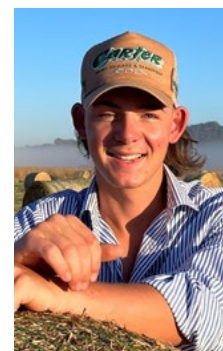
Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation



CHLOE BRAMLEY ARMIDALE
Bachelors of Veterinary Biology and Veterinary Science

Chloe Bramley is 17 years old and currently studying a Certificate III in Agricultural production at Tocal College. From a young age Chloe has been interested in animals and farming, but her passion really grew after studying agriculture as a subject in school. Chloe's goals within the industry are to further her learning around developing technology and sustainable farming practices, whilst working and travelling throughout regional Australia. Chloe hopes to be a principled asset to the Agricultural industry, especially as a young female.

Scholarship donated by: Paynter-Swane Family



MATTHEW BURGESS NANIMA
Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management

Matthew Burgess is in his first year of a Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Having grown up on the family farm in the Yass Valley, Matthew is excited to be studying agriculture in a formal environment and learning new skills to apply both at home and in his future employment. Matthew is passionate about working on the land, particularly in animal production and enjoys building relationships and solving problems and is interested in venturing into the Stock and Station agency pathway once he graduates.

Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation



CASSANDRA BUSH COOTAMUNDRA
Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Agriculture

Cassandra Bush is in her fourth year of a double degree in Law and Agriculture at the University of New England. Growing up on a beef cattle and mixed grazing property, Cassandra has always had a passion for agriculture and an attachment to the land, and it is this that has led her to undertake these studies. Cassandra wants to work within farming communities and advocate for their rights, and help farmers navigate the complex legal and regulatory environment. Cassandra wants to contribute to the future of our agricultural industry by working to achieve better policies for agricultural producers and regional communities.
Scholarship donated by: UNE Foundation & Maple-Brown Family Foundation



ZOE CARGILL BRAIDWOOD
Certificate IV in Agriculture

Zoe Cargill is completing her second year at Tocal College studying a Certificate IV in Agriculture as well as completing a Diploma in Agriculture. Zoe grew up on a beef and lamb grazing property in the small town of Braidwood and understands the tough challenges the industry faces such as droughts and bushfires. Zoe is passionate about the agricultural industry and is looking forward to supporting rural businesses and communities to develop better strategies to reinforce and strengthen resilience in the future to overcome these testing challenges.
Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation



RACHEL CAVANAGH YOUNG
Bachelor of Nursing

Rachel Cavanagh grew up on a mixed cropping and sheep farm near Young and is studying a Bachelor of Nursing at the University of Canberra. Rachel's rural upbringing gave her a better understanding of the need for greater access to essential healthcare, so her plan is to work in rural and remote areas upon graduation. Rachel believes that, more than ever, these communities deserve to be provided with quality healthcare. Rachel is hoping to complete post graduate studies in midwifery or rural and remote nursing.
Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation



BRAD CHAPMAN FINE FLOWER
Bachelor of Education (Secondary)

Brad Chapman is in his final year of his education degree in Secondary Education (Humanities) at the University of Newcastle. Over the past three years Brad has completed two practicum experiences which have been incredible learning opportunities and have reinforced that his career choice is the right one. Brad feels that with his agricultural upbringing and his teaching skills that he can make a difference in the academic journey of his future students.
Scholarship donated by: Maple-Brown Family Foundation



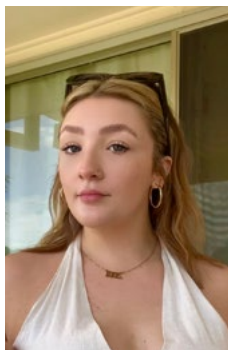
ROSS CHARLES PORT MACQUARIE
Bachelor of Construction Project Management

Growing up in Port Macquarie as the middle child in a family of seven, Ross Charles, comes from a line of builders who have built homes in Port Macquarie, Wauchope, Kempsey, and Lake Cathie. Ross' wish is to become a fourth-generation builder alongside his father and grow the family business to benefit the wider rural community. Ross is studying a Bachelor of Construction Project Management at the University of Technology Sydney as a pathway to gain experience in the building industry.
Scholarship donated by: Maple-Brown Family Foundation



ALYSSA CHISHOLM GULMARRAD
Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science

Alyssa Chisholm is an 18-year-old undergraduate student in the first year of a Bachelor of Diagnostic Radiography at Charles Sturt University, Port Macquarie campus. Raised in regional northern NSW, Alyssa has always enjoyed an outdoors lifestyle and appreciates the freedom of a rural upbringing. Alyssa is an athlete and keen runner, and the odd injury has made her aware of the need for more medical specialists in the bush, and for this reason she will return to her regional community to pursue her career when she graduates.
Scholarship donated by: David and Belinda Davidson



TIARNA CONDREN DENILQUIN
Bachelor of Communications (Journalism)

Growing up in rural New South Wales, Tiarna Condren learnt early on the importance of highlighting issues that communities in rural and regional areas face. Tiarna is currently studying a Bachelor of Communication (Journalism) at RMIT to expand her knowledge in helping these stories come to light and hopes to create a platform in which she can showcase the stories of rural community members. Tiarna has a keen interest in giving people a voice and would take pride in helping others to share their struggles and stories.

Scholarship donated by: Mary & Peter Weal



MARCUS DAVEY TUMUT
Certificate III in Carpentry

Marcus Davey always had a passion for building. It started as a young child playing with Lego, and has now become his career, thanks to his apprenticeship in building and construction and his studies for a Certificate III in Carpentry. Marcus began building sheds in his small local community and discovered a high demand and shortage for building and construction tradespeople, which became more evident after the 2019 bushfires. Marcus wants to help build a 'better, brighter and more sustainable world', especially in rural areas.

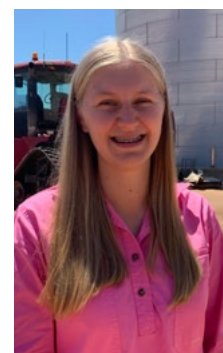
Scholarship donated by: Millner Family Trust



MATTHEW COOK SINGLETON
Bachelor of Medical Studies/Doctor of Medicine

Matthew Cook is a fifth-year medical student studying and living at UNSW Rural Clinical School, Port Macquarie. Matthew's interest lies in optimising cardiovascular health, and he is currently undertaking research for a greater understanding of strokes. Matthew hopes to become a cardiologist, and due to his upbringing in a rural town, hopes to return to a rural setting to set up his practice and foster a better engagement with patients and the community.

