

2026

GRANTS &
SCHOLARSHIPS



RASF

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RAS FOUNDATION

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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 \$12.3 million into rural and regional communities through a range of targeted grants and scholarships. To date, the RAS Foundation has supported over 990 rural scholarship students and helped them to reach their educational dreams and awarded 179 organisations vital community funding.

Donations to the RAS Foundation are tax deductible.

RAS F

RAS FOUNDATION



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

GIVING TO DATE

AS AT JUNE 2026

Program: **Community Projects**

(including Community Futures Grants, E3 Grants and Community Kitchens)

Duration: 19 years

Grants Awarded: 179 grants

Funds Distributed: \$2,253,789

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

Duration: 18 years

Grants Awarded: 18

Funds Distributed: \$184,000

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

Duration: 16 years

Scholarships Awarded: 1,076 Scholarships

Funds Distributed: \$6,070,715

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

Duration: 8 years

Funds Distributed: \$2,535,174

2026 Giving:

2026 RASF Funding provided rural/regional schools to attend Stand Tall even in Sydney

Coffs Harbour High School, Toormina High School & Orara High School in Coffs Harbour, NSW & Nyngan High School in Nyngan, NSW \$25,000

2026 Donation to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library/United Way

Supporting early literacy program in Brewarrina, Coonamble, Gilgandra & Walgett \$50,890

2026 Donation to 10 NSW Show Societies participating in Big Bush Barbecue

\$11,455

2026 Donation for students at Coomealla High School to attend Sydney Royal Easter Show as part of the RAS All Roads to the Royal program

\$25,000

Other:

2021-2025 Stand Tall Sponsorship \$51,774

2022-2025 Donations to flood affected communities \$432,000

2023-2025 Funding provided to support RAS Education Programs \$438,975

2023-2025 RASF Charity Brunch fundraising \$164,745

2024-2025 Donations to NSW Show Societies participating in Big Bush BBQ \$21,470

2021-2024 Other community funding \$70,000

Total **\$12,334,987**

RURAL SCHOLARSHIPS

RAS Foundation Rural Scholarships provide a financial helping hand to 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 ACT.

These scholarships help students achieve their education goals and aspirations and embrace a diverse range of tertiary education and training.



ABBY WILSON *DUBBO*

Bachelor of Physiotherapy

Abby grew up in Dubbo where she developed a strong appreciation for the country lifestyle and everything it has to offer. She later moved to Port Macquarie to study a Bachelor of Physiotherapy and is now heading into her third year. She is hardworking and passionate, with a strong commitment to learning and helping others. Outside of university, she enjoys the beach, swimming, and CrossFit, which help keep her active and balanced. She deeply values her family and spending quality time with the people she loves.

Scholarship donated by: Quayclean



ADIBAH TASNIM *BALLINA*

Bachelor of Clinical Sciences/Doctor of Medicine

Adibah grew up in Ballina on the New South Wales North Coast, where she has lived since she was eight. Life in the Northern Rivers shaped who she is, whether it was time spent at the beach or being part of a close-knit community. Outside of study, Adibah enjoys painting with acrylics and getting lost in a good book.

As a second year medical student at Charles Sturt University, she is especially passionate about rural healthcare, influenced by her own experiences growing up in a regional area. In the future, Adibah hopes to give back by supporting and advocating for better healthcare access in rural communities.

Scholarship donated by: Maple-Brown Family Foundation



ALANA COCKING *TAMWORTH*

Bachelor of Veterinary Science (Honours)

Currently in her fifth year undertaking a Bachelor of Veterinary Science, Alana is studying at James Cook University in Townsville, Queensland. Aside from her passion for all things animals, she has a love for the country. Growing up on a property just outside of Tamworth in Attunga, Alana learnt to ride horses, grow crops and take care of animals of all sizes. When she's not studying, Alana loves to read books, get active in the gym and catch up with friends over a tea and some baked goods.

Scholarship donated by: Andrew Pratten Charitable Trust



ALEXANDER GIBBON *GIRVAN*

Certificate III in Agriculture

Alexander comes from the small rural community of Girvan, located between Booral and Bulahdelah, with a population of around 200 people. Growing up, his family spent over 12 years developing a hobby farm, raising various animals and maintaining a large garden that was easy to get lost in. This upbringing sparked his strong interest in agriculture and permaculture, inspiring him to study a Certificate III in Agriculture at Tocal College. Alexander is focused on deepening his knowledge and building a future in the farming industry.

Scholarship donated by: Millner Family Trust

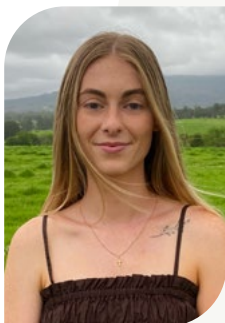


AMBER HOLBROOK *WAUCHOPE*

Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician

Amber is from Wauchope and is in her second year of an electrical apprenticeship, completing a Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician at TAFE in Port Macquarie. She enjoys her role servicing businesses across the Mid North Coast, visiting a variety of sites and working closely with clients - something that allows her to stay connected to and contribute to her local community. Motivated by the hands-on work and problem-solving involved, Amber hopes to continue working in rural areas after her apprenticeship, providing essential services and supporting local communities.

Scholarship donated by: Millner Family Trust



AMY CLOTHIER *NOWRA*

Bachelor of Medical Studies/ Doctor of Medicine

Amy grew up in the Shoalhaven area and moved to the Port Macquarie campus of the University of New South Wales to pursue her childhood dream of becoming a doctor and she is now in her final year of studies. Outside of medicine, Amy enjoys being involved in her local church community, staying active through hiking and exercise, and travelling. Having grown up and studied in regional areas, Amy's commitment to working in rural communities has continued to grow, along with her desire to help address medical workforce shortages and she hopes to pursue a career in rural general practice or emergency medicine.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation



AMY WELS CANDELO

Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science

Amy is from the small rural community of Candelo and is in her fifth year studying a Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science at Charles Sturt University. She has a keen interest in all things cattle-related, particularly the use of emerging technologies and data to advance herd health, welfare, and productivity. Upon graduation, Amy hopes to work as a large animal veterinarian with a strong emphasis on dairy herd health and reproduction, and ultimately establish her own veterinary service, building trusted relationships with farmers to support regional and remote communities.

