

2025

GRANTS &
SCHOLARSHIPS



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 \$9.1 million into rural and regional communities through a range of targeted grants and scholarships. To date, the RAS Foundation has supported over 960 rural scholarship students to reach their educational dreams and awarded 163 organisations vital community building funding.

Donations to the RAS Foundation are tax deductible.



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

GIVING TO DATE

AS AT JUNE 2025

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

Duration: 18 years

Grants Awarded: 169 grants

Funds Distributed: \$2,092,531

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

Duration: 17 years

Grants Awarded: 17

Funds Distributed: \$180,500

Program: **Scholarships (including Rural, Wine, Dairy, Master of Teaching, PhD Research, & Nuffield Scholarships)**

Duration: 15 years

Grants Awarded: 978 Scholarships

Funds Distributed: \$5,292,600

Program: **RAS Foundation Kitchen & Christmas Toy Distribution**

Duration: 7 years

Funds Distributed: \$2,204,291

Other: 2023 Helping Eugowra Community Children's Centre \$58,603

2023 Mt Austin High School, Wagga Wagga Stand Tall Sponsorship \$10,400

2023 RAS Rural Learning Exchange Agricultural Teacher Program 25,000

2024 Cobar High School, Cobar Stand Tall Sponsorship \$9,900

2024 Donation to Making Friends with Food Program \$43,000

2024 Big Bush BBQ Donation \$18,000

2024 RAS Ag Innovation Award \$10,000

2024 RAS Rural Learning Exchange Agricultural Teacher Program \$60,000

2024 Coolaroo Alpaca Peruvian Study Tour \$28,000

2025 Narrabri High School, Narrabri Stand Tall Sponsorship \$10,000

2025 Donation to Birds in The Bush - Domestic Violence Support in Central West \$75,142

2025 Big Bush BBQ Donation \$3,470

2025 RAS Ag Innovation Award \$10,000

2025 RAS Rural Learning Exchange Agricultural Teacher Program \$80,000

2025 RAS Education - Blazing Beef \$60,000

Total **\$10,350,937**

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.



ABBY WILSON DUBBO

Bachelor of Physiotherapy

Abby is a second-year student from Dubbo studying a Bachelor of Physiotherapy at Port Macquarie Charles Sturt University. Abby grew up in Dubbo and has a large family located in the area. She enjoys spending time with family and friends and is also very active and participates in sports such as league tag, swimming and running. Abby moved to Port Macquarie last year to study and has really enjoyed having the beach nearby for swimming and walks.

Scholarship donated by: Quayclean



ABIGAIL SMITH BOMBALA

Diploma of Nursing

Abigail grew up along the border of New South Wales and Victoria before relocating to the Northern Rivers at 16 years old. At a young age, she developed a deep love for travelling rurally, spending much of her time camping and exploring our beautiful Australian backyard. Abigail is studying her final year of a Diploma of Nursing, and once qualifies she will be a third-generation nurse on her father's side of the family. Abigail is beyond excited to kick start her nursing career in the rural and remote areas within Australia once qualified.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation



ALEXANDRA MARTIN NOORONG

Master of Agriculture

Alex is from Noorong in the Murray region and she is currently studying a Master of Agriculture with a specialisation in Agribusiness. Upon completing the course, Alex aims to work in the Agricultural Consulting sector, helping farmers achieve their business goals and improving farm strategies. Following high school and during university, Alex has worked in various industries within Agriculture across Australia, including sheep, cattle, and cropping. She has a special interest in the wool industry and sustainable pasture improvements.

Scholarship donated by: Ronald Arnott Foundation

**ALYSSA FORD** *NARRABRI***Bachelor of Vision Science**

Alyssa was born and raised in Narrabri, NSW, and enjoys playing sports, bush walking, spending time with family, and being involved in the home community. She is in her third and final year of a Bachelor of Vision Science at the University of Canberra (UC) and hopes to start her two-year Master of Optometry degree in 2026 at UC. Upon completion of this degree, she plans to return to Narrabri to practice as an optometrist.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation

**AMELIA MCCRABB** *WANGANELLA***Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science**

Amelia is halfway through her sixth and final year of Veterinary Science at Charles Sturt University (CSU) in Wagga. Growing up on her family's Merino stud in rural NSW and being around animals from birth have fuelled her desire to become a vet from a very young age. Additionally, growing up in a tiny farming community has helped to forge her dream of working as a production animal vet in rural Australia once graduated, ideally with a focus on Merino genetics and reproduction that can be implemented on the family stud. Outside of university, she can be found playing AFL for CSU, on the tennis court, or on the back of a horse.

Scholarship donated by: NSW Stud Merino Breeders' Association

**ANGUS BAKER** *TOTTENHAM***Certificate III in Carpentry**

Angus is currently studying to become a carpenter in Dubbo. This is his third year of study at TAFE, and everything is on track for him to finish this year. His hobbies outside of work include spending time with his dogs, helping with the family farm, skiing, and go-karting. He grew up in a small-town west of Dubbo called Tottenham, which is where he plans to end up after finishing his apprenticeship. He loves living in the bush and sees a great opportunity for a young tradesman to make a career, as there aren't many carpenters west of Dubbo.

Scholarship donated by: Millner Family Trust

**ANNALISE ROBERTSON** *MACKSVILLE***Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science**

Annalise hails from the small town of Macksville on the Mid North Coast of NSW. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Annalise is now in her 5th year of the course and has a particular interest in large animal veterinary medicine, especially beef cattle production. She hopes to work as a large animal or local government veterinarian in the Riverina and Southwest Slopes regions upon her graduation.

Scholarship donated by: Dr George Jacobs & Dr Janice Hirshorn

**BETHANY LYONS** *CROOKWELL***Bachelor of Dental Science**

Bethany is a fifth-year Dental Science student from Crookwell. With a passion for healthcare and a deep commitment to supporting regional communities Bethany has focused her studies on providing dental services to underserved areas and is now in her fifth and final year of study at Charles Sturt University. Outside of academics, she is an avid runner and enjoys exploring new destinations through travel. Bethany's dedication to both her professional development and personal interests highlights her ambition to make a positive impact in the field of dentistry while also leading an active and adventurous lifestyle.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation

**BRADLEY SMITH** *BONNY HILLS***Doctor of Medicine**

Brad is a third-year medical student at Charles Sturt University. Originally from the small coastal town of Bonny Hills, just south of Port Macquarie, Brad spent the first two years of the degree studying pre-clinical medicine in Orange. Now, Brad has moved to Albury to complete the practical component of the course. This includes undergoing placement at hospitals and clinics within the local area. Brad looks forward to the experiences ahead and to working in Albury and its surroundings over the coming years. With a keen interest in rural health and medicine, Brad plans to practice in a rural area upon finishing their studies.

Scholarship donated by: Ronald Arnott Foundation

**BRENDAN O'BRIEN** CESSNOCK*Certificate IV in Agriculture*

Brendan, a resident of Cessnock developed a strong interest in agriculture during his senior years of high school. After graduating, he studied a Certificate III in Agriculture at Tocal College in 2024. Enjoying the experience, he decided to continue his studies with a Certificate IV in Agriculture, making it his second year at Tocal. Brendan is particularly interested in the cropping side of agriculture.

Scholarship donated by: Andrew Pratten Charitable Trust

**BRONWYN JAWERTH** WODONGA*Doctor of Medicine*

Bronwyn is a final year Western Sydney medical student from Wodonga. She is currently residing in Lismore where she is receiving a rurally focused clinical education through a partnership between Western Sydney University and The University Centre for Rural Health. Her decision to pursue a career in medicine stems from her passion for women's healthcare. Seeing the inequalities faced by rural women, she strives towards her goal of practicing as an obstetrician and gynaecologist in a rural community. Outside of her studies, Bronwyn has a keen interest in crafts and agriculture. Next year she plans to continue living in rural NSW working as a Junior doctor in a country hospital.

Scholarship donated by: Maple Brown Family Foundation

**CAITLYN COUTTS-SMITH** WEE WAA*Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management*

Caitlyn Coutts-Smith is from Wee Waa, and is currently in her second year of studying Agricultural Business Management at Charles Sturt University. Growing up in a rural community, Caitlyn developed a deep passion for agriculture, particularly livestock production and agribusiness. She has been actively involved in cattle judging and parading, meat judging, and youth leadership roles. Caitlyn is committed to building a career in the agricultural industry, with a focus on improving on-farm efficiency and sustainability. Through her studies and hands-on experience, she hopes to contribute to the future of Australian agriculture by driving innovation and supporting rural communities.