Scholarship donated by: Michael & Jen Millner



EMMA DIXON QUANDIALLA
Bachelor Medical Radiation Science

Emma Dixon grew up on a sheep and cropping farm in the small rural town of Quandialla in Central West NSW. Emma is currently in her fourth-year residency for a Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science, specialising in Diagnostic Radiography, which she is completing at Bathurst Base Hospital. During this year of placement, Emma is looking forward to working with a variety of patients, some of which come from similar backgrounds to her. Emma believes this year will provide her with the foundations and skills necessary for a career in regional healthcare.

Scholarship donated by: Exponet



ROHAN COWLEY INVERELL
Bachelor of Education (K-6)

Rohan Cowley is from Inverell in the New England region of NSW. He is 21 years of age and is currently in his final year of a Bachelor of Education (K-6) at the University of New England. He is a passionate member of the Inverell community, volunteering as a youth mentor, educator, and treasurer for Inverell AECG. Additionally, Rohan holds the position of vice president of APEX Inverell. He takes pride in his Kamilaroi heritage and incorporates it into his daily life, as well as through his involvement with the local AECG, aiming to enhance the education journey of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

Scholarship donated by: Maple-Brown Family Foundation & UNE Foundation



GEORGIA DONOGHUE ARMIDALE
Bachelors in Economics & Mathematical Sciences

In the early years of her life, Georgia Donoghue's family lived on the Liverpool Plains before moving near Armidale for her education. Georgia grew up helping on the farm and developed a love for agriculture, an industry that she strives to be a part of as it has helped shape her life. At school, Georgia developed a love for maths and interest in economics and is currently studying a Bachelor of Mathematical Sciences/Bachelor of Economics at the Australian National University which she can't wait to combine with her passion for agriculture.

Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation



JESSE EMERY KARIONG
Certificate III in Agriculture

Jesse Emery was previously working as a cabinet maker for two years before he took the plunge into the amazing world of Agriculture and is now studying a Certificate III in Agriculture at Tocal College. Jesse enjoys picking up his banjo after a busy day at the dairy or out in the yards and likes to go camping, rock climbing and spending time in the outdoors. Jesse is looking forward to see what adventures lie next in his Agriculture career.

Scholarship donated by: Mogul Brahman Stud



GEORGINA EVANS BRAIDWOOD
Bachelor of Medical Studies/Doctor of Medicine

Georgina Evans is completing her Bachelor of Medical Studies/Doctor of Medicine degree rurally at the University of New South Wales Rural Clinical School in Port Macquarie. In her fifth-year, Georgina will complete a month of practicum in Broken Hill. Hailing from Braidwood, Georgina dreams of living on a property again in the future whilst also being heavily involved in caring for the health of her rural community.

Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation



ANABELLA FAIRBAIRN ENGADINE
Bachelor of Education (K-6)

Studying at Tocal College, Anabella Fairbairn is completing a Certificate IV and a Diploma in Agriculture and finishing off a Certificate IV in wool classing. Anabella hopes to work in the sheep industry when she finishes her studies. Growing up, the opportunities to be involved in agriculture were scarce, so Anabella joined the school agricultural program. Anabella is also a part of NSW Alpaca Youth and knows agriculture is where her passion lies.

Scholarship donated by: Coolaroo Foundation



HOLLY FORDHAM THE ROCK
Bachelor of Nursing

Growing up in the small rural community of The Rock, Holly Fordham has seen the need for young health professionals to replace the ageing workforce in country hospitals. Holly is completing her final year of a Bachelor of Nursing at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Holly's goal after graduation is to nurse in a rural or regional hospital, and assist with staff shortages and to improve accessibility and quality of healthcare for people in rural areas. She also hopes to further her studies in paediatrics and midwifery.

Scholarship donated by: Woolworths



KIMBERLEY FRY THIRROUL
Certificate III in Agricultural Production

Kimberley Fry is studying a Certificate III in Agricultural Production at Tocal College and she is enjoying learning new skills such as drafting cattle and the importance of practicing low-stress stock handling. Kimberley's interest in animals and agriculture was sparked by her visits to see her aunt in the country and knew that one day she would like to live in the country and have a horse of her own. Kimberley is excited about the future and the different job opportunities that a career in agriculture presents.

Scholarship donated by: The Profield Foundation



EMILY GARTNER FORBES
Bachelor of Veterinary Technology

Emily Gartner has grown up in a small country town in Central West NSW. Growing up on a sheep farm and participating in her school show team, preparing and showing both sheep and cattle, has contributed to Emily's love for animals. This inspired Emily to study a Bachelor of Animal Science through Charles Sturt University. Emily wants to be able to give back to small rural communities like her own and to further immerse herself within the agricultural industry.

Scholarship donated by: The Agricultural Societies Council of NSW



MOLLY GILL VINCENTIA
Certificate IV in VET Nursing

Molly Gill is currently studying a Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing at TAFE NSW. At a young age, Molly developed a passion for horses which then extended to all varieties of animals, whether large or small, which in turn led her to embark on her dream job of becoming a Veterinary Nurse. Molly has three dogs and two birds that she adores and enjoys practicing her Vet Nursing skills on them, checking their health, and making sure they enjoy good nutrition. As part of her school team, Molly has also enjoyed showing alpacas and has competed at regional shows and the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Scholarship donated by: Coolaroo Foundation



CHELSEA GIRDLER YASS
Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Science

Originally from Yass, Chelsea Girdler is about to enter her final year of Veterinary Science at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga. Coming from a small rural community, Chelsea has grown up around animals ranging from snakes to horses. Chelsea's early exposure to all species, great and small, developed into a drive for a career in veterinary medicine. Chelsea hopes that upon graduation she will be able to provide quality veterinary care to stock, domestic, and wildlife species in remote and rural areas where veterinary services are often limited or absent.

Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation



AMBER GORDON GILGAI
Master of Teaching (Secondary)

Amber Gordon is currently studying a Master of Teaching (Secondary) at the University of New England. Growing up in a small rural town in the Northern Tablelands, Amber was surrounded by endless opportunities for agriculture. Amber was fortunate enough to be able to study agriculture in high school and this was when she experienced the impact a great agricultural teacher can have on a student. This has inspired Amber to pursue a career as an agricultural teacher. Studying at the University of New England, Amber's wish is to inspire future generations of the values and opportunities of the industry.

Scholarship donated by: UNE Foundation & Maple-Brown Family Foundation



CHELSEA GORDON BARELLAN
Agricultural Science

Chelsea Gordon is currently studying a Bachelor of Agricultural Science at Charles Stuart University in Wagga Wagga, majoring in Agronomy. Chelsea grew up in a small farming area called Colinroobie in New South Wales and was involved in numerous sports and community events including the Annual Barellan Show. On completion of her course, Chelsea hopes to graduate as an Agronomist. Chelsea has a large interest in cropping, growing up around sheep and cropping and this has significantly influenced her passion for agriculture.