Scholarship donated by: Mary & Peter Weal



ANITA MCKENZIE COONAMBLE

Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science (Medical Imaging)

Anita grew up on a farm in the small rural town of Coonamble and is currently studying a Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science (Medical Imaging) at the University of Canberra. Now in her third year, she has spent most of the academic year on placements within rural New South Wales, which she has thoroughly enjoyed. Outside of her studies, Anita enjoys reading, cooking, and travelling.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation



ANNALISE ROBERTSON MACKSVILLE

Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science

Annalise is currently in her final year of a Bachelor of Veterinary Science/Bachelor of Veterinary Biology at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Growing up on a property in a small town on the Mid North Coast of New South Wales fostered a strong connection to agriculture - particularly beef cattle production. Annalise has a keen interest in mixed veterinary practice, with a focus on beef cattle and sheep medicine, and she values the role veterinarians play in supporting animal health, productivity, and rural communities.

Scholarship donated by: Dr George Jacobs & Dr Janice Hirshorn



AVA WEYMANS MORUYA

Bachelor of Medical Science/Doctor of Medicine

Ava is a fourth year medical student at the University of Newcastle as part of the Joint Medical Program. Growing up in Moruya, a small town on the South Coast, fostered her passion for rural health and interest in improving access to services. After three years studying in Newcastle, she is excited to undertake her fourth year in Taree, gaining experience in a regional community. Ava hopes this will help develop the skills needed to work as a rural paediatric doctor in the future.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation



BATESON PITTMAN WALCHA

Bachelor of Rural Science

Bateson lives in Walcha on a sheep and cattle property in the Yarrowitch area, where he has developed a strong foundation in agriculture. In 2026, he began his first year of university, enrolling in a Bachelor of Rural Science at the University of New England. He has a keen interest in agriculture, particularly in livestock production; with a focus on sheep and cattle management, genetics, business, animal health, and product marketing. Bateson is especially passionate about Merino sheep production and is driven to contribute positively to the industry, with the goal of strengthening both the Merino sector and the wider agricultural industry.

Scholarship donated by: New South Wales Stud Merino Breeders' Association



BENJAMIN SPEER PARMA

Certificate III in Agriculture

Benjamin grew up on his parents' hobby farm in the Shoalhaven area on the South Coast where his passion for farming began. After studying agriculture at school, he knew it was the career path he wanted to pursue. He is excited to be studying his Certificate III in Agriculture at Tocal College, where he is gaining hands-on experience across a wide range of skills. He plans to continue his studies by completing a Certificate IV and Diploma of Agriculture, which will open further opportunities and potentially lead to university study.

Scholarship donated by: Dr George Jacobs & Dr Janice Hirshorn

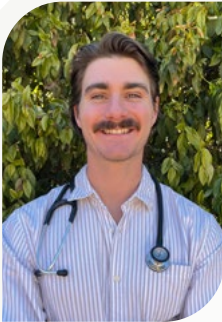


BETH TAMME DUBBO

Diploma of Counselling

Beth is a mature-age student from Dubbo studying Counselling through the Australian Institute of Family Counselling. Now in her second year of study, she hopes to specialise in trauma-informed counselling, supporting regional women recovering from domestic violence and abuse. Alongside her studies, Beth volunteers with the Justice Advocacy Service and is training as a Lifeline Crisis Supporter - reflecting her commitment to frontline community care. Outside of study, she enjoys writing, nature walks, and good conversations over a cup of tea. She is mum to six wonderful kids who are her greatest motivation and delight.

Scholarship donated by: Coolaroo Foundation



BRADLEY SMITH BONNY HILLS

Bachelor of Clinical Science (Medicine)/Doctor of Medicine

Brad is originally from Bonny Hills and has moved to Albury to complete full-time placement for the Doctor of Medicine at Charles Sturt University. He is currently in his fourth year, and this will be his second year of clinical placements. During this time, he will complete rotations in paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology, mental health, and general practice. Brad has a strong interest in rural health and medicine and plans to work in a rural area upon graduating. Outside of his studies, he enjoys spending time outdoors, including camping, fishing, hiking, and playing sports.

Scholarship donated by: Ronald Arnott Foundation



BROOKE CHAPMAN FINE FLOWER

Bachelor of Communications/Bachelor of Journalism

Brooke grew up on her family's beef cattle property at Fine Flower in the Northern Rivers region. In 2026, she is excited to be commencing her first year of a Bachelor of Communications/Bachelor of Journalism dual degree at the University of Queensland. She has always appreciated the power of storytelling, whether it's capturing the rhythm of rural life or sharing the voices of people from small communities. She finds joy in using words to capture moments and connect with others. She also loves her dad's working dogs, valuing their trust and high energy, as they are an important part of the farm operation.

Scholarship donated by: Andrew Pratten Charitable Trust



CAITLIN DRUM COOTAMUNDRA

Bachelor of Agriculture

Caitlin grew up on a small farm near Cootamundra and developed a strong interest in farming and the outdoors from a young age. While finishing school, she gained hands-on experience working in shearing sheds and with free-range pigs and chickens. After high school, she spent a gap year on a sheep farm in central Victoria and began studying a Bachelor of Agriculture online through the University of New England. She is now continuing her studies while working part-time on a mixed Merino and beef cattle station in the New England region. Upon completing her degree, she plans to continue working towards creating positive change within the agricultural industry.