Scholarship donated by: The Profield Foundation

**CHARLI PAYTON** TAREE*Bachelor of Education (Secondary Arts)*

Charli is in her first year of university studying a Bachelor of Education (Secondary Arts) at the University of New England. Once completing this course, Charli hopes to teach in regional and rural areas across NSW. As a regional student herself, she has observed the unique methods that students learn by, and would like to join other educators in helping students achieve great success and a quality education. Charli enjoys reading, playing different sports, and helping the community through her local youth action collective.

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

**CHARLOTTE FOURACRE** GOULBURN*Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science*

Charlotte lives on a farm near Goulburn and is in her third year of Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Her ambition is to practice veterinary medicine in a rural or regional setting with an interest in large production animals. Outside of her veterinary studies, Charlotte enjoys playing classical violin and performing live. In addition to her music, Charlotte has a Shetland Pony Stud and competes in a variety of disciplines including led, ridden and harness. The highlight each year is competing at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation

**CHARLOTTE ROBINSON** STOCKINBINGAL*Bachelor of Sustainability*

Charlotte is a first-year Bachelor of Sustainability student at the University of New England. Passionate about waste reduction, sustainable innovation, and environmental management, she draws on her experiences living in both urban and rural NSW to understand the sustainability challenges faced by smaller communities. Charlotte aims to pursue a career in sustainability consulting or environmental management, focusing on strategies that support regional resilience.

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

**CHELSEA ZAINI** BOWRAVILLE*Bachelor of Veterinary Biology / Bachelor of Veterinary Science*

Chelsea is a fifth-year Veterinary Science student at Charles Sturt University Wagga Wagga. Living in Bowraville on the mid-north coast of New South Wales, she has a deep appreciation for regional and rural living, and the sense of community it brings, which has ultimately fuelled her goal of bridging the gap between rural communities and access to veterinary care. She has a particular interest in cattle and equine medicine, but when she is not studying at university, she can be found spending time on the farm at home with her family or enjoying the company of animals.

Scholarship donated by: Sushi Hub**CHLOE BAILEY** TERALBA*Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science*

Chloe is in the final year of a Bachelor of Veterinary Science at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga. As she approaches graduation, Chloe looks forward to a career as a veterinarian in a regional community within a mixed practice. She enjoys working with both production and companion animals, with a particular interest in large animal reproduction. However, during her recent clinical placements, she has developed a growing appreciation for emergency and critical care of small animals, which is especially significant in regional areas with limited veterinary services. Chloe is actively involved in the Limousin Youth Association, a passion of hers that focuses on creating opportunities for young people in agriculture.

Scholarship donated by: Dr George Jacobs & Dr Janice Hirshorn**CLAIR STIFF** BALLIMORE*Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Honours)*

Growing up on her family's mixed-operation property near Ballimore, NSW, Clair developed a passion for rural life. Now in her third year of studying a Bachelor of Physiotherapy (with Honours), she continues her active involvement in the agricultural sector driving machinery over harvest and showing cattle and horses at local events. Having experienced the challenges of reduced healthcare access in rural areas, Clair aims to specialise in musculoskeletal care and advance research in women's health, particularly pelvic pain.

Scholarship donated by: Ronald Arnott Foundation**CLAUDIA WILSON** ORANGE*Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science*

Claudia, currently in her fifth year of a Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga, has grown up on a beef cattle property south of Orange. Her upbringing on the family farm surrounded by animals fostered her passion and desire to work with animals in a rural area. Upon graduating from university, Claudia aims to work in a rural setting within a mixed practice, where she plans to broaden her knowledge and skills in both large and small animal practices.

Scholarship donated by: Quayclean**CORBEN HART** BRAIDWOOD*Doctor of Medicine and Surgery (MChD)*

Corben, a third-year medical student, has begun his first year of full-time placements. Hailing from Braidwood, NSW, he has commenced placements in Goulburn, through the Australian National University, which has a training campus affiliated with Goulburn District Hospital. With aspirations of becoming a General Practitioner, ideally in a rural area, Corben's countryside upbringing on his family's farm in the Braidwood region has shaped his interest in rural health. Outside of his studies, he enjoys outdoor activities such as camping and hiking, & spending time in nature.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation**DAVE MESSNER** TALLIMBA*Bachelor of Agricultural Science*

Dave is in his second year of Ag Science at Charles Sturt University at Wagga, with a plan to do an agronomy major. He is from Tallimba, around 40 kms west of West Wyalong. He has loved growing up being involved in a mixed farming business with cropping, and merino and cross-bred lamb breeding. He enjoys playing piano and drums and play rugby for Ag college. He has also dabbled in the odd bit of shearing. He feels very lucky to be so close to home so he loves to head back when he can. He is keen to continue studying this year and looks forward to what's next!

Scholarship donated by: The Profield Foundation

**DEAN CHAPMAN** FINE FLOWER*Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)*

Dean is in his second year at the University of Wollongong, studying a Bachelor of Engineering degree. He is excited about a future in engineering and hopes to contribute to projects that enhance the quality of life for rural and regional communities. Dean's family owns a beef cattle property located at Fine Flower in the Northern Rivers of NSW. He enjoys working outdoors on the property, with horse riding and mustering cattle alongside his father's working dogs being among his favourite activities.

Scholarship donated by: M & J Millner**ELLEN DOLBEL** PARKES*Bachelor of Education (Secondary) – PDHPE*

Ellen grew up in Central West NSW, spending her childhood in the town of Parkes, where she was exposed to a tight-knit community that fostered her love and passion for sport. Later, she moved to Orange to complete most of her high school education. After completing her HSC in 2024, Ellen decided to venture away from home and enrol at the University of Newcastle, where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Education (Secondary). Her goal is to return to public rural education. Sport has been a cornerstone of Ellen's personal development, as she cherishes the intense competitiveness and the meaningful relationships that arise from participating in it.

Scholarship donated by: Millner Family Trust**ELYSE CHARLES** COPACABANA*Certificate IV in Agriculture*

Growing up on the Central Coast, Elyse struggled to find her passion until she started learning about agriculture when she volunteered on a dairy farm overseas. This sparked a passion which drove her to seek further education at Tocal Agricultural College. She has loved learning and taking on extra-curricular activities at Tocal, even volunteering on other dairy farms during her study breaks to gain more practical experience. Elyse has made a strong connection with rural areas as they provide more opportunity to learn and grow within the agricultural industry. She is excited to start her Certificate 4 in Agriculture this year.

Scholarship donated by: The Profield Foundation**EMILY MCHUGH** SUTHERLAND SHIRE*Bachelor of Agriculture/Bachelor of Business*

Emily, originally from the Sutherland Shire in Sydney, completed her Certificate II in Agriculture before moving to Armidale in 2023 to study at the University of New England. This year she is beginning her third year of university, pursuing a Bachelor of Agriculture and a Bachelor of Business, which she thoroughly enjoys. She has a keen interest in continuing to work with livestock and exploring various sectors within the industry. Through her studies, Emily aims to contribute to the improvement and advancement of agricultural businesses and the industry.

Scholarship donated by: UNE Foundation and Millner Family Trust**EMMA HOLMES** WEE WAA*Bachelor of Agriculture*

Emma is in her third year of studying for a Bachelor of Agriculture degree at the University of New England, and she plans to pursue an Honours degree in science. Growing up in Wee Waa, the "Cotton Capital of Australia," she developed a keen interest in the innovative technologies shaping the cotton industry and a passion for sustainable farming practices. Emma has gained hands-on experience in agronomy and biological control, she is an active member of the Narrabri Shire Youth Council, Wee Waa CWA, NSW Farmers, and other organisations. She plans to specialise in agronomy and pursue further studies in cotton plant breeding.

Scholarship donated by: UNE Foundation & Maple-Brown Family Foundation**EMILY HOOLE** KIAMA*Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science*

Emily grew up on the South Coast of NSW but moved to Wagga Wagga in 2020 to pursue her dream career. She is now in her final year of Veterinary Science at Charles Sturt University, which involves 36 weeks of placement in clinics around Australia. Emily is particularly interested in all things involving horses, especially equine reproduction. Outside of university hours, she can often be found walking her dog, at the gym, or catching up with friends. Upon graduation, she hopes to work in a rural mixed practice or equine ambulatory clinic until she discovers her niche.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation

**GABRIELLE FORREST** COROBIMILLA*Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science*

Gabbie grew up at Corobimilla on her family farm and has a strong passion for rural Australia, agriculture, and animal-related pursuits. She has recently completed her fourth year of Veterinary Science at Charles Sturt University and is preparing for the challenges of her fifth year with a mix of excitement and nervousness. Upon graduating, she aims to practice as a large animal or mixed practice veterinarian, working within rural Australian communities. Her special interests include playing netball, contributing to the family farm, and spending time with her friends, family, and dogs.