Scholarship donated by: Sushi Hub



OLIVIA HAMILTON COOTAMUNDRA
Bachelor of Health Science

Olivia Hamilton is in her third and final year studying a Bachelor of Health Science (pre-med stream) at The Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra. Olivia has recently accepted an offer to study a Doctor of Medicine and Surgery at ANU and is aiming to get accepted into the rural stream program. Through her chosen profession, Olivia hopes to improve health outcomes and reduce inequalities for disadvantaged groups, helping to ensure that rural and remote communities have access to compassionate and competent medical care.

Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation



CAMPBELL HANCOCK NARRABRI
Certificate III in Plumbing

Campbell Hancock is studying a Certificate III in Plumbing at the Tamworth campus of TAFE NSW whilst working for a local plumbing company in Narrabri. Campbell would like to become a fully licensed plumber and gas fitter and help to fill the shortage of qualified tradesman in rural NSW. Campbell appreciates that local sports can bring communities together and he enjoys playing rugby union and cricket.

Scholarship donated by: The Profield Foundation



KIARA HARRIS CONDOBOLIN
Bachelor of Science in Psychology

Kiara Harris is a proud descendant of the Barkindji people from the Darling River of Wilcannia. Born in Gunnedah (Gamilaroi country), Kiara has lived in Condobolin (Wiradjuri country) for the majority of her life. The middle child of a close extended family with six siblings, Kiara has been an active member of Condobolin for eight years through school, work and community service. Kiara enjoys living in a rural community and feel this will always be part of her identity. Kiara is in her first year of studying a Bachelor of Science in Psychology at the University of Canberra.

Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation



CHRISTIE HAYWARD SINGLETON
Certificate III in Engineering- Heavy Fabrication

Christie Hayward grew up in Sydney but moved to Singleton after she completed her secondary schooling so that she could pursue a career as a boilermaker. After completing her Certificate III in Engineering – Heavy Fabrication, Christie hopes to work in a rural or regional community carrying out jobs like repairing fences, machinery work and the fabrication of steel structures. Christie has a keen interest in alpacas and is currently the secretary of the NSW Alpaca Youth Group. This role sees her organising youth events for the organisation, including expos and events at local shows, as well as the annual NSW Alpaca Youth Camp. Christie enjoys helping other alpaca breeders at shows and volunteers her time to help shear when she can.

Scholarship donated by: Coolaroo Foundation



BEATRICE HUMPHRIES BURRAGA
Bachelor of Veterinary Biology / Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Beatrice Humphries is in her fifth year of studying veterinary medicine at the University of Sydney. Growing up around the beef and wool industries near Burraga, it has always been Beatrice's goal to return to the bush after university. Beatrice hopes her role as a country veterinarian will provide, not only an opportunity to work alongside farmers, but to help small rural communities meet the various challenges that arise with animal health. While wanting to work in a mixed practice veterinary clinic upon graduation, Beatrice also has an interest in livestock breeding, genetics, and reproductive technologies.

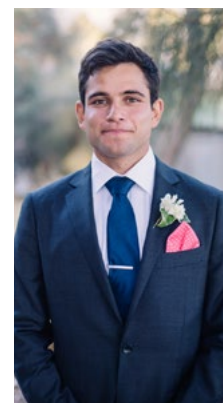
Scholarship donated by: NSW Stud Merino Breeders' Association



MADDY JERRETT COONAMBLE
Bachelor of Primary Education/Masters in Autism

Maddy Jerrett is 19 years old and hails from the small rural town of Coonamble. Maddy spent her gap year working as a teachers aid in her hometown where she discovered an interest in teaching. Maddy is particularly passionate about teaching children with learning and social difficulties, leading her to pursue a Bachelor of Primary Education with a Masters in Autism at the University of Wollongong. Maddy is a vocal advocate for change in rural areas and was a member of the inaugural Regional Youth Taskforce.

Scholarship donated by: Michael & Jen Millner



JAMIL KHALFAN ORANGE
Doctor of Medicine

A proud product of Harden-Murrumburrah, Jamil's parents were the sole practitioners of the only medical centre for over four decades, and so it follows perfectly that Jamil is studying Medicine at the Rural Medical School in Orange. After working as a Clinical Pharmacist throughout the Central West, providing support in hospitals and community pharmacies, these experiences reinvigorated Jamil's passion for rural health. Jamil feels that giving back to rural communities is as much about making cultural impacts as clinical ones and he looks forward to carrying out the rest of his career in regional areas enjoying the unique opportunities they provide.

Scholarship donated by: Andrew Pratten Charitable Trust



CARMEN MACGREGOR QUAAMA
Doctor of Medicine

Carmen Macgregor is a third-year medical student who grew up in the small town of Quaama where she reaped the benefits of country living. After high school, Carmen made the move to Wollongong to pursue her dreams of studying medicine. Carmen's rural upbringing meant she saw the gap in healthcare that exists between the city and country, but also the profound impact doctors can make within a community. This prompted Carmen's interest in becoming a doctor and make a difference in the lives of people and families living within rural areas.

Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation

**OSCAR MASON** WEST WYALONG**Bachelor of Medical Studies/Doctor of Medicine**

Oscar Mason is originally from the small town of West Wyalong and in 2021 he moved to the University of New South Wales to study under their undergraduate Medicine program, with the dream of returning to the country as a rural practitioner. Oscar was fortunate to complete his first two years in Sydney, before moving back out west to Wagga Wagga in 2023 for 12 months of clinical placement. The opportunity to study in a regional setting is an incredible one and reinforces his belief in the need for more doctors and medical specialists throughout rural and regional NSW.

Scholarship donated by: Andrew Pratten Charitable Trust

**LUKE MCDEAN** BOGAN GATE**Bachelor Of Education (Secondary)**

Luke McDean is currently enrolled at the University of Newcastle studying a Bachelor of Secondary Education (Health and Physical Education). Luke comes from the small town of Bogan Gate and grew up on a hobby farm, enjoying the lifestyle. Luke has always known that he will go back once he has completed his studies and plans to teach in rural areas. PDHPE teaching is a career in which Luke sees himself giving back to the community and educating students about the importance and benefits of their personal health.