Scholarship donated by: The Profield Foundation & UNE Foundation



CHARLEE TOZER NIMMITABEL

Bachelor of Nursing

Charlee is from Nimmitabel, a small rural town in the Snowy Mountains. She is in her second year studying a Bachelor of Nursing at the University of Wollongong's rural campus in Bega and continues to enjoy nursing just as much as when she first began. Growing up on the land in a close-knit rural community, Charlee has witnessed first-hand the challenges many people face in accessing healthcare. After graduating, she hopes to pursue a career in rural nursing, allowing her to give back to communities where healthcare access and support are limited.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation



CHARLI PAYTON TAREE

Bachelor of Education (Secondary Arts)

Charli is currently in her second year of studying a Bachelor of Education (Secondary Arts) at the University of New England. Originally from Taree, Charli loved volunteering in her hometown by being a part of the local youth action collective, running events and helping to address concerns. She now helps out her residential college by being a Resident Leader, a role that she has already found rewarding. As a regional student herself, Charli cares deeply about delivering high-quality education, strong support, and innovative learning, and hopes to teach in a regional or rural area after completing her studies.

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



CHARLIE HOPE WOLLOMBI

Certificate III in Agriculture

Charlie grew up on a large cattle property in Wollombi and has recently begun to study a Certificate III in Agriculture at Tocal College in Paterson. Charlie's goal is to complete this qualification and, ideally, go on to study a Certificate IV in Agriculture. During Year 8, Charlie developed a strong interest in cattle and cattle work, including showing cattle. This interest has continued to grow and has shaped a long-term goal of working in the agricultural industry.

Scholarship donated by: Coolaroo Foundation



CHARLOTTE FOURACRE GOULBURN

Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/ Bachelor of Veterinary Science

Charlotte is from Goulburn in the Southern Tablelands of New South Wales and is currently in her fourth year of a Veterinary Science degree at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. She has a strong interest in large animal and production medicine, with the ambition to practise in a rural or regional setting. She is passionate about delivering practical, evidence-based veterinary services to support animal health, agricultural enterprises, and rural communities. Outside of her studies, she plays classical violin and piano and has a strong interest in Shetland ponies.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation



CHELSEA ZAINI BOWRAVILLE

Bachelor of Veterinary Biology / Bachelor of Veterinary Science

Chelsea is from the small town of Bowraville in the mid North Coast hinterland and is studying her final year of a veterinary science degree at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Chelsea has a strong interest in large animal practice, particularly equine work, and has enjoyed gaining hands-on experience while learning about rural and regional practice throughout her studies. When she is not on placement, she enjoys spending time at home with her family. She is excited to graduate, continue building her skills, and begin her career working with rural and regional communities and their animals.

Scholarship donated by: Millner Family Trust



CHLOE AMERY *FORBES*

Bachelor of Agricultural Science

Chloe is from Forbes and is currently in her first year of studying a Bachelor of Agricultural Science through Charles Sturt University. Alongside her studies, she works part-time at the local Elders branch as a Retail Sales Representative and trainee agronomist, gaining practical experience as she works towards her goal of becoming an agronomist. She lives on her family's mixed cropping and sheep farm, is the eldest of six children, and owns three dogs. She also enjoys getting involved in community sports and events.

Scholarship donated by: The Profield Foundation



CHRISTIE AHKIN *BEGA*

Bachelor of Psychological Science

Christie is a lifelong resident of the Bega Valley and a third-year psychology student at Deakin University. Growing up and raising two children locally has given her a deep appreciation for the strengths of close-knit communities and insight into the challenges of service gaps and stigma. She has worked in community services and now in youth mental health, where she has witnessed the impact of early support, education and community connection in strengthening mental health outcomes and community resilience. Christie intends to practise locally as a registered psychologist and hopes to contribute to locally informed, accessible services. Outside study, she enjoys keeping fit, music and spending time with family.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation



CLAIR STIFF *BALLIMORE*

Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Honours)

Clair is undertaking her fourth year of Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Honours) at Charles Sturt University. Her research explores the experiences of women with endometriosis working in agriculture across regional, rural, and remote Australia, highlighting the challenges of managing chronic pelvic pain while undertaking physically demanding farm roles. Alongside her studies, she works on her family's farm near Ballimore, and in their rural contracting business during peak seasons. She is actively involved in Hereford stud operations, preparing and exhibiting cattle at agricultural shows, and is passionate about mentoring young people in agriculture. Clair is committed to improving healthcare access and support for women in rural industries.

Scholarship donated by: Ronald Arnott Foundation



CLAIRE LEADLEY MUSWELLBROOK

Bachelor of Physiotherapy

Claire is originally from Muswellbrook and is currently in her second year of a Bachelor of Physiotherapy at Charles Sturt University in Port Macquarie. Growing up in regional communities, she witnessed first-hand the limited access to essential health services and facilities and these challenges have inspired her to become a physiotherapist dedicated to improving health outcomes in rural areas and Claire is committed to advocating for and supporting the health needs of regional and rural Australians.

Scholarship donated by: Exponet



CLAUDIA WILSON ORANGE

Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science

Claudia grew up on a beef cattle property in Central West New South Wales, south of Orange. She is currently in her final year studying a Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga and is completing her final placements at various clinics across New South Wales and Victoria. Claudia has a particular interest in working with cattle and production animals and following graduation, she plans to return to a rural area to pursue a career as a mixed practice veterinarian, playing an active role in supporting farming communities.