Scholarship donated by: Dr George Jacobs & Dr Janice Hirshorn**GEMMA HANCOCK** MAITLAND*Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine/Doctor of Veterinary Medicine*

Gemma grew up in the Hunter Valley and is now in her final year of the Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine/Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program at the University of Sydney. From a young age, she has had a passion for animals, both large and small. She has always dreamed of becoming a veterinarian and now looks forward to soon working alongside farmers and rural communities to help meet the various challenges that arise with animal health. When she graduates, Gemma would love to work in a mixed rural clinic, with the goal of building strong relationships with clients and their animals.

Scholarship donated by: Exponet**GEMMA PASTRO** BILBUL*Bachelor of Agricultural Science*

Gemma is in her 3rd year Bachelor of Agricultural Science, majoring in agronomy. She grew up on her family wine grape farm in Bilbul in the Riverina region of NSW. Her passion for agriculture was influenced from growing up and working on the farm. Upon graduating university, she aims to become an agronomist, providing advice and working alongside producers in rural communities. She hopes to support the agricultural sector in these communities and inspire other young females to start in this industry. She enjoys working on the farm, spending time with family and friends, and playing sports such as touch football and netball.

Scholarship donated by: The Profield Foundation**GEORGIA DONOGHUE** ARMIDALE*Bachelor of Mathematical Sciences/Bachelor of Economics*

Georgia hails from the Liverpool Plains and has been residing in Armidale. In 2025, and is in her final year of a Bachelor of Mathematical Sciences/Bachelor of Economics degree at the Australian National University in Canberra. During her free time, Georgia enjoys playing team sports such as hockey and footy, and has a passion for reading. When she returns home during university breaks, she relishes working on the family farm and spending time waterskiing and camping with her family. She is eager to complete her degree and pursue a fulfilling career that enables her to contribute to the agricultural community.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation**HAN WORSLEY** NULLAMANNA*Master of Education (Higher Degree by Research)*

Han is a passionate educator and researcher from Nullamanna, with a deep commitment to rural education. They hold a Bachelor of Primary Education (STEM) from the University of Canberra and are currently pursuing a Master of Education by Research. Han's research focuses on the aspirations of primary-aged students in rural areas, exploring the social and cultural factors that influence the tough decisions country kids make about their futures. Drawing on their rural upbringing, experience as a rural primary teacher, and work delivering outreach programs, Han aims to create culturally competent strategies that support and empower students in regional and remote communities.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation**HANNAH NEILSON** ARMIDALE*Doctor of Medicine*

Hannah is a third-year medical student from Armidale, currently studying at the University of New South Wales rural clinical campus in Coffs Harbour. She enjoys living rurally, and her time at home is filled with music, as she performs gigs at pubs every weekend. During the summer, she works as a lamb marker and horticulturalist in Armidale. Hannah aspires to become a rural generalist and aims to work in the New England region to improve access to quality healthcare for her community.

Scholarship donated by: Maple-Brown Family Foundation

**IMREET SHERGILL** *GRIFFITH**Bachelor of Medical Studies/Doctor of Medicine*

Imreet is currently training to become a doctor. He is studying a Bachelor of Medical Studies/Doctor of Medicine (Honours) at University of New South Wales in Sydney. Imreet spent the first two years of his degree in Sydney, followed by a third year in Albury on placement, and has returned to Sydney for his research project. The research focuses on investigating whether analgesic agents, such as methoxyflurane, have any potential long-term harms. In his free time, Imreet enjoys outdoor activities, particularly running and hiking, as well as following Formula 1 and the NBA. With a strong interest in rural medicine, Imreet aims to pursue this field after graduating from medical school.

Scholarship donated by: Millner Family Trust**INDIGO KESZTLER** *LISMORE**Bachelor of Dental Science*

Indigo is currently in the final year of their Bachelor of Dental Science at Charles Sturt University, completing placement in Dubbo and Hawkesbury. Growing up in a small regional town in the Northern Rivers has shaped their understanding of the importance and need for supportive healthcare environments. She recognises that cost often creates significant barriers for individuals in rural areas, leading to avoidance rather than prevention. Indigo aspires to make a positive impact in rural communities through preventative care and by improving oral health literacy through education.

Scholarship donated by: Andrew Pratten Charitable Trust**JACK BARNETT** *KEMPSEY/DONDINGALONG**Bachelor of Health Science (premedicine)*

Jack grew up in the Macleay Valley and is currently in his final year of a Bachelor of Health Science at the Australian National University (ANU). Having observed the challenges of healthcare access in regional areas, he has developed an interest in furthering his studies, whether through medical school at ANU or a Master's in Occupational Therapy or Physiotherapy. His goal is to work in a rural setting on the Mid North Coast, contributing to improving healthcare services and access for those in need.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation**JACK DIGBY** *BINGARA**Bachelor of Education (K-12)*

Jack is currently in his third year studying a Bachelor of Education (K-12) at Charles Sturt University in Port Macquarie. He grew up on a mixed livestock and cropping farm near Bingara, NSW, and often returns to drive the chaser bin during harvest time. Alongside his studies, Jack works casually at a dairy near Beechwood, allowing him to stay connected to farm life. His interests include cricket, golf, rugby, and fishing. After graduating, Jack plans to return to a rural setting to teach and aspires to own his own farm.

Scholarship donated by: Nell & Hermon Slade Trust**JACK WOOD** *TAREE**Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science*

Jack is currently in his fourth year studying a Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Jack grew up around beef cattle near Taree and has a keen interest in large animal reproduction & livestock production. Jack believes that vets are granted an incredible opportunity to assist producers in enhancing their enterprises and in turn, collectively strengthen the rural community and economy. Jack hopes to gain experience as a vet overseas so he can bring invaluable knowledge and experience back home.

Scholarship donated by: The Profield Foundation**JACOB BRENTNALL** *CASINO**Bachelor of Medical Studies/Doctor of Medicine*

Jacob is a final year medical student studying at the University of New South Wales Rural Clinical Campus in Port Macquarie. He relocated from Casino in the Northern Rivers with a view to completing the entirety of his Bachelor of Medical Studies/Doctor of Medicine degree rurally on the Mid North Coast. Jacob has a strong interest in anaesthetics and general practice, and he is eager to work in rural communities in the future. Outside of medicine, Jacob enjoys staying active through sports and outdoor activities in Port Macquarie.

Scholarship donated by: M & J Millner

**JESSICA KERNAHAN** GLOUCESTER*Bachelor of Rural Science*

Jessica is a fourth-generation dairy farmer from Gloucester whose family transitioned to beef cattle following the 2019 drought. Witnessing her family and neighbours struggle through droughts and floods inspired her decision to become an agronomist, aiming to assist and support farmers during both challenging and prosperous times. Jessica is currently in her third year of a Bachelor of Rural Science degree at the University of New England. Beyond her studies and work, she actively volunteers with the Gloucester Rotary Club, the Gloucester Show Committee, and the Central District Exhibit.

Scholarship donated by: UNE Foundation**JESSICA TOOGOOD** HENTY*Bachelor of Agricultural Science*

Jessica is currently in her third year of studying a Bachelor of Agricultural Science at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Her decision to pursue Agriculture at a tertiary level stems from her continued interest and passion for the industry, which was cultivated by growing up on a family farm. Through her experiences, Jessica has observed the ongoing education of farmers to adopt new agricultural practices that yield positive results in a changing environment. Jessica hopes to contribute to this continued learning, particularly in areas such as crop and pasture science and grain production.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation**JOEL BURKE** VALLA*Certificate III in Agriculture*

Joel is a 16-year-old from a rural property in Valla on the mid-north coast. He completed his Certificate II in Rural Operations through Tocal in 2024 and is excited to start his Cert III in Agriculture this year. Through ShoreTrack in Macksville, Joel has gained hands-on skills and discovered his passion for agriculture. Growing up on a small macadamia farm has given him a deep appreciation for farming and its role in the community. He enjoys helping on the farm, fishing, and camping. His goal is to support sustainable farming and rural communities while bringing dedication and hard work to Tocal.