Scholarship donated by: Millner Family Trust

**HUGH MCDOULL** UPPER HORTON**Bachelor of Rural Science**

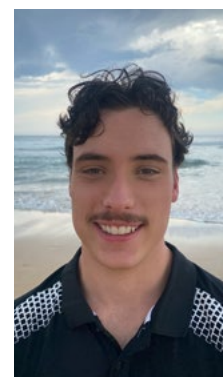
Horton Valley raised, Hugh McDouall has been fortunate to experience a mix of agriculture growing up on the family farm and experience the challenges that can materialise. Hugh believes that science can offer a dependable solution; from simple production inefficiencies to dealing with climate and seasonal variability. To be a part of the next evolution of agriculture Hugh decided to do a science based agricultural degree and is currently completing an honours project investigating improved options in establishing tropical grasses. Hugh's career goal is to work in research and to enhance production outcomes for farmers.

Scholarship donated by: UNE Foundation & Millner Family Trust

**SARAH MCGANN** MOGO**Bachelor of Science (Environmental)**

Sarah McGann is a first-year student of a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature. She is studying at the University of Wollongong, Batemans Bay campus. Sarah has spent her whole life in Mogo, located on the South Coast. Sarah's family home was lost in the Black Summer Bushfires and this firsthand experience enables her to understand the challenges faced by many regional students. Sarah would like to teach in regional schools and help ensure that students from the country have the same educational opportunities as those in metropolitan areas.

Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation

**CHARLES MCLANDBOROUGH** BATHURST**Bachelor of Business & International Studies**

Charles McLandsborough is a second year Bachelor of Business & International Studies student at the University of Wollongong and hopes to use his degree to promote public policy to advocate for ethical and effective solutions supporting rural Australia across multiple sectors. Growing up in Bathurst has given Charles an understanding of the strong correlation that policy decisions have on the welfare of the local population. Charles wants to engage with rural Australia and encourage positive discourse, resulting in the design and facilitation of ideas to resolve rural issues, and to deliver on community objectives.

Scholarship donated by: Andrew Pratten Charitable Trust

**FIONA MCPHERSON TUCKEY** NARRABRI**Bachelor of Social Work**

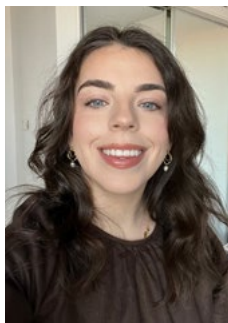
Fiona McPherson Tuckey is from Wee Waa near Narrabri, and is married with six children. Fiona is currently studying a Bachelor of Social Work and has grown up in rural areas for most of her childhood, on a property near Bellata with her grandparents and also in the Bellingen area. As a social worker, Fiona would like to work in rural communities and utilise her skills to help those in the farming community who are resilient but face unique hardships.

Scholarship donated by: Millner Family Trust

**MONIQUE MORGAN** TRUNDLE**Bachelor of Nursing**

Monique Morgan grew up in Trundle, a small farming community in NSW. In 2022 Monique moved to Bathurst to study a Bachelor of Nursing and is now in her second year of study. As she grew up in a small rural area, Monique understands the health inequities faced, especially that in the field of mental health. When Monique graduates, she wishes to return to rural NSW and help address the mental health issues experienced by those in the bush and provide a positive impact to those who struggle with their mental wellbeing.

Scholarship donated by: Quayclean

**SOPHIE MORRISON** BROKEN HILL**Bachelor of Medical Science and Doctor of Medicine**

Sophie Morrison is currently in her penultimate year of a Bachelor of Medical Science and Doctor of Medicine. Born and bred in Broken Hill, Sophie traded red dirt for the coast and moved to Wollongong in 2018 to pursue her lifelong dream of becoming a doctor. Sophie is now based in Newcastle after spending the last three years studying in Armidale. Sophie is passionate about rural and remote health and hopes to help increase specialist care in the bush once she has completed her studies.

Scholarship donated by: UNE Foundation & Maple-Brown Family Foundation

**EMILY MORTON** WAGGA WAGGA**Certificate IV in Wool Classing**

Emily Morton comes from a mixed cereal-grains and Merino cross sheep farming operation in the Riverina area of NSW. Emily is 25 years of age and has been involved in the wool industry for almost three years; working in sheds around the Riverina as a roustabout. Working in the sheds is definitely a passion of hers as she loves the hard work involved and the environment she works in. Emily is currently studying for a Certificate IV in Wool Classing at TAFE as she sees it furthering her career opportunities and skill base working in the wool industry of Australia.

Scholarship donated by: The Profield Foundation

**ERIN MUNRO** WAGGA WAGGA**Bachelor of Agricultural Science (Honours)**

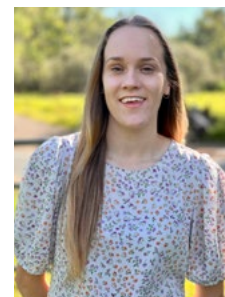
Erin Munro grew up on a livestock property in South-West Victoria, before moving to Wagga Wagga in 2020 to commence her studies in Agricultural Science at Charles Sturt University. Erin never imagined that she would pursue a career in cotton, but thanks to Summit Ag she has hit the ground running in learning anything there is to know about cotton and endeavours to become a research agronomist in the Riverina. Erin's dream is to help growers continue to improve their sustainability in the cotton industry, by reducing carbon and water footprint going forward.

Scholarship donated by: Nell & Hermon Slade Trust

**KATE NELSON** TOOLEYBUC**Bachelor of education (k-12)**

Kate Nelson is a third-year Bachelor of Education (K-12) student studying at Charles Sturt University, Albury. Kate has lived all her life in rural NSW and is excited by the opportunity to continue living and working in such a setting. Kate feels that her degree will contribute to increasing the learning opportunities for rural students, and she hopes to inspire them in much the same way her early teachers inspired her.

Scholarship donated by: The Profield Foundation

**PHOEBE NELSON** TOOLEYBUC**Bachelor of education (k-12)**

Phoebe Nelson is a third-year student at Charles Sturt University in Albury studying a Bachelor of Education (K-12). Phoebe grew up in Tooleybuc in the Western Riverina district, almost a thousand kilometres from Sydney. A teaching career will allow Phoebe to contribute to her community by sharing her knowledge with future generations and bring her passion to engaging students to succeed in all aspects of education in rural and remote school settings.

Scholarship donated by: Millner Family Trust



TIMOTHY NELSON TOOLEYBUC
Bachelor of Nursing

Timothy Nelson comes from the Western Riverina district and has spent his whole life in rural and remote areas. Timothy is in his final year studying a Bachelor of Nursing at the Albury campus of Charles Sturt University. Timothy feels that a nursing career will allow him to contribute and give back to his community by providing high-quality medical care which is lacking in many rural areas. Once his studies are complete, Timothy plans to return to the Western Riverina.