Scholarship donated by: Laurie Cowled



CORBEN HART BRAIDWOOD

Doctor of Medicine and Surgery

Corben grew up on a cattle farm outside the town of Braidwood in the Southern Tablelands, which instilled in him a strong appreciation for life on the land. He is currently studying a Doctor of Medicine and Surgery at the Australian National University, driven by a desire to pursue an intellectually rewarding career that allows him to give back to his community. He hopes to become a General Practitioner, as he enjoys the broad scope of work the role offers. In his free time, he enjoys being outdoors, whether on his family farm, hiking, or exploring and appreciating nature as a hobby ecologist.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation



DAVE MESSNER *TALLIMBA*

Bachelor of Agricultural Science

Dave is from Tallimba in the Central West and is currently in his third year of a Bachelor of Agricultural Science at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. His family runs a sheep and cropping business on their farm, where he worked for several years while completing a Certificate IV in Accounting and Bookkeeping before beginning university in 2024. He enjoys returning home during holidays and outside of his studies, he has a passion for music and plays in a band with friends from university. He also enjoys playing rugby for Wagga Agricultural College.

Scholarship donated by: The Profield Foundation



DEAN CHAPMAN *FINE FLOWER*

Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)

Dean grew up on his family's beef cattle property at Fine Flower in the Northern Rivers region where they have been producing Australian beef for over 45 years. He is currently studying his third year of a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) at the University of Wollongong. He is passionate about developing practical, sustainable infrastructure and engineering solutions that work effectively within natural landscapes and support long-term growth in regional communities. He enjoys being outdoors and working alongside his family, with mustering and cattle work among his favourite activities whenever he is home.

Scholarship donated by: Michael & Jen Millner



EBONY FORDHAM *THE ROCK*

Certificate III in Agricultural Mechanical Technology

Ebony grew up, and continues to live, on a farm near The Rock in the Riverina region. She is currently in her third year as an apprentice diesel mechanic at Hutcheon and Pearce in Wagga Wagga, while completing a Certificate III in Agricultural Mechanical Technology at TAFE Primary Industries Centre in Wagga. Ebony has always preferred hands-on learning and enjoys working with machinery rather than sitting in a classroom. Growing up on a farm sparked her passion for agriculture and machinery, and she finds great satisfaction in helping fellow farmers keep their operations running, especially during busy periods. In her spare time, Ebony enjoys spending time with family and friends, as well as travelling.

Scholarship donated by: Millner Family Trust



ELLA PAYNE WARREN

Bachelor of Agricultural Science

Ella is a fourth year Bachelor of Agricultural Science student at Charles Sturt University, and has a strong focus on broadacre cropping. Growing up in a rural community shaped her passion for agriculture and agronomy. Her interests include agronomy, soil health, precision agriculture, and supporting resilient farming businesses. She is working towards a career as a broadacre agronomist, where she hopes to help producers improve productivity while caring for their land. Outside of her studies, she enjoys community involvement, practical farm work, and learning from people across the agricultural industry.

Scholarship donated by: Paynter-Swane Family



EMILY SYMONS GALSTON

Certificate III in Agriculture

Emily is from Galston and is currently in her first year of studying a Certificate III in Agriculture at Tocal College. She has a strong passion for the agricultural industry, particularly working with cattle and training working dogs. Outside of her studies, she enjoys horse riding and competing in team sorting. She also has a keen interest in working with livestock, including heifer and steer breaking, as well as further developing her skills in training working dogs. Emily is passionate about building her experience and pursuing a future in agriculture.

Scholarship donated by: Coolaroo Foundation



EMILY MCHUGH BANGOR

Bachelor of Agriculture/Bachelor of Business

Emily McHugh is currently in her fourth year studying a Bachelor of Agriculture/Bachelor of Business at the University of New England in Armidale which she is thoroughly enjoying. She has a strong interest in working with livestock and is eager to continue learning about the different sectors within the agricultural industry. Through her university studies, she aims to contribute to the improvement and advancement of agricultural businesses and the industry as a whole.

Scholarship donated by: Millner Family Trust & UNE Foundation



ETHAN PURSCH COFFS HARBOUR

Diploma of Nursing

Ethan is from the coastal town of Coffs Harbour and is currently in his second year studying a Diploma of Nursing at TAFE NSW. Through his studies, he is developing the skills and knowledge needed to provide compassionate, patient-centred care, and he has a strong interest in mental health and holistic wellbeing. Outside of his studies, he is a musician and surfer, performing live gigs with his band as well as solo. He enjoys combining creativity with purpose and hopes to make a positive impact through both healthcare and the arts.

Scholarship donated by: Andrew Pratten Charitable Trust



EWAN REILLY MEERSCHAUM VALE

Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) Electrical and Electronics Engineering

Ewan is a third year student studying a Bachelor of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at the University of Wollongong. He grew up on a farm in the Northern Rivers where he developed a strong love for the outdoors. He is looking forward to life beyond graduation and the technological advancements emerging in the rural and agricultural sectors. Ewan enjoys spending time outdoors, valuing quality time with friends, and has a strong passion for the environment. He hopes to return home after completing his degree, with a particular interest in control systems and automation.

Scholarship donated by: Maple-Brown Family Foundation



FELICITY WEBB OBERON

Bachelor of Agriculture Business Management

Felicity Webb is from Oberon and is currently studying a Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. She comes from a multi-generational farming family that operates a commercial beef and wool enterprise. After completing Year 12 in 2021, she spent three years working on a large cattle station in the Gulf of Carpentaria. She now works part-time with an agency at the Wagga sheep and cattle saleyards. Felicity is passionate about ensuring all Australians understand where their food and primary products come from and after completing her degree, she plans to undertake a Diploma of Education.

Scholarship donated by: The Profield Foundation



GABRIELLE FORREST COROBIMILLA

Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science

Gabbie grew up at Corobimilla on her family farm, where she developed a strong passion for rural Australia and all things agriculture and animal related. She is in her sixth year of Veterinary Science at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga and after graduating, she aims to work as a large animal or mixed practice veterinarian within rural Australian communities. Her special interests include netball, water skiing, working on the family farm, and spending time with friends, family, and her dogs.