Scholarship donated by: Coolaroo Foundation**JOSEPH O'NEILL** BATHURST*Bachelor of Animal Science*

Joseph grew up in Bathurst and is a first year student at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga studying an Animal Science degree. After finishing Year 12, he completed a gap year in the Air Force and then worked as a stock handler in Roma, Queensland. Having grown up working with sheep, cattle, and goats, he has always been interested in livestock production. Once qualified, Joseph hopes to continue working in rural areas as he enjoys being a part of small communities.

Scholarship donated by: Maple-Brown Family Foundation**JOSEPH BOWDITCH** CANBERRA*Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science*

Joseph is currently in his third year of a Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/ Science at Charles Sturt University (CSU), Wagga Wagga. Growing up in Canberra, his childhood aspirations of rural living have come to fruition through a range of work experiences in agricultural and livestock industries across the Riverina region. Joseph currently leads an energetic lifestyle, finding time between study to continue work at a dairy, beef cattle and broadacre cropping farms. He also loves playing football for the CSU Bushpigs and contributes to the local community by tutoring regional students, and getting involved with agricultural shows wherever possible.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation**JOSIE WHITING** LAMBS VALLEY*Certificate IV in Agriculture & Diploma of Agriculture*

Josie is studying a Certificate IV in Agriculture and preparing to begin her Diploma at Tocal College. Raised on a Lambs Valley property in NSW, she gained hands-on experience with cattle, sheep and egg production. Her interests include working with her Kelpie pup, showing cattle, hunting, and caring for livestock. After completing her studies, she aims to work on a Northern Territory station and eventually manage and own her own cattle property.

Scholarship donated by: Millner Family Trust

**LATARA HAMMOND** KANDOS**Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science**

Latara grew up in a small rural town called Kandos, where she graduated from her local high school. She has always been passionate about the agricultural industry and making a difference within rural communities, as well as helping the people around her. This passion encouraged her to apply to university, where she was successfully admitted to Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. She is now entering her third year of a Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science. Latara hopes to further her involvement in rural communities by completing a teaching degree and contributing as a teacher in rural high schools in the future.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation**LAURA HARLEY** NYMAGEE**Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood and Primary)**

Laura is from Nymagee, a small rural town where she has lived her whole life with her parents and sisters. Her family runs a sheep and cropping enterprise, and growing up in this environment has shaped her values and work ethic. Laura has always been passionate about teaching, and after graduating high school, she was fortunate to be accepted into her dream course. She is now in her third year of a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood and Primary) at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. After university, she hopes to teach in a rural or remote community, believing these areas are often overlooked and wanting to do her part in giving back.

Scholarship donated by: Millner Family Trust**LESA BOLAND** NYNGAN**Diploma of Nursing**

Lesla is 46 years old and a mother of two teenage daughters. She lives in the small rural town of Nyngan in Western NSW. In 2023, Lesa completed her Certificate III in Health Service Assistance through a traineeship with Western Area Health and has decided to further expand her knowledge of healthcare by enrolling in TAFE NSW to pursue a Diploma of Nursing. Her course combines online learning with face-to-face sessions, requiring her to travel to Dubbo (165 km) to attend TAFE. Despite embarking on this career change later in life, Lesa aims to teach her daughters that age or circumstances should never limit one's ability to change paths and follow their dreams.

Scholarship donated by: OCS Fun Pty Ltd**LILY MORRIS** TOMERONG**Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science**

Lily grew up in Tomerong on the NSW South Coast. She is in her fifth year of studying a Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Upon graduating, she hopes to work as a mixed practice vet in rural/regional NSW, focusing on cattle and horses. When she is not busy studying or on placement, she can often be found riding horses or spending time with family and friends.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation**LUCINDA ACHILLES** WAGGA WAGGA**Bachelor of Educational Studies**

Luci, a dedicated mother of three from Wagga Wagga, is in her first year of a Bachelor of Education Studies. With a passion for education, she works as a School Learning Support Officer (SLSO) in a School for Specific Purpose (SSP), supporting and inspiring students with diverse needs. In her free time, Luci enjoys being outdoors, exploring and fishing with my children, as well as snuggling up with a good book. Balancing her studies and family life, she strives to be a role model for her children and is determined to make a difference in rural areas by enhancing educational opportunities and fostering a love for learning in her community.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation**LUKE MCNEIL** FORSTER**Bachelor of Mechanical Eng (Hons)/Bachelor of Mechatronics Eng (Hons)**

Luke grew up in the coastal town of Forster, where he volunteered as a surf lifesaver. He is currently in his first year studying a combined Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering degree at the University of Newcastle. His passion for engineering stems from hands-on experience with fixing and maintaining equipment on the property. For his Year 12 HSC major work, he designed a low-cost underwater ROV for use in local oyster leases. This project will be showcased at the 2025 Shape HSC exhibit, and he is eager to further develop his skills and expertise in this field.

Scholarship donated by: Andrew Pratten Charitable Trust

**MACKENZIE ANDRISKE** COONAMBLE**Certificate III in Agriculture & Certificate IV in Real Estate Practice - Stock and Station Cluster**

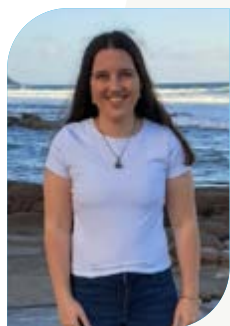
Mackenzie, mostly known by her nicknames Macka or Mack, is from Coonamble in Central West NSW. She developed a strong passion and love for agriculture and rural life by showing cattle throughout high school and living on a hobby farm. Currently living in Mudgee, Mack is studying a Certificate IV in Real Estate Practice and Stock and Station Units as well as a Certificate III in Agriculture.

Scholarship donated by: *The Profield Foundation*

**MACS RUBAIN** CAMDEN**Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management**

Macs grew up on the outskirts of Sydney in a town called Menangle. He now spends most of his time in Wagga Wagga, where he is in his second year at Charles Sturt University studying a Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management. The agricultural industry has been a significant part of his life over the past few years. After graduating school, his interest in cattle and the agricultural sector grew further. Macs has a passion for the dairy industry and has won the NSW Young Dairy Judges State Championship in both 2023 and 2024.

Scholarship donated by: *Coolaroo Foundation*

**MADELINE NEVILLE** TAMWORTH**Bachelor of Medical Studies/Doctor of Medicine**

Madi is in her final year of medicine studying at the University of New South Wales in Port Macquarie. Before moving to Port Macquarie for her studies, she grew up on rural properties in the Hunter Valley and New England surrounded by animals. Madi's passion for medicine is coupled with her love for rural communities. Having observed the challenges of supplying and accessing rural healthcare Madi is eager to contribute to improving access and healthcare resources in rural areas. As a future doctor, she hopes to advocate for rural medicine and contribute to the community both on a one-to-one and wider community level.

Scholarship donated by: *Millner Family Trust*

**MADISON DARCY** TUNCURRY**Bachelor of Agriculture**

Madison, a first-year Bachelor of Agriculture student at the University of New England, grew up in an agricultural family in Forster-Tuncurry. After school, she began her career on a cattle station near Dorrigo, NSW, where her passion for the outdoors, animals, and farming deepened. Active in local events, she represented Taree as the 2024 Young Woman. Madison aspires to support rural communities and empower young women entering the agriculture sector.

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

**MADISON FORD** WEST WYALONG**Bachelor of Physiotherapy**

Madison grew up on a mixed farming property in West Wyalong before relocating to Wellington. Her experiences with the challenges of rural life, including unpredictable seasons, financial uncertainty, and limited access to essential services, have instilled resilience. Currently in her third year studying a Bachelor of Physiotherapy, Madison is deeply passionate about improving healthcare accessibility in rural areas. Madison has witnessed firsthand the effects of inadequate local services and is committed to bridging this gap, ensuring rural families receive essential healthcare support without the stress of long-distance travel.

Scholarship donated by: *Nell & Hermon Slade Trust*

**MATILDA HOLBROOK** WAUCHOPE**Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours)**

Matilda is currently in her fourth year of Occupational Therapy at the University of Newcastle. After living in Newcastle for the first three years of her degree, she is about to make the move to Tamworth for her final year of study as part of the University's Rural Immersion Program. Matilda is very excited about the opportunities and experiences that Tamworth will offer. She has a strong interest in rural health and hopes to work rurally upon completing her degree.

Scholarship donated by: *Andrew Pratten Charitable Trust*

**MATILDA FORWOOD** GRIFFITH*Bachelor of Occupational Therapy*

Matilda grew up in the town of Griffith and is currently in her fourth and final year of university, studying a Bachelor of Occupational Therapy at Charles Sturt University in Albury. She has developed an increasing passion for occupational therapy as she progresses further into her course and has thoroughly enjoyed her placements to date. Matilda finds the holistic nature of the career deeply rewarding and values the relationships formed with patients and clients. She aspires to work with children and their families within the rural and remote setting in the future.