Scholarship donated by: Quayclean



GRACE NESBITT SYDNEY
Certificate III in Agriculture

Grace Nesbitt is 18 years old and studying a Certificate III in Agriculture at Tocal College. Grace's passion for agriculture started through the NSW Alpaca Youth group at the beginning of high school, and she now works at different alpaca farms and with a shearer for the shearing season. Grace is the Australian Alpaca Association Liaison Officer for the youth group and enjoys teaching our younger generations. Through her studies at Tocal College, Grace will be able to explore more industries, and she is excited to work with dairy and beef cattle on the college's working farms this year.

Scholarship donated by: RAS Youth Group



HANNAH NEWSOME GLEN INNES
Diploma in Science

Hannah Newsome is studying a Diploma in Science at The University of Queensland. Born and raised in Glen Innes, Hannah enjoyed living on her family's sheep and cattle farm and growing up in a rural community. Experiencing the hardships not only of disasters such as the drought and bushfires, but also the ongoing struggle of having limited access to vital services such as healthcare, has sparked Hannah's desire to contribute to a solution and give back to communities like her own.

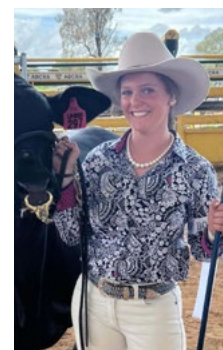
Scholarship donated by: Millner Family Trust



HUGH ORD COOLAH
Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering (Honours)

Hugh Ord is from a mixed farming operation outside of Coolah. The property has been in Hugh's family for four generations with his father and grandfather still actively involved. Ever since he can remember Hugh has always had an interest in motors and machinery and the different workings of these within a farming environment. With the Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering (Honours) that Hugh is studying, he endeavours to learn ways that machinery can be innovated to alleviate costs, improve efficiencies, and increase productivity on farms. Hugh would like to be able to bring that understanding and knowledge back to the farm.

Scholarship donated by: The Profield Foundation



SARAH PACE BARGO
Certificate IV in Agriculture

Sarah Pace is 19 years old and is currently studying a Certificate IV and Diploma in Agriculture at Tocal College. Growing up on a turkey farm with her family, Sarah always had a passion for the industry. Through her studies at Tocal, Sarah has enjoyed expanding her existing knowledge, but also enjoyed learning new aspects within the agricultural area. Sarah is looking forward to further expanding her knowledge this year and eventually making a substantial difference and contribution to the sustainability of the growing generations in the industry.

Scholarship donated by: Andrew Pratten Charitable Trust



BIBIANNAH PEATTIE CUNDLETOWN
Bachelor of Veterinary Technology

Bibiannah Peattie is at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga studying a Bachelor of Veterinary Technology, following her passion in animal husbandry. Bibiannah grew up in Cundletown, on the mid north coast and is looking forward to returning armed with her degree and being able to turn Veterinary Technology into a career within the primary industry taking care of livestock both large and small.

Scholarship donated by: Mogul Brahman Stud



COLBY POOLE TEMORA
Certificate III in Carpentry

Colby Poole has grown up in Temora and after school completed a butchery apprenticeship. Colby has returned to studying and is now in his second year studying a Certificate III in Carpentry. Colby acknowledges the lack of tradespeople in rural areas, particularly builders and is confident that he will be able to make a valuable contribution to community life and help address the shortfall in qualified tradies in rural NSW.

Scholarship donated by: OCS Fun Pty Ltd



TALEAH PRITCHARD WAGGA WAGGA
Certificate IV Agriculture

Taleah Pritchard is a 17-year-old with a limited farming background but a love of outdoor life and animals. Taleah has found a passion for farming, particularly working with sheep and has studied for the last two years at Primary Industries Centre TAFE at the Riverina campus. She has completed a Certificate II in Animal Studies, Certificate III in Agriculture and is currently studying a Certificate IV in Agriculture. Taleah has worked on numerous Riverina properties, helping to prepare farming and grazing paddocks and drenching, vaccinating, foot paring and marking various breeds of sheep. Taleah's goal is to complete her studies and secure full-time work in this industry.

Scholarship donated by: The Profield Foundation



JACKSON REID TEMORA
Certificate IV Agriculture

Jackson Reid from Temora is currently studying a Certificate IV in Agriculture at the Primary Industries Centre in Wagga Wagga and working on the family farm. In his studies Jackson is learning the essentials of agribusiness, along with livestock production, cropping and pasture management. Jackson hopes to go on to also study wool classing and to receive his Diploma in Agriculture and plans to pursue a career on the land, perhaps running his own farm or in a role as a station manager.

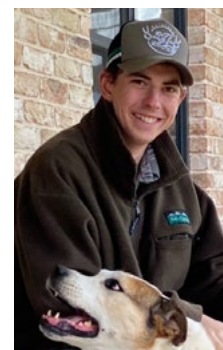
Scholarship donated by: The Profield Foundation



ANNALISE ROBERTSON MACKSVILLE
Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering (Honours)

Annalise Robertson grew up on a small cattle property on the Mid North Coast, fostering a passion for livestock which inspired her to pursue a career as a veterinarian. To achieve this, Annalise relocated to Wagga Wagga to study the Veterinary Science Degree at Charles Sturt University and is now in her third year. The role she would like to play within rural and regional communities is not limited to just the provision of animal care, but also the promotion of a stronger network of support and connection across the livestock production industries.

Scholarship donated by: The Agricultural Societies Council of NSW



LEWIS ROTH SPRING FLAT
Bachelor of Paramedicine

Lewis Roth is a second year Paramedicine student at Charles Sturt University, Bathurst. Growing up on a farm at Spring Flat, he became aware of the shortage of medical and emergency services in regional and remote communities, and through volunteering with the RFS he became particularly interested in first responder and ambulance care. Lewis is a strong believer in community involvement and is an active member of the Australian Army Reserve. Upon completion of his studies, Lewis plans to work in rural and remote emergency medical care.

Scholarship donated by: The Profield Foundation



CHARLIE SHADWELL DUBBO
Bachelor of Veterinary Biology & Veterinary Science

Charlie Shadwell is 22 years old and was born in Dubbo and is currently in his fifth year of studying a Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/ Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Charlie has a keen interest in the sheep artificial breeding industry and the benefits that a strong program could deliver to Australia. During his university holidays he has been working in the industry, specifically on a program to maximise genetic gain and therefore increase result productivity. Charlie would like to pursue this and see what we can achieve.

Scholarship donated by: Millner Family Trust

**SWAZI SHARMA** DUBBO**Doctor of Medicine**

Swazi Sharma grew up in Dubbo and is currently a second-year medical student at the University of Notre Dame in Sydney. Swazi's experiences as a child and as a student in environments such as Lightning Ridge and Dubbo, where low socioeconomics profoundly affect the community, has resulted in her desire to support others through the medical field.