Scholarship donated by: Dr George Jacobs & Dr Janice Hirshorn



GEMMA PASTRO BILBUL

Bachelor of Agricultural Science

Gemma is a fourth year Bachelor of Agricultural Science student at Charles Sturt University, majoring in agronomy. She grew up on her family's wine grape farm in Bilbul in the Riverina region, where her passion for agriculture was shaped through hands-on experience working on the farm. Upon graduating, Gemma aims to become an agronomist, providing advice and working alongside producers in rural communities to support the agricultural sector and inspire other young women to pursue careers in the industry. Outside of her studies, she enjoys working on the farm, spending time with family and friends, and playing sports such as touch football, league tag, and netball.

Scholarship donated by: The Profield Foundation



GEORGIA BRIGGS GILGANDRA

Bachelor of Education (Technology and Applied Studies)

Georgia lives in Gilgandra and is a second year student studying a Bachelor of Education (Technology and Applied Studies) at Charles Sturt University, specialising in Agriculture, with plans to graduate in 2028 and become an agricultural teacher. She grew up in town with her family, their dogs, and a few chickens, and initially had little involvement in agriculture until studying it at school. Since then, she has developed a strong passion for the industry, competing in junior judging at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, enjoying time in the sheep yards, riding in the chaser bin during harvest, and representing her community as the Gilgandra Show's Young Woman of 2025.

Scholarship donated by: The Profield Foundation



HAN WORSLEY NULLAMANNA

Doctor of Philosophy

Han grew up on a mixed grazing property near Nullamanna and now lives in Jindabyne. Han is a PhD candidate at the University of Canberra, researching how rural primary school students develop and express their aspirations. Today they proudly work for non-profit Study Hubs Australia, supporting rural university students, and serves as the Chair of ag-education group Women Together Learning. In their spare time Han loves to hike, ride bikes, and compete their Australian Stock Horse George.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation

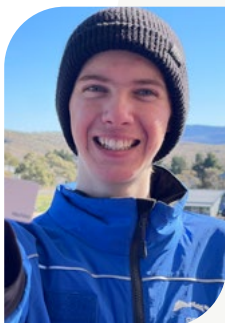


HANNAH NEILSON ARMIDALE

Doctor of Medicine

Hannah grew up in Armidale and is now completing her fourth-year of medical studies at the University of New South Wales. She is passionate about rural medicine and aspires to become a Rural Generalist, with a particular interest in retrieval medicine and the Royal Flying Doctor Service. This year, Hannah is looking forward to completing her research project which is focused on bone fractures and fixation techniques. Outside of medicine, she is a musician who sings and plays guitar at local pubs, and has previously worked as a lamb marker and horticulturalist in the Hunter–New England region.

Scholarship donated by: Maple-Brown Family Foundation



HAYDEN SLATER JINDABYNE

Bachelor of Science

Hayden spent his high school years in Jindabyne and has just begun his first year at the Australian National University, studying a Bachelor of Science. He is passionate about science and teaching, and instructs at the Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club, where he teaches children and adults how to sail, aiming to increase youth participation in the sport; he also completed a season as a ski instructor at Perisher. Hayden plans to further his knowledge in biology, physics, and chemistry, with the goal of teaching these subjects in a high school setting.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation



HELENA PARKER MERRIWA

Bachelor of Chiropractic Science

Helena was born in Port Macquarie and raised in the regional town of Merriwa in the Upper Hunter and is currently in her second year of studying a Bachelor of Chiropractic Science at Macquarie University. Growing up in a regional farming community taught her the importance of family, community values, and access to rural education and healthcare; It also fostered her love for the bush and outdoor adventure. Being aware of the city–country divide has driven her aspiration to open a chiropractic clinic in rural Australia, where she hopes to support people with musculoskeletal conditions or injuries in maintaining a healthy work–life balance.

Scholarship donated by: Carmel Dyer-Pitroff



IAN BURTON ALBURY

Bachelor of Medical Studies / Doctor of Medicine

Ian is originally from Albury and is currently studying medicine in Wagga Wagga through the University of New South Wales' rural end-to-end program. He serves as the National Coordinator for the Australian Medical Students' Association and has a strong passion for rural healthcare, with the goal of ultimately practising in a rural or remote setting. His current research interests include movement disorders, regional oncology outcomes, and health equity between rural and metropolitan centres. Outside of medicine, he enjoys hiking, camping, trail running, and baking, often sharing his creations with friends.

Scholarship donated by: Sushi Hub



IMREET SINGH SHERGILL GRIFFITH

***Bachelor of Medical Studies/
Bachelor of Science (Honours)/Doctor of Medicine***

Imreet is from Griffith in country New South Wales and is currently studying his fifth year of medicine at the University of New South Wales in Albury. He has recently completed his fourth-year research thesis and is looking forward to returning to hospital-based training for his final two years. He has a strong interest in rural medicine and hopes to pursue a career in this field after graduating. Outside of his studies, he enjoys spending time outdoors, particularly running and hiking, and is an avid follower of Formula 1 and the NBA.