Scholarship donated by: Maple-Brown Family Foundation

**MCKENZIE CARR** ORANGE*Bachelor of Dental Science*

McKenzie is 25 and is currently in her fifth and final year studying a Bachelor of Dental Science at Charles Sturt University in Orange. She has a strong passion for rural and remote healthcare and firmly believes that everyone deserves access to quality healthcare, regardless of their location. Her goal after graduation is to work in a rural town or community, where she aims to make a meaningful impact by improving access to essential dental services. McKenzie is excited about the opportunities ahead and looks forward to contributing to better health outcomes in regional areas.

Scholarship donated by: Millner Family Trust

**MEGAN SEIS** DUNEDOO*Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science*

Megan grew up on the family-run farm near Dunedoo and her keen interest in sustainable food and fibre production led her to pursue a Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Now entering her final year of study, Megan looks forward to contributing positively to rural and remote areas, supporting both production and companion animals, while aiding the next generation of agriculture in NSW. Outside of her veterinary work, Megan enjoys participating in local community activities such as team sports and horse sports, and cherishes her time spent at home on the farm.

Scholarship donated by: Andrew Pratten Charitable Trust

**MELANIE HOUSE** FORBES*Bachelor of Dental Science*

Melanie is currently studying a Bachelor of Dental Science through Charles Sturt University where she is completing her fifth and final year of study. Growing up in a country town has highlighted the limited access to health services within the community. Melanie is passionate about making a difference in rural NSW and upon graduation and aims to return to the Central West. Melanie is motivated to provide positive and encouraging experiences to her patients, allowing them to feel comfortable attending the dentist and reinforcing the importance of dental care to overall health.

Scholarship donated by: Ronald Arnott Foundation

**MICHAEL TAYLOR** DURAL*Certificate III in Agriculture*

Michael is currently enrolled at Tocal Collage, studying a Certificate III in Agriculture. With a deep love for rural communities and a dedication to regional development, he aspires to make a significant contribution to Australia's agricultural and sustainable future. He likes playing cricket and reading in his spare time. When he is not studying, Michael enjoys engaging in discussions about topics relevant to him and his study.

Scholarship donated by: Coolaroo Foundation

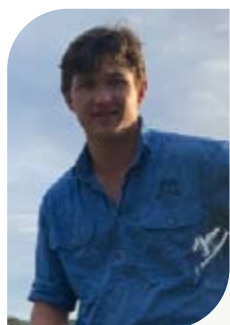
**MICHAEL LYNCH** MILLFIELD*Certificate IV in Agriculture*

Michael is a 19-year-old male deeply passionate about Agriculture. Although he does not come from an agricultural background, his interest in this field was sparked by subjects like Agriculture, Primary Industries, and various work experiences. In 2024, he completed his Certificate III in Agriculture Production at Tocal Agricultural College. He is continuing his studies at Tocal, pursuing a Certificate IV in Agriculture with a focus on Farm Management and Agribusiness. Known for his hard work and excellent work ethic, Michael has a strong passion for working with livestock and a notable interest in training and using working dogs.

Scholarship donated by: Mary & Peter Weal

**MOLLY DAVIES** TUMUT*Bachelor of Agricultural Science*

Molly, originally from Tumut in the Snowy Valleys region, attended primary and high school before beginning a Bachelor of Agricultural Science majoring in mixed business at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. In 2025, she will be entering her fourth year of study. The degree has fostered her passion for agronomy and inspired her to pursue a role in consultancy. Molly looks forward to contributing to rural and regional communities and the Australian agricultural industry and is excited to see where her career and the industry take her.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation**MURRAY WOODFIELD** NORTH ARM COVE*Certificate IV Agriculture*

Murray, a student at Tocal Agricultural College, has lived on small farms in the Hunter region throughout his life. Inspired by his grandmother's involvement with Poll Herefords, he has always held a passionate interest in beef cattle. He chose to study at Tocal to deepen his knowledge of the agriculture industry and to learn about sustainable farming practices. Murray commenced his Certificate IV studies this year and has recently enrolled to pursue a diploma. His goal is to graduate from Tocal with a comprehensive understanding of the beef, sheep, and dairy industries, along with skills that will prepare him for future employment as a station hand and manager.

Scholarship donated by: Paynter-Swane Family**NATASHA ACTON** TAMWORTH*Certificate IV in Agriculture*

Natasha is currently studying a Certificate IV in Agriculture at Tocal. She completed her Certificate III last year. Her interests and passions in life are dirt bike riding, horse riding, spending time with family, fishing, four-wheel driving and music. Natasha believes each one of these activities have their own adventures, challenges and feelings that come along with them and they all take time, patience and dedication to be able to happen.

Scholarship donated by: Coolaroo Foundation**OLIVIA LOTZ** GUNDAGAI*Bachelor of Medical Studies/Doctor of Medicine*

Olivia Lotz hails from Bangadang, and is in her sixth and final year of her Bachelor of Medical Studies/Doctor of Medicine degree at the UNSW Coffs Harbour rural campus. Her aspiration is to become a rural generalist, with specialised training in obstetrics and critical care. Olivia is deeply committed to providing healthcare to those most in need, particularly within rural and remote communities in NSW. She is passionate about incorporating culturally safe healthcare practices for Indigenous Australians, striving to integrate cultural practices and beliefs alongside Western medicine to achieve the best outcomes for patients, their families, and their communities.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation**PHOEBE DOUGLAS** HARDEN*Doctor of Veterinary Medicine*

Phoebe, from Harden, NSW, is a fourth-year veterinary medicine student at the University of Sydney, focused on production animals—especially sheep and cattle—with a strong interest in horses. Growing up in a farming community inspired her passion for sustainable agriculture. Her studies have included research on livestock welfare and hands-on experience through placements and on-farm work. She aims to support farmers in achieving sustainable, innovative production outcomes.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation**PHOEBE COLVIN** GUYRA*Certificate IV in Agriculture*

Phoebe Colvin is a dedicated and passionate young farmer with a strong background in agriculture. Growing up amidst cattle and sheep, Phoebe has a deep connection with the land and animals. She is an experienced cattle parader and her expertise extends to working dogs, which play a vital role in her farming activities and has her own stud, Culburra Kelpies. Last year, Phoebe completed her Certificate III in Agriculture and is continuing her education by studying for a Certificate IV in Agriculture this year. With a bright future ahead, Phoebe continues to contribute to the farming community, planning on continuing her commitment to sustainable agriculture.

Scholarship donated by: The Profield Foundation

**REBECCA NOTT** NYNGAN**Diploma of Nursing**

Rebecca grew up on a property west of Nyngan and after school she moved to Borden in Western Australia to work as a trainee farm manager and joined the ambulance service. More recently, Rebecca has commenced studying a Diploma of Nursing at TAFE Gunnedah. She is married with two young daughters, and her goal is to become a Registered Nurse and Midwife and work as a RAN/flight nurse for RFDS. When she became a mum, Rebecca realised that she needed to find a job that fills her cup and for her it is when she's helping people, especially the ones who need someone in their corner.

Scholarship donated by: Maple-Brown Family Foundation

**RUBY STEPHENS** BERRY**Diploma of Agriculture**

Ruby lives in Berry, NSW, and has worked at Walsh Family Farming, a family-run dairy operation, for two and a half years. In 2025, she will be studying a Diploma in Agriculture online through TOCAL College. She hopes to gain further knowledge in genetic improvements using genomic sampling, to enhance the quality of her herd. Ruby's interests include showing dairy cattle, using AI to improve herd offspring, cow health and calf rearing.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation

**RUBY FORD** NARRABRI**Bachelor of Agricultural Science**

Ruby is from Narrabri, NSW, and has been awarded the RAS Foundation Rural Scholarship to support her final year of university while pursuing a Bachelor of Agricultural Science at CSU. She grew up surrounded by agriculture and the agricultural community but from a cotton farming side of things. Later, during high school she found her passion for the livestock industry specifically with beef cattle and found her way to university majoring in livestock production. She is excited to complete her course and move into the workforce with this degree behind her. She is grateful for the diverse life experiences that university has provided her throughout her studies.