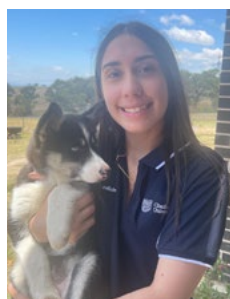
Post the completion of her degree, Swazi wants to return to Western NSW and provide high-quality patient centred care.

Scholarship donated by: Carmel Dyer-Pitroff

**JESSICA SHARMAN** TARALGA**Certificate IV in Agriculture**

Jessica Sharman graduated from Trinity Catholic College Goulburn in 2022, completing Certificates II and III in Agriculture. Jessica is continuing her studies through TAFE NSW, studying a Certificate IV in Wool Classing and Certificate IV in Agriculture. Jessica is Junior Vice President of the NSW Suffolk's Society and has her own Suffolk Sheep Stud and was recently awarded Taralga 2023 Young Citizen of the Year. Jessica wants to continue to live and work in rural NSW and play a role in our agricultural industry.

Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation

**ISHANA SINGH** BATHURST**Bachelor of Paramedicine**

Ishana Singh grew up on a property outside of Bathurst and has a key understanding of the incredible role paramedics play in providing life-saving healthcare services for regional communities. This inspired her to commence studies in a Bachelor of Paramedicine at Charles Sturt University, Bathurst. When she finishes her degree, she plans to stay in rural NSW and fulfil a lifelong goal to help give rural patients the quality of care they deserve.

Scholarship donated by: Andrew Pratten Charitable Trust

**KATIE TOWNSEND** EUGOWRA**Bachelor of Medical Science/ Bachelor of Science**

Katie Townsend comes from a hobby farm just outside of Eugowra in the NSW Central West. For Kate, growing up in a rural setting ingrained an interest in agriculture and through high school biology another interest was stoked - medicine. This led Katie to study a double degree Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Medical Science at the Australian National University. These degrees have allowed an increased understanding of numerous aspects of the medical sphere and engagement with key stakeholders within agricultural innovation. Completion of her studies will provide a basis for further postgraduate study and the opportunity to work in and for regional areas.

Scholarship donated by: The Snow Foundation

**ROWAN VALLANCE** SINGLETON**Bachelor of Rural Science**

Growing up at Singleton, Rowan Vallance then moved to Armidale at the start of his degree to study on campus. This year, he is entering his fourth and final year in a Bachelor of Rural Science at University of New England. Having the ability to choose options further down the track is extremely important for Rowan and what attracted him to study Rural Science in the first place. While it has been challenging and demanding, Rowan has found it a rewarding journey. He is looking forward to playing an active role growing rural and regional communities through the limitless possibilities the agricultural industry presents.

Scholarship donated by: UNE Foundation & Maple-Brown Family Foundation

**HEATHER WALKER** GRENFELL**Bachelor of Education TAS (Technology and Applied Studies)**

Heather Walker is in her third year studying a Bachelor of Education TAS (Technology and Applied Studies) at Charles Sturt University. Heather lives in Central West NSW and has a huge passion for the sheep and wool industry. Heather's goal is to become an agricultural teacher, sharing her knowledge and enthusiasm for the industry with the next generation, aiming to make a positive impact on future generations of agricultural leaders.

Scholarship donated by: The Profield Foundation

**RUBEY WILLIAMS** BERRIMA**Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management**

Rubey Williams grew up on a rural property in the Southern Highlands, running over 1000 alpacas, sheep, and cattle. Rubey is studying a Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management at Charles Sturt University, where she is learning more about the science behind agriculture while gaining the necessary business skills to ensure commercial viability in whatever path she chooses to take. Rubey is interested in establishing a commercial alpaca operation in rural NSW, which would 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: Coolaroo Foundation

**ANGUS WILSON** BARRABA**Bachelor of Dental Science**

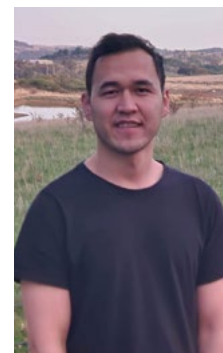
Angus Wilson was born in Tamworth and grew up on the family's mixed cattle, sheep, and crop property Northwest of Barraba. As a result of his rural upbringing, he has a love for rural and remote Australia and a profound respect for the people that provide the food, fodder and fibre required to meet the needs of all Australians. He is studying a Bachelor of Dental Science at Charles Sturt University, Orange, and is currently in his fifth and final year of studying. Angus hopes to continue living in the Central West where his skills can be applied where they are needed most.

Scholarship donated by: Mogul Brahman Stud

**BELLA WILSON** DUBBO**Bachelor of Occupational Therapy**

Bella Wilson is a third-year student of Occupational Therapy at Charles Sturt University in Port Macquarie. Bella grew up in the Dubbo community surrounded by educators which motivated her to pursue a career in Occupational Therapy. Bella comes from a large family with over 35 cousins who all live in Dubbo and she enjoys being outdoors, swimming and sport. Bella chose to study in Port Macquarie as it is a small community that reminds her of home. Her goal is to open her own practice in Dubbo working with paediatrics and supporting the schools in Dubbo and the surrounding areas.

Scholarship donated by: Coolaroo Foundation

**AHMAD ZIA** ORANGE**Bachelor of Dental Science**

Ahmad Zia is a third-year Bachelor of Dental Science student studying at Charles Sturt University. Ahmad has always been interested in health, and it is his desire to work in a healthcare setting and to help people improve their health and overall wellbeing. Ahmad is planning to establish a career as a dentist in a rural or regional community because he is aware of the desperate need for more dental professionals outside of the city. Taking up a position in a rural area will allow Ahmad to help improve the health outcomes of these communities.

Scholarship donated by: The Profield Foundation

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 RAS Foundation is proud to lend its support by sponsoring a Scholarship.



FIONA AVEYARD TULLAMORE

Fiona Aveyard is a fifth-generation farmer and lamb producer, and is the founder of Outback Lamb Pty Ltd, a business specialising in gourmet lamb sausage rolls, developed from their single-origin, pasture-raised lamb in a carefully maintained paddock to plate process. Fiona believes that farming cannot continue to focus solely on increases in animal productivity to achieve the increases necessary to best feed and clothe a growing world population and sees the need for a reimagined business model whereby portions of the global value chains are un-bundled to better meet changing consumer demand, particularly in regard to traceability, carbon-neutral production and consumer health.

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.