Scholarship donated by: Millner Family Trust



INDIGO NOWLAN-CRISP *CANBERRA*

Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science

Indigo is in her fifth year of Veterinary Science at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga and is interested in becoming a dairy veterinarian. She developed a passion for dairy medicine while working on a dairy farm outside of Wagga during her studies, and hopes to continue working towards a career as a mixed practice veterinarian in a rural dairy community. Outside of her studies, she enjoys camping, four-wheel driving, hiking, and anything that involves being outdoors. She also has a soft spot for injured wildlife, having nursed a number of birds and even an echidna back to health at home.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation



JACK BARNETT *KEMPSEY/DONDINGALONG*

Doctor of Medicine and Surgery

Jack grew up in Kempsey/Dondingalong in the Macleay Valley before moving to Canberra to study a Bachelor of Health Science at the Australian National University (ANU) which he completed last year. He is now in his first year studying a Doctor of Medicine and Surgery degree at ANU. Jack is committed to undertaking placements in rural areas throughout his medical degree and hopes to return to the Mid North Coast to work in a rural setting after completing his studies and training.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation



JACK WOOD *TAREE*

***Bachelor of Veterinary Science/
Bachelor of Veterinary Biology (Honours)***

Jack is now in his sixth and final year studying a Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/ Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Raised on a beef cattle property near Taree, he has a keen interest in advanced reproduction and livestock production. Jack is passionate about the role veterinarians play in helping producers improve herd performance, profitability, and long-term resilience across rural communities. Jack has recently completed a veterinary exchange in Norway, gaining on-farm exposure to intensive Scandinavian livestock production systems and world-leading antimicrobial stewardship and animal welfare.

Scholarship donated by: The Profield Foundation



JAKE VANZANTEN JUNEЕ

Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science (Diagnostic Radiography)

Jake is from Junee and is currently in his fourth year of studying a Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science (Diagnostic Radiography) at Charles Sturt University. He has a strong interest in caring for others and is passionate about improving access to high quality healthcare in rural and regional communities. He is particularly interested in medical imaging and the vital role it plays in early diagnosis, patient management, and continuity of care. Jake is committed to developing his skills as a radiographer and hopes to contribute meaningfully to improving imaging services and health outcomes in rural Australia.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation



JAMES SCHOFIELD MORISSET

Certificate III in Agriculture

James lives in Morisset in the Hunter region and is currently studying a Certificate III in Agriculture at Tocal College. Morisset was once a semi-rural town where caring for animals and hobby farming were common, and although it has become more urban, James has maintained a strong interest in working with plants and animals and enjoys hands-on work. His goal is to own his own farmland where he can continue to develop and refine his agricultural skills.

Scholarship donated by: Coolaroo Foundation



JENNIFER CORDEROY NARROMINE

Bachelor of Rural Science (Honours)

Jennifer is a fourth year Bachelor of Rural Science (Honours) student at the University of New England in Armidale. She grew up on a mixed farm near Narromine, where problem-solving alongside her dad inspired her interest in research within the cotton industry. She aims to support the Australian agriculture industry through advocacy, including involvement in organisations such as NSW Farmers Association. Jennifer credits her joy to serving others, including through church, the Rural Science Undergraduate Society, the UNE Sports Academy, and Peer Academic Mentoring.

Scholarship donated by: Ronald Arnott Foundation



JESSICA TOOGOOD HENTY

Bachelor of Agricultural Science

Jessica is from the small town of Henty in southern New South Wales. This year she is in her fourth and final year studying a Bachelor of Agricultural Science, majoring in Agronomy, at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. She chose to pursue Agricultural Science due to her long-standing passion for the industry, which developed from growing up on her family farm where problem-solving and innovation were part of everyday life. She has continued to build these skills through her studies and aims to carry them into her future career in agriculture.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation



JESSICA KERNAHAN GLOUCESTER

Bachelor of Rural Science

Jessica is in her fourth year of a Bachelor of Rural Science at the University of New England. She aspires to become an agronomist, with a focus on pastures within the dairy industry. Jessica is highly involved in her community, volunteering in roles with Gloucester Rotarian, serving as Vocational Director for 2026/27. She is also a member of the Gloucester Agricultural, Horticultural & Pastoral Association and the Central District Exhibits at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, where she contributes to building the large fruit and vegetable displays. Jessica is a strong advocate for her local community and is passionate about contributing to its growth and development.

Scholarship donated by: UNE Foundation



JONAS ANDERSEN GIRVAN

Certificate III in Agriculture

Jonas lives in Girvan, a small community north of Newcastle. He is currently in his first year studying a Certificate III in Agriculture at Tocal College. Jonas has chosen to study agriculture after working in a butchery for a year. He has a broad range of interests, including farm work, horses, cattle, sheep, leatherwork, poultry, carpentry, herbs, and beekeeping. As an active beekeeper, Jonas hopes to expand into commercial beekeeping within the next two years and ultimately aims to own a farm of his own.

Scholarship donated by: Coolaroo Foundation



JOSEPH O'NEILL *BATHURST*

Bachelor of Animal Science

Joseph is from regional New South Wales and is currently in his second year of studying a Bachelor of Animal Science at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga, with the goal of progressing into veterinary science in the future. He has a strong interest in rural and production animals, particularly sheep and cattle, which has developed through hands-on experience working on farms. He enjoys practical learning and spending time outdoors. Outside of university, he enjoys farming, staying active, playing football, and developing skills that will be valuable in rural communities.

Scholarship donated by: Maple-Brown Family Foundation



KASEY CREBERT *GLENDALE*

Certificate IV in Agriculture

Kasey is 19 years old and grew up in Newcastle with her family. She is currently studying a Certificate IV in Agriculture at Tocal College, following the completion of her Certificate III in Agriculture last year. Despite having no prior agricultural experience before starting, she has thoroughly enjoyed her time at Tocal, as it has allowed her to follow her passion for working with animals - particularly livestock, horses, and dogs.

Scholarship donated by: Dr George Jacobs & Dr Janice Hirshorn



KEELY MILFORD *COONABARABRAN*

Bachelor of Clinical Science (Medicine)/Doctor of Medicine

Keely is originally from Coonabarabran and is currently a second-year medical student at Charles Sturt University in Orange. Drawn to medicine by its blend of science, problem-solving and human connection - as well as its evolving nature, Keely is passionate about improving healthcare access in rural communities. She values the privilege and responsibility of supporting patients through some of the best and most difficult days of their lives. As a future doctor, Keely hopes to contribute to rural health while bringing compassion and reassurance to patients. Outside of university, she enjoys playing golf and spending time with family and friends.