Scholarship donated by: Dr George Jacobs & Dr Janice Hirshorn

**SAMANTHA TAYLOR** GRIFFITH**Bachelor of Agricultural Science**

Samantha Taylor grew up in Griffith, the heart of the Riverina and Australia's food bowl. Growing up in a strong agricultural region, she developed a deep passion for agriculture, sustainability, rural communities, and agricultural education. Now in her second year of a Bachelor of Agricultural Science, she is dedicated to research and innovation that supports sustainable farming. She aspires to contribute to the future of Australian agriculture through research and teaching, ensuring rural communities continue to thrive. Samantha hopes to use her knowledge to drive positive change in the industry.

Scholarship donated by: AgShows NSW

**SAMUEL ROTH** SPRING FLAT**Certificate III in Plumbing**

Samuel Roth is currently a second-year plumbing apprentice attending TAFE in Orange. He enjoys working with his hands and learning about the complex systems within the trade industry, especially the plumbing sector including advanced water treatment, sewage management and irrigation. He aims to complete his trade and attend university where he can become an environmental engineer. This will allow him to further develop sustainable practices and water treatment and reticulation systems in a rural capacity. He has many interests including playing and listening to music, tennis, swimming and outdoor adventure sports.

Scholarship donated by: The Profield Foundation

**SARAH REDMAN** BARRINGTON**Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science - Diagnostic Radiography**

Sarah Redman is a 20-year-old undergraduate student in her third year of a Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science - Diagnostic Radiography at Charles Sturt University in Port Macquarie. She was raised on a beef cattle farm in Barrington on the Mid-North Coast before making the move to Laurieton at the age of 16. In her spare time, she enjoys playing soccer, travelling or just being outdoors in general.

Scholarship donated by: Dr George Jacobs & Dr Janice Hirshorn

**SARAH MCGANN** *MOGO***Bachelor of Arts (Double Majoring in English Literature and History)**

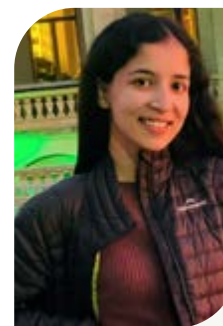
Sarah is from Mogo, a small town on the South Coast of NSW and is in her final year studying a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Wollongong. She plans to study a Masters of Secondary Education and teach English in rural schools after graduation. Outside of study, she loves spending time with her horses; most weekends she can be found at show jumping events or just riding around the paddock. She understands, through personal experience, the challenges faced by many rural students, which is why she has chosen to pursue education as a career. She hopes she can have a positive impact on students' lives.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation**SIENNA O'NEILL** *BATEMANS BAY***Bachelor of Primary Education**

Sienna will be commencing her first year studying a Bachelor of Primary Education at the University of Wollongong. She lives in a small country town on the South Coast of NSW called Batemans Bay. She hopes to move back to a rural town in NSW after completing her course as she loves the community spirit a country town offers. For the past few years, she has tutored various young students in her community embedding her love of teaching and helping others.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation**SKYE CARTER** *BATEMANS BAY***Bachelor of Secondary Education**

Skye is from Batemans Bay and this year she will be starting her first year of her four year Bachelor of Secondary Education degree, majoring in Health and Physical Education. Skye always wanted to be a teacher, and the biggest goal for her teaching career is to help and guide teenagers through high school the same way her teachers did for her. Skye's career choice has also been driven by her love of health and physical activity and growing up she was always enrolled in multiple extra-curricular activities, ranging from competitive gymnastics to horse riding, circus, dance and soccer. She believes young people should know all about health so they can not only support their own health but the health of others around them.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation**SWAZI SHARMA** *DUBBO***Doctor of Medicine**

Swazi is a final-year medical student at the University of Notre Dame. Originally from Nepal, Swazi moved to Australia over a decade ago and grew up in rural towns like Lightning Ridge and Dubbo. With a strong passion for improving healthcare in rural and remote communities, Swazi is committed to making a lasting impact on equitable healthcare access. Beyond the realm of medicine, Swazi enjoys engaging with the community and organizing cultural events.

Scholarship donated by: Carmel Dyer**TALISSA HABERMANN** *GEROGERY***Bachelor of Education (TAS)**

Talissa is studying a Bachelor of Education (TAS), majoring in Agriculture at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Raised on a rural NSW farm, she's passionate about inspiring students to develop life skills and a love of learning. She values diversity, community, and teamwork, and actively participates in sport, volunteering, and local clubs. Talissa aims to empower young minds and foster a strong sense of belonging through education.

Scholarship donated by: David & Belinda Davidson**WILLIAM ILSLEY** *SEAHAM***Certificate IV in Agriculture**

Will hails from the Hunter Valley region in New South Wales. He is currently pursuing a Certificate IV in Agriculture at Tocal College. Growing up on his family's horse agistment farm, he frequently assisted in horse care, fostering his lifelong interest in working with animals and farming. Throughout high school, Will completed agricultural courses that expanded his knowledge of farming practices. These courses introduced him to Tocal, where he subsequently enrolled in and completed a Certificate III in Agriculture last year. Looking ahead, he aspires to secure a position working with cattle in either the dairy or beef industry.

Scholarship donated by: Coolaroo Foundation

**WILLIAM QUIRICO** *HIGH RANGE**Bachelor of Veterinary Science*

Will is from High Range in southern New South Wales. Five years ago, he moved to Wagga Wagga to study Veterinary Science where he is in his fifth and final of study. Upon graduation, he hopes to work in a mixed vet practice in rural NSW with a focus on production of animal medicine and reproduction. Outside of vet, he enjoys playing rugby, hanging out with mates, fishing and being outdoors. He also enjoys being around livestock on farms and understanding the variety of ways a production system can operate.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation

2025 RASF NUFFIELD SCHOLARSHIP

Nuffield Australia Scholarships were first awarded in 1947 and forged a trail in the fields of seeds, wool and dairy farming.

Nuffield Australia 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.

CAMPBELL CHESWORTH

Campbell Chesworth is a forward-thinking leader in the Australian dairy industry, dedicated to integrating sustainability into farming operations. He splits his time between The Little Big Dairy Company and the Chesworth Dairy Partnership at Rawsonville, NSW. As a 2025 RASF Nuffield Australia scholar, Campbell aspires to travel to various countries, including Spain, the Netherlands, Germany, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, Canada, and the United States, to research diverse topics such as dry-aged dairy, biogas, and drought resilience. He believes that a RASF Nuffield Scholarship will provide the opportunity to step out of daily routines and learn from global dairy industry leaders about incremental improvements that can be brought to the Australian dairy industry. Campbell believes in the potential of circular economy practices to enhance resilience, profitability, and sustainability in dairy farming.

Campbell's dedication to sustainability and proactive approach to industry challenges make him a key figure in driving the future of Australian dairy.

Scholarship donated by: The RAS Foundation



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.



TOBY MCGEE

Hailing from the family farm in Tasmania, Toby McGee is a 2nd year journalism student at Monash University in Melbourne. Toby finds programs like Landline interesting, and agriculture-focused journalism combines his passions for producing media and farming into one.

Since starting a Bachelor of Media Communications last year, Toby has become the Senior Producer of The Struggle – a news satire show airing on Melbourne's Channel 31 that aims to make news engaging through comedy.

At university, Toby has been learning about legality and ethics in journalism and crime and court reporting, which he has found interesting. Most recently, Monash University nominated him to attend the Quill Awards which he enjoyed immensely.

Award donated by: John B Fairfax AO

2025 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.

The RAS Wine Committee together with the RAS Foundation offer two national scholarship programs: the Sydney Royal Wine Study Scholarship and the Sydney Royal Wine Professional Development Scholarship. These scholarships are funded by the RAS Wine Committee from the sale of excess stock from the Sydney Royal Wine Show, one of the most prestigious wine shows in Australia.

Since 2021, The Len Evans Tutorial Foundation has also sponsored a scholar to attend the Advanced Wine Assessment Course (AWAC) by the Australian Wine Research Institute (AWRI).



**ALLANA WIGLEY** HUNTER VALLEY, NSW**Sydney Royal Wine Professional Development Scholarship**

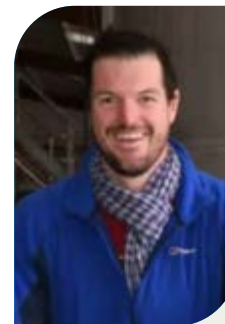
Allana Wigley is a young wine professional based in the Hunter Valley, NSW. With over eight years of industry experience, she currently holds the role of Wine Club and Event Manager at De Lullis Wines. In 2023, she launched her own label, Thea Wines, producing exceptional Chardonnay and Shiraz. Her passion for wine extends beyond production & sales, as she's actively involved in judging and stewarding at prestigious wine shows, including the Hunter Valley Wine Show, Cool Climate Wine Show, NSW Wine Awards, and Sydney Royal Wine Show. Allana will be studying the Advanced Wine Assessment Course through the Australian Wine Research Institute.