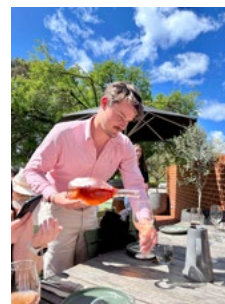
LACHLAN SANDS

Lachlan Sands is the recipient of the 2023 JB Fairfax Award for Rural & Regional Journalism and Communications. Lachlan works at the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, having previously worked as a Policy Officer at the Attorney General's Department, providing policy advice on issues closely tied to regional concerns. In a prior position as Education Officer with Queensland Parliamentary Service, Lachlan developed education programs for school students and public servants, liaising with Members of Parliament, schools, and stakeholders to deliver high-quality, large-scale regional workshops and events. Prior to his foray in the Public Service, Lachlan had already earned a Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics (Hons Class I). He has now returned to UQ to complete a Bachelor of Journalism (Hons). Lachlan desires to use his existing knowledge and experience in politics and economics, and skills developed through journalism studies to strengthen his ability to be an informed advocate for regional communities.

2023 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



ANGUS MCALLISTER

Angus McAllister is a first-year winemaking student at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Originally from Griffith, NSW, Angus has lived in Wagga since 2015 when he began an Agricultural Science Degree. Working casually at the Charles Sturt Boutique and Research Wine Facility inspired him to become a winemaker and continue his studies. Angus co-founded and serves as President of the Charles Sturt Wine Society, a club for all students to learn about and sample wines from around the world. Angus says, "I'm passionate about our industry and love sharing this passion and knowledge with my peers."



ANTHONY VISSER

Anthony Visser discovered his passion for wine while working his first harvest in the Adelaide Hills and hasn't looked back since. Currently enrolled in Charles Sturt University's Bachelor of Wine Science Degree, he is dedicated to his studies whilst also working full time in a winery, trying to become the best winemaker he can be. This passion has seen him move states, make new friends, work a harvest overseas, and discover a whole new exciting world of wine. Currently working in the Yarra Valley, he is dedicated to helping the wine community, making exciting wines, and following his passion every day.



EMILY GLOVER

Emily Glover is a winemaker at De Luliis wines in the Hunter Valley, having served in previous roles with the winemaking teams at Brokenwood Wines and Agnew Wines. Always seeking opportunities to further her craft, Emily has honed her skills abroad in Burgundy, France, and Napa Valley, California, USA. Emily has also worked as an associate judge at the Hunter Valley, Cowra & Single Vineyard Wine Shows. Driven by an affinity for sustainable winemaking, Emily champions environmentally responsible and socially equitable practices that aim to preserve the health of the land, support local communities, and produce high-quality wines for future generations. Remarkably, Emily launched her own wine brand in 2022 called Glover Wines, which debuted a Hunter Valley Semillon. Emily will complete her Bachelor of Wines Science at Charles Sturt University.



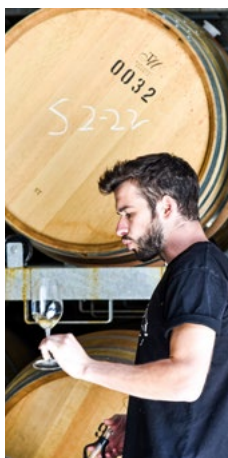
MATT BUCHAN

The pursuit of wine knowledge for Matt Buchan is a relentless passion and he believes the key to making great wine is multilayered. With more than 20 years of experience in wine production and as a winemaker in the Margaret River Region, Matt is looking to develop his understanding of wine at a sensory level. He is a regular wine show judge within Australia and believes that the AWRI Advanced Wine Assessment Course is crucial to building on his achievements and will enable him to continue to progress as an industry professional. Matt's scholarship is sponsored by the Len Evans Trust.



SABINE DUVAL

During her twenty years in the food and wine industry, Sabine discovered her love of wine. However, it was her time in Event Management that Sabine discovered her passion for wine education. She now dedicates her time to helping others experience the complex yet indulging pleasure that is wine. Sabine grew up in a French household where wine was part of her life from a young age. Sabine is a certified sommelier having been awarded the prestigious title by the Court of Master Sommeliers in 2010. She completed her WSET Diploma and teaches WSET L1, L2 and L3 at The Sydney Wine Academy and is a Brand Manager for Hungerford Hill in the Hunter Valley.



SAM MILNE

Sam Milne is a young and enthusiastic winemaker who caught the wine-bug at an early age from his father who works in the industry. Sam has volunteered as an Associate Judge at the Adelaide Hills Wine Show and has also stewarded at the Melbourne Royal Wine Awards and at the Mornington Peninsula Wine Show. With a Bachelor of Viticulture & Oenology from the University of Adelaide and WSET Levels 2 & 3 under his belt, Sam plans to complete a WSET Diploma to further his knowledge in both viticulture and oenology and the business aspects of the industry. Sam believes that studying a WSET Diploma will also improve his candidacy for future judging at regional and national shows, which would provide him with the opportunity to give back to and become more widely involved in the Australian winemaking industry.



AMY THORNE

Amy Thorne is a professional member of Sommeliers Australia and participates in Hunter Wine Cru events around the Hunter Valley. With WSET Level 1 and 2 qualifications already completed, Amy is increasing her knowledge by studying WSET Level 3 and working at a cellar door which has allowed Amy to grow her hospitality, customer service and tourism experience. Amy loves working in the wine industry and aspires to be able to continue to grow in her personal education and career while also encouraging others to explore and embrace Australian wine.



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.

Organisation: **ARDLETHAN SHOW SOCIETY**

Contact: **Ms Roz Nisbet**

Project: \$25,000 for the refurbishment and upgrade of the historic bar service area. The historic bar area is believed to be the first building constructed by local community members over 100 years ago, and it has housed many a function and stood the test of time. Sadly, however, it no longer meets the safety or disability requirements and must be made accessible and enclosed for safety.

The Ardlethan community has been struggling to re-engage after drought, Covid and economic downturn, and has used the Showground as a focal point for the community to meet, celebrate and revive. It has become a symbol of hope and expectation for the future of this small rural town. Each building at the Showground has a story to tell and their care and upgrade is essential to the future. As so often happens though, as time moves on the oldest buildings no longer comply with modern requirements. As a community, Ardlethan wants to restore rather than destroy their history. The Ardlethan Showground was once a focal point of the town for its regional shows, agricultural expositions, horse races, dog trials, gala days and golf tournaments, attracting large crowds looking to sample country life and injecting much needed funds into the small rural community. The Show Society is confident that reinstating the Bar Area back to its former prime will help stimulate the local economy not only in its capacity to host such local events but as an attractive venue for broader regional tourism.