Scholarship donated by: Andrew Pratten Charitable Trust



LAURA HARLEY NYMAGEE

Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood and Primary)

Laura is from the small rural town of Nymagee, where she has lived her whole life with her parents and sisters. Her family runs a sheep and cropping enterprise, and she feels most at home in the bush. She is currently in her final year of studying a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood and Primary) at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Completing her degree is a significant milestone for her, and she is excited to begin her career as a teacher in a rural area. She is passionate about giving back to these communities, which she believes are often overlooked.

Scholarship donated by: Millner Family Trust



LILIAN PEARCE SPRINGSIDE

Certificate III in Horse Care

Lillian is currently in her first year of the Certificate III in Horse Care at Tocal College. Growing up on a small family farm nurtured her strong interest in agriculture, livestock, and the Australian horse industry. She is dedicated to building her horsemanship skills through daily care, training, stock work, and competition. Lillian has been actively involved in cattle teams, agricultural shows, and mentoring younger students, and she enjoys contributing to youth programs in her community. She hopes to build a long-term career in the equine and livestock sectors while continuing to support and strengthen rural Australia.

Scholarship donated by: Nell & Hermon Slade Trust



LILY MORRIS TOMERONG

Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science

Lily grew up in Tomerong, a small town on the South Coast of New South Wales. She is currently in her sixth and final year of studying a Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. After graduation, she is looking forward to beginning her career as a mixed practice veterinarian in a rural or regional New South Wales community. When she is not busy studying or travelling to and from university placements, Lily enjoys riding horses, spending time at the beach, and being with family and friends.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation



LUCINDA ACHILLES WAGGA WAGGA

Bachelor of Primary Education

Luci is from Wagga Wagga and is currently studying a Bachelor of Education (Primary) at Charles Sturt University. She is thoroughly enjoying her journey into the teaching profession. Alongside her studies, Luci works as a School Learning Support Officer, supporting students experiencing mental health challenges and trauma. She is also a proud mother, and much of her spare time is spent fishing and camping with her sons. In 2026, she looks forward to completing her teaching placements and continuing to support rural students to recognise their strengths and reach their full potential through inclusive education.

Scholarship donated by: Millner Family Trust



LUKE MCNEIL FORSTER

Bachelor of Combined Mechanical/Mechatronics Engineering

Luke is from Forster and is in his second year of a combined Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering degree at the University of Newcastle. Growing up in a rural community has shaped his passion for practical, hands-on problem-solving and engineering solutions that can make a meaningful impact in remote areas. In Year 12, Luke designed and built a remotely operated underwater vehicle (ROV), sparking his interest in mechanical design and control systems. Since then, he has continued to develop these skills at university, including working on projects such as designing a wind turbine in his first year. Luke is also an active member of the State Emergency Service (SES), where he enjoys contributing to and supporting his local community.

Scholarship donated by: Andrew Pratten Charitable Trust



MADISON MCDONALD GUNNEDAH

Bachelor of Agriculture

Madison lives on a mixed farming enterprise in Gunnedah where her family runs sheep and cattle alongside winter cereal cropping. She is in her second year of a Bachelor of Agriculture, majoring in Plant Production, at the University of New England. She has aspired to become an agronomist since high school and is passionate about pursuing a career that supports farmers and strengthens rural communities. Outside of her university studies, she enjoys riding and showjumping and spending time involved in her local rural community.

Scholarship donated by: Coolaroo Foundation & UNE Foundation



MADISON DARCY TUNCURRY

Bachelor of Agriculture

Madi is from Forster–Tuncurry and is currently in her second year of a Bachelor of Agriculture at the University of New England. She has a strong passion for the agricultural industry, particularly beef cattle production, along with a genuine appreciation for the outdoors and the rural lifestyle. She also has an interest in education and working with people, and intends to pursue a Master of Teaching alongside her agriculture degree. Her goal is to support rural and regional communities and help inspire and educate the next generation entering the agricultural sector.

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



MADISON FORD WEST WYALONG

Bachelor of Physiotherapy

Madison is 21 years old and has a strong connection to rural communities. She was born and raised in West Wyalong before moving to Wellington, where she now lives. She is currently in her fourth and final year of a Bachelor of Physiotherapy at Charles Sturt University, completing 25 weeks of placement this year. She is passionate about supporting rural communities by improving access to healthcare and focusing on preventative health, particularly for farming populations. Outside of her studies, she enjoys campdrafting, water skiing, and has a strong interest in beef production. Madison is committed to making physiotherapy practical and accessible for small rural towns.

Scholarship donated by: Nell & Hermon Slade Trust



MARSHALL PEREIRA EMU PLAINS

Certificate IV in Agriculture

Marshall is 19 years old and from Emu Plains. He is currently studying a Certificate IV in Agriculture at Tocal Agricultural College, completing 22 units with a focus on livestock, nutrition, and machinery maintenance. He is aiming to work on a mixed enterprise farm, with a strong interest in mixed farming systems and working dogs. Marshall has a deep passion for agriculture and is motivated to make a positive impact on the industry, as well as share his enthusiasm and knowledge with others.

Scholarship donated by: Millner Family Trust



MATTHEW WISE TAMWORTH

Bachelor of Dental Science

Matthew is entering his fourth year of Dental Science in Orange at Charles Sturt University. Originally from Tamworth, he was excited to study dentistry in a rural setting similar to where he grew up. This has given him the opportunity to support patients in underserved communities even before graduating. He understands the challenges that lead rural patients to seek healthcare reactively and is motivated to help shift this towards more proactive dental care in rural areas. Outside of university, he enjoys playing soccer, basketball, and golf, being involved in club events, and cooking.