**HUGH SPINAZE** MAITLAND, NSW**Sydney Royal Wine Professional Development Scholarship**

Hugh grew up in the Hunter Valley with a deep interest in the wine industry from a young age. After completing high school, he began working at Agnew Wines in the cellar, home to the Audrey Wilkinson and Poole's Rock brands where he fell in love with the industry and steadily progressed through the ranks, eventually becoming the winemaker for both brands in 2023. To broaden his experience, he studied a Bachelor of Wine Science at CSU and completed several vintages abroad. He has also been involved in the wine show system, serving as a steward and associate judge at several events, including the Australian Single Vineyard Wine Show, Hunter Valley Wine Show, and Cowra Wine Show. Hugh's scholarship is sponsored by the Len Evans Trust and will allow him to further develop his knowledge by undertaking the Advanced Wine Assessment Course through the Australian Wine Research Institute.

**KESHNEE MUDALY** HUNTER VALLEY, NSW**Sydney Royal Wine Professional Development Scholarship**

Kesh is a dedicated viticulturist with a deep commitment to sustainable and regenerative farming practices. Joining Lowe Family Wine Co. in 2018, Kesh has followed her passion from cellar door to farm; delving into biodynamics and regenerative viticulture. Currently finishing a Diploma of Viticulture through TAFE NSW, Kesh applies her growing expertise to fostering resilient vineyards through conducting on-farm trials and implementing innovative practices that enhance soil health, biodiversity, and ecosystem balance. Kesh is excited to attend the AWRI's Advanced Viticulture Course, which will allow her to deepen her knowledge and bring cutting-edge research and practical solutions back to the vineyard.

**LUKE STEELE** HUNTER VALLEY, NSW**Sydney Royal Wine Professional Development Scholarship**

Luke Steele is an award-winning winemaker and wine show judge with extensive experience across Australia and internationally. He has held senior winemaking roles at leading producers such as Freycinet Vineyards (Tasmania), Bird in Hand (Adelaide Hills), Ross Hill Wines (Orange, NSW), and Lerida Estate (Canberra District, NSW). Luke holds a Bachelor of Agricultural Science (Oenology) from the University of Adelaide and a Diploma of Sustainable Living from the University of Tasmania. Renowned for his technical expertise, leadership, and commitment to sustainability, Luke is dedicated to advancing Australian wine quality and industry standards. Luke will study WSET Level 3.

**MITCH MCKENZIE** NURIOTPA, SA**Sydney Royal Wine Professional Development Scholarship**

Mitch McKenzie is an accomplished wine industry professional with over a decade of experience specializing in direct-to-consumer sales and marketing. As the Senior Business Manager leading the Direct-to-Consumer activities for Château Tanunda in the Barossa Valley, Mitch oversees direct marketing activities, national cellar doors, ecommerce, wine clubs, luxury programs, and tourism initiatives. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce and Arts in International Business, a Diploma in Viticulture and Winemaking, and WSET Level 3 certification. Fluent in English, German and French, Mitch combines global expertise with a passion for Australian wine. He is an active member of the South Australian wine community, and a dedicated advocate for promoting South Australian wines across the globe. Mitch will be participating in the Advanced Wine Assessment Course through the Australian Wine Research Institute.

**SAMUEL RUMPIT** HUNTER VALLEY, NSW**Sydney Royal Wine Professional Development Scholarship**

Based at Saddler's Creek Wines in the Hunter Valley, Sam is a young winemaker with a passion for incredible wines made in both the vineyard and the winery. Having completed a degree in both Agricultural Science and Wine Science at CSU, he looks to the future to build upon his knowledge. Sam is excited to learn everything he can to play his part in improving the future of Australian winemaking and judging for young and new industry professionals to make judging more accessible and ensure that Australian judges are recognised on a world stage for their consistency and skill. Sam will be undertaking the Advanced Wine Assessment Course through the Australian Wine Research Institute.

**TIM CASTLE** *MACEDON RANGES, VIC**Sydney Royal Wine Professional Development Scholarship*

Tim has worked making wine in the Yarra Valley, Mornington, Adelaide Hills, Nagambie, Tasmania, Germany, Pyrenees and now the Macedon Ranges. Cool climate winemaking is in his veins, as is the want to show it to the next generation. He has also begun working in the Regional Show Circuit. Tim has been awarded the Sydney Royal Wine Professional Development Scholarship to study The Advanced Wine Assessment Course to further these goals and give back to the industry he is so passionate about.

**MARKUS PATZ** *SYDNEY, NSW**Sydney Royal Wine Professional Development Scholarship*

Markus' journey from mechanical engineering to wine has been anything but conventional. In addition to his work as a Wine Merchant and Certified WSET Wine Educator for the Endeavour Group, he serves as a Board Member of the Wine Communicators of Australia, actively contributes to the Sydney Royal Wine Show, and supports the next wave of talent through the Australian Wine Industry Mentor Program. Equipped with an MBA, multiple certifications—including Australian Wine Expert, French Wine Scholar, Spanish Wine Specialist, Vinitaly Italian Wine Ambassador, and Certified Sommelier—he brings an unshakable enthusiasm for the stories, people, and wines that shape the industry. Markus is always eager to explore new opportunities, ideas, and collaborations and is studying WSET Level 4.

**JACOB TESTONI** *GRIFFITH, NSW**Sydney Royal Wine Study Scholarship*

Jacob is an aspiring winemaker from Griffith, NSW, with a deep connection to the culture, having grown up on a grape farm. His wine journey began in 2023 after graduating from school, when he completed a vintage at De Bortoli Wines, gaining hands-on experience and developing a passion for the craft. In January 2024, he started as a trainee winemaker with Casella Family Brands, balancing full-time cellar work with pursuing a wine science degree. Each day, he learns more about the art and science of winemaking, driven by a commitment to creating exceptional wines and building a future in this incredible industry.

MASTER OF TEACHING

The Master of Teaching Scholarships provides financial support, mentorship, and practicum placement for individuals who are passionate about teaching agriculture and eager to mentor young minds and contribute to the future of NSW agriculture.

Scholarships donated by The Baxter Foundation





BARTON WOOLLEY *NOWRA*

Bart Woolley possesses over 15 years of diverse experience across various sectors within the agriculture industry, including grain, retail, the red meat industry, and dairy farming. Hailing from the picturesque South Coast NSW, Bart's passion for sustainable practices and environmental stewardship has only deepened over time. Currently enrolled in Charles Sturt University, pursuing a Master's in Education, Bart is dedicated to honing his skills for a seamless transition into high school teaching. With a fervent commitment to cultivating the next generation of agricultural stewards, Bart aims to inspire and educate, ensuring a thriving future for agriculture across all sectors.



CHELSEA REEVE *FORBES*

After being raised on a small sheep farm, Chelsea has always had a deep-rooted passion for both agriculture and education. Her early exposure to learning valuable lessons on the land meant that she understood the importance of constantly acquiring new knowledge and particularly that of agriculture where it is paramount to development and prosperity in the industry. After completing a Bachelor of Agriculture, her love for the industry combined with her desire to make a difference by inspiring the next generation of rural leaders and innovators, meant she decided to undertake a Master of Teaching (Secondary) and become an Agriculture teacher. Currently living in Forbes NSW means she has the privilege of sowing the seeds of knowledge to cultivate a brighter future in rural communities. Chelsea is eager to further her impact and deepen her expertise to inspire the next generation whilst bridging the gap between academia and the agricultural community.



ELIZABETH ARGUE *TAYLOR'S ARM*

Elizabeth Argue's love for life on the land and supporting people in rural communities originated from her growing up in a small rural community on her family's beef cattle property. This passion led her to study a Bachelor of Agriculture and Business, majoring in Marketing at the University of New England. From this foundation Elizabeth has worked across a range of sectors including on a station in Queensland, across the corporate marketing sector, for a rural women's start-up offering digital marketing and event services to agribusinesses in regional NSW and is now pursuing a career in agricultural teaching which has been a lifelong dream. Elizabeth is an advocate for enhancing sustainability in primary industries and empowering the next generations of leaders in agriculture.