Organisation: **BARRABA P, A&H ASSOCIATION**

Contact: **Mrs Carmen Bennett and Mr Jock Mallise**

Project: \$25,000 for a Sports Shear and Shearing Education facility. In conjunction with the Barraba Show, the Barraba P, A&H Association is setting up a facility to run a sports shear and wool handling competition as part of its annual Show. The facility will also have a future being used for shearing education camps for community and school-based groups. This program, along with annual competitions, will educate, train and contribute not only to the community of Barraba in a fundraising capacity, but also to the shearing, wool handling professions and Agricultural industry.

The Sports Shear and Shearing Education facility aims to broaden community interest in the industry as well as increase the number of patrons attending the Show and supporting the Barraba region. This will in turn expand local involvement and increase job opportunities. The significant economic benefit for local farmers, due to the close proximity of local shearers, means the elimination of travel costs of crews that are otherwise interstate. Moreover, the community economic benefit for local families and their children to attend a quality facility without the huge economic outlay to attend facilities further afield, is important. The facility will be used in a way to promote and represent the shearing and wool handling professions as a major contributor to the Agricultural Industry and Australian Economy.

Organisation: **BLAYNEY A&P ASSOCIATION**

Contact: **Mrs Rosemay Reid**

Project: \$16,000 for Grandstand seating that can be moved around the Blayney Showground to the position that best suits any event. This seating comes in a grandstand design holding up to 40 people and is suitable anywhere in the Showground. It can be easily moved by a tractor so it is suitable for the covered arena, the cattle pavilion, the yard dogs, sporting games, harness races and horse events.

A large, covered arena exists at the Blayney Showground, but only with minimal seating, and none of it is grandstand style. The portable grandstand seating can be moved by tractor to any place in the Showground depending on the event. Audiences at cattle, horse, and sheep & heifer events will benefit greatly. In fact, grandstand style seating will encourage greater attendance at competitions and displays, which has a direct benefit to the whole community including local business in catering and accommodation. When local business benefit in this way, sponsorship to maintain higher community participation results. Not to be overlooked is the ability for families and community members to enjoy sitting together at events—which is key to maintain a thriving community!

Organisation: **BOMBALA EXHIBITION SOCIETY, INC.**
 Contact: **Mrs Sophie Campbell**
 Project: \$17,000 for portable panels for horse and dog yards to assist in the expansion of local events. This will enable increased entries and increased community collaboration. Better facilities are also likely to increase sponsorship and prize money support at the annual Show, which all goes back to the local community.

Despite the recent impacts of the 2019/20 black-summer bushfires and COVID, the Bombala rural community has been working hard to grow and develop its annual Show Day. The horse events and yard dog trials have been identified as attracting the much-desired younger demographic of show competitors and volunteers. For these events to grow, Bombala urgently requires better quality portable horse and yard dog infrastructure. Bombala Exhibition Society has the full support of its volunteers and management committee, the NSW Yards Dogs Association, the Bombala Team Sorting Committee, as well as enthusiastic support from horse event groups in the region keen for the Bombala Show to grow. With the addition of these much-needed portable panels, the Bombala Show will not only be able to deliver safe and well-organised events, but the strong community collaboration already developed by the annual Show Day, and its focus on rural industry and regional connections, will only increase with the delivery of this project.

Organisation: **DUBBO SHOW SOCIETY INCORPORATED**
 Contact: **Mrs Sue Hood**
 Project: \$25,000 Portable seating to be used at Dubbo Showtime, for Dubbo Ranch Sorting Competitions, Zone Young Judges Group Finals, Education Days, and for other community event users such as the cattle and sheep shows, and local football clubs.

The Dubbo Show Society Showground offers space to cater for local and national events, however there is a significant lack of seating at the Dubbo Show Society Showground. Increasing the number of available seats will encourage more rentals of the venue, as well as increased patronage of the local Shows and events. This will significantly increase the economic benefit to the various events, which directly benefits the town and the local community. Additional seats also enables better management of crowds attending events. Aiding the viability of the local economy, the Dubbo Show Society is purposefully employing a local welding company to make the portable chairs, which business is locally owned and operated, and which supports the Show in times of need with sponsorship. The community and the Showground enjoy a beneficial symbiotic relationship. The Dubbo Show Society is celebrating its 150th Show this May, and to do so with more seats for the anticipated crowds, is vastly appreciated.

Organisation: **NAMBUCCA RIVER DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION LIMITED**
 Contact: **Mr Michael Ettelson**
 Project: \$3,780 The Macksville Show Infrastructure Improvement Project will benefit the local Nambucca Valley Community with the installation of temporary fencing for crowd management and safe access at community-based events throughout the year. The fencing will enable community users to better manage risks and keep community users safe, especially aged and younger users, and indigenous groups who use the showground.

In addition to community events, the Macksville showground is used for disaster relief, housing and managing people and livestock during floods and fires. Temporary fencing will greatly benefit the management of disaster relief at the showground and will ensure compliance with safety requirements. Moreover, without the need and extra cost to hire temporary fencing, this addition will result in both the reduced cost to hold a community event, as well as increased opportunity to host events at the Macksville showground. The entire Nambucca Valley community will benefit, including agriculture, indigenous, local school and existing showground user groups. Ultimately, the safety of all community-based activities at the showground will be greatly enhanced.

Organisation: **UNKYA RESERVE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT**
 Contact: **Ms Lisa Hall and Mrs Jennifer Gibson**
 Project: \$21,000 to fix fire-damaged facilities. Last year, the storage shed was destroyed by fire—including all its contents: tables, chairs, marquees, barbecues, signage, maintenance and safety equipment, etc. Additionally, the water tank and stand were lost to the fire. Repairing the aging grandstand will also create a safe and welcoming space for audiences to view Team Penning and Natural Horsemanship events, markets and festivals. Without these assets, it is difficult to run community events and to hire out the reserve to local community groups.

The Unkya Reserve Committee of Management assists the rural community in ongoing bushfire, flood and COVID recovery, and supports community events such as local growers, hobby farmers, rural small businesses, bi-monthly markets, and fundraising through BBQs and food sales. It hosts local groups who conduct fundraising on site which benefits the locally economy. The entire community-at-large will benefit from having a safer and fit-for-purpose facility, resulting in greater appreciation for and use of the grounds and facilities.

FUNDING COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN NSW



KEY

● Community Futures Grants

DONORS

We sincerely thank the following donors and supporters for their generous support of the RAS Foundation in 2023.

- JOHN B FAIRFAX AO
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- ANDREW PRATTEN CHARITABLE TRUST
- AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY MEDIA & PRINTING
- CARMEL DYER-PITROFF
- CHRIS & JENNIFER HINDMARSH
- ROBYN CLUBB AM
- COOLAROO FOUNDATION & JANIE FORREST
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- DAVID & LIZ BROWNHILL
- DR GEORGE JACOBS & DR JANICE HIRSHORN, MOGUL BRAHMAN STUD
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