JOANNA BALCOMBE *CANOWINDRA*

Joanna Balcombe completed her Bachelor of Agricultural Science at CSU in Wagga Wagga in 2022. Growing up on her family's property at Canowindra running a Poll Dorset stud has allowed her to forge a passion for agriculture. Through the stud, she has attended many ag shows, exhibiting and judging stud sheep. In 2017, she was the National Junior Judging Champion for Meat Sheep. In 2023, she was selected as a State finalist in the Young Women Competition representing Canowindra. She would love to be able to share her passion for Ag with the future generations and create opportunities for them like the ones she has experienced.

COMMUNITY FUTURES GRANT

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: **TUMUT SHOW SOCIETY**

Contact: **Margaret Hillier**

Project: \$15,000 for essential roof replacement of the grandstand at the Tumut Agricultural Showground

The grandstand at Tumut Showground is essential for the annual Tumut Show and community events. For years, its roof's poor condition affected maintenance and patron comfort. Funding allowed Tumut Show Society to restore this structure, ensuring long-term use. This project boosted community pride, volunteer involvement, and local support.

Organisation: **JERANGLE RURAL FIRE SERVICE**

Contact: **Vanessa Ladrak**

Project: \$12,000 for the purchase and installation of a dangerous goods container

Jerangle is primarily an agricultural region that often receives lower priority compared to densely populated areas during widespread fire events. Furthermore, the Jerangle RFS shed has been in development for over 60 years, with appliances currently stored at members' properties. The purchase and installation of a dangerous goods container will centralise the community's response to fire and emergency situations, featuring onsite refuelling capabilities. This will reduce response times and alleviate fatigue caused by traveling to Cooma or Canberra to refuel appliances during the end-of-session refurbishment.

Organisation: **WOODSTOCK MEMORIAL SHOW INC.**

Contact: **Alison Rutledge**

Project: \$20,000 to replace old water infrastructure and install tap outlets for better access at Woodstock Showground.

Funding will be used to upgrade the aged water infrastructure at the Woodstock Showground including installing numerous tap outlets for better access to reticulated water and a rainwater tank to capture runoff from buildings, providing an additional water source and reducing stormwater runoff. A new RV dump point with a holding tank and plumbing will also be installed. These upgrades will reduce maintenance costs by replacing aged pipes and minimizing water leaks while also improving public safety will by removing temporary above-ground hoses. Environmental sustainability will also be enhanced by harvesting rainwater and providing a proper disposal method for grey and black water through the new dump point.

Organisation: **WEST WYALONG SHOW SOCIETY**

Contact: **Robert Logg**

Project: \$22,000 to re-roof the sheep and angora goat pavilion

Six years ago, a storm damaged the pavilion, leaving one side with a rusty roof and the other with a new roof. The sheep and angora goat pavilion are crucial to the Showground's infrastructure, and the show society is committed to maintaining it. This project will replace the old, corrugated roof with new material, ensuring the pavilion is ready for community events, especially the West Wyalong Show.

Organisation: **DUBBO NATIONAL RAM SALE ASSOCIATION INC**

Contact: **Garry Kopp**

Project: \$15,000 for the NSW School Merino Wether Challenge

The NSW Merino School Wether Challenge (SWC) Project is all about helping schools in low socio-economic areas. The project provides grants so these schools can get the resources and equipment they need, attend educational seminars, and cover other related expenses to make the SWC experience better. By joining the SWC, students from these backgrounds will get better education, more confidence, and improved skills. The challenge also helps build connections among teachers, students, and industry representatives, creating a supportive community. Plus, it promotes equality by giving all students a fair chance to participate and succeed.

Organisation: **COMMERCIAL MERINO BREEDERS ASSOCIATION INC**
Contact: **Chris Croker**
Project: \$10,000 for education and capacity building for the sheep and wool industry in rural and regional NSW

Currently, there are twenty flock competitions taking place across New South Wales, all requiring funding to build capacity and encourage youth participation. These events, which span one or two days, serve as a community gathering, providing valuable educational opportunities while allowing farmers to take a break from their properties and connect with others facing similar challenges. This initiative aims to support rural and regional youth through educational events, sponsorships, and bursaries to assist with travel expenses. Such support will enhance capacity through education, improve mental health by fostering connections, provide valuable learning opportunities, increase participation, and boost vendor patronage, as well as facilitate the establishment of new events.

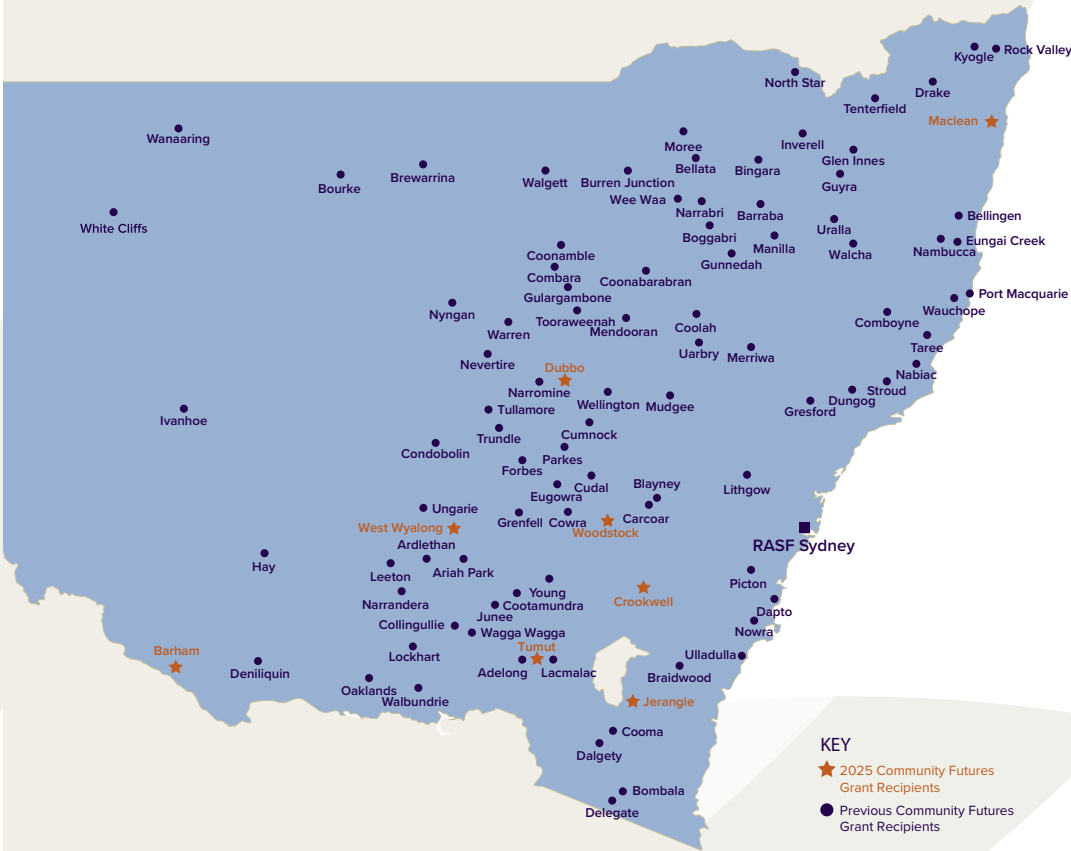
Organisation: **BARHAM HIGH SCHOOL**
Contact: **Brendan Yu**
Project: \$25,000 to construct a covered parading pen on school grounds to enhance livestock handling and parading skills for students

Students at Barham High School currently lack an on-site space to prepare for agricultural shows. This situation limits their ability to engage with practical aspects of their studies, especially during inclement weather. This project aims to provide an all-weather area for skills development in livestock care, showmanship, and confidence building. It will also facilitate connections with the local agricultural community, enhancing career pathways in rural industries and supporting the region's economy.

Organisation: **MACLEAN HIGH SCHOOL**
Contact: **Patrick Dwyer**
Project: \$15,000 to run Clarence Valley Cluckers: Learning Through Agriculture, a program designed to teach students responsibility, animal care, and the fundamentals of running a business, fostering practical skills and confidence.

This project, located in Maclean in the Clarence Valley, integrates special education with agriculture to offer practical learning experiences for students from low socioeconomic backgrounds. The program includes raising chickens at the Maclean High School Farm, collecting their eggs, and selling them to local community members and cafes. The program aims to teach students responsibility, animal care, and business management skills, promoting practical knowledge and self-assurance. By engaging with the local community, the project also enhances connections and instills a sense of accomplishment among the students.

FUNDING COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN NSW





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We sincerely thank the following donors and supporters for their generous support of the RAS Foundation Rural Scholarship Program.

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