Scholarship donated by: Maple-Brown Family Foundation



MIA MILFORD MILTON

Certificate III in Agriculture

Mia is from Milton on the South Coast of New South Wales and has a strong passion for agriculture, particularly the equine industry. She is currently studying a Certificate III in Agriculture at Tocal College, and plans to continue her studies with a Diploma of Agriculture, followed by a Certificate III in Horse Care. Mia is passionate about developing practical skills in horse management and animal care while building a long term career in the agricultural sector. Her interests include working with horses, supporting equine-assisted wellbeing programs such as Horses for Healing, and contributing to the future of rural and regional communities across New South Wales.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation



NAOMI DUNN BOGAN GATE

Bachelor of Medical Science and Doctor of Medicine

Naomi is a first year Bachelor of Medical Science and Doctor of Medicine student at the University of New England. Growing up rurally has taught her countless valuable lessons and given her a deep understanding of the reality of living in country areas, including the challenges such as inequity in health care services. Naomi is passionate about making a difference to this by coming back to work rurally upon the completion of her degree.

Scholarship donated by: Maple-Brown Family Foundation



OAKLEY LUCAS CAMDEN HAVEN

***Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science
(Diagnostic Radiography) (Honours)***

Oakley is originally from the Camden Haven, a close-knit group of coastal towns just south of Port Macquarie. In 2024, she relocated to Newcastle to pursue her studies and is currently in her third year of a Bachelor of Diagnostic Radiography at the University of Newcastle. Oakley has a strong interest in medical imaging and patient care and is passionate about developing her skills in this field. Outside of her studies, Oakley enjoys drawing, snorkelling, and snowboarding, which helps her stay creative, active, and connected to both the ocean and the outdoors.

Scholarship donated by: Quayclean



PETER HELLEMONS DUNS CREEK

Bachelor of Civil Engineering (Honours)

Peter lives in the Upper Hunter region, and is undertaking his fourth year of a Bachelor of Civil Engineering at the University of Newcastle. He has chosen to study engineering as he enjoys the physical and theoretical components of the course. Peter enjoys playing football and has represented the university in several football events.

Scholarship donated by: The Showmen's Guild of Australasia

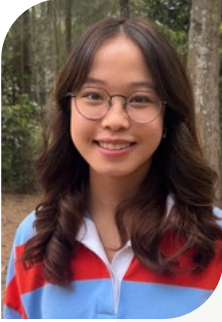


RHIANNA DUFF VICENTIA

Bachelor of Occupational Therapy

Rhianna is from the coastal town of Vincentia in Jervis Bay and is currently in her first year of a Bachelor of Occupational Therapy at the University of Canberra. She is excited to build a career focused on helping people live meaningful and independent lives, with a particular passion for supporting regional communities. She has a strong interest in working with children and hopes to pursue a career in paediatric occupational therapy. Outside of her studies, she enjoys playing soccer, participating in drama and musical theatre, bushwalking, and spending time at the beach with her family and Labrador.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation



RU LI LITTLE *FORBES*

Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Honours)

Ru is currently in her first year of a Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Honours) at the University of Newcastle. Growing up in Forbes, with farming heritage on both sides of her extended family, she values being part of a rural community. Her interest in physiotherapy was sparked through work experience at her local hospital, where she saw the important role allied health plays in supporting patients affected by injury, illness, disability, and ageing. She is looking forward to completing her university placements in regional locations and hopes to eventually bring her skills back to a rural practice. Outside of her studies, Ru enjoys baking, dance, and badminton.

Scholarship donated by: Ronald Arnott Foundation



SAMANTHA TAYLOR *GRIFFITH*

Bachelor of Agricultural Science

Samantha is originally from Griffith and is in her third year of a Bachelor of Agricultural Science at Charles Sturt University. Growing up in a vibrant agricultural region sparked her passion for the industry and continues to shape her academic journey. She has a strong interest in agricultural research and agronomy, particularly in advancing sustainable and productive farming systems. Alongside her studies, Samantha is actively involved in community volunteering and is passionate about agricultural education, with a focus on inspiring and supporting the next generation of students entering the field.

Scholarship donated by: AgShows NSW



SAMANTHA WELLENS *MEDOWIE*

Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science

Samantha is from Port Stephens and is currently in her fourth year of a Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Her journey into veterinary medicine has been unconventional; after leaving school midway through Year 10, she attended Tocal College, worked in equine reproduction, and completed a veterinary nursing qualification before gaining entry into veterinary school. Samantha is passionate about equine, bovine, and production animal medicine, with the goal of specialising in large animal practice.

Scholarship donated by: Michael & Jen Millner



SAMUEL ROTH *MUDGEE*

Certificate III in Plumbing

Samuel is from the Mudgee region and is currently a third year plumbing apprentice attending TAFE in Orange. He enjoys working with his hands and developing an understanding of the complex systems within the trade industry, particularly in the plumbing sector, including advanced water treatment, sewage management, drainage, and irrigation. He aims to complete his trade and then attend university to become an environmental engineer, where he hopes to further develop sustainable practices and improve water treatment and reticulation systems in a rural context.

Scholarship donated by: The Profield Foundation



SAPHIRA WEBBER *TOMERONG*

Bachelor of Medical and Health Sciences

Saphira is from the Shoalhaven region on the South Coast of New South Wales and is currently in her first year of a Bachelor of Medical and Health Sciences at the University of Wollongong. Driven by her passion for science, she aspires to pursue research in neuroscience and practise in her hometown and other rural areas to improve access to neurological healthcare. Outside of her studies, she enjoys playing sports such as soccer and tennis, snorkelling at local beaches, and planning her next backpacking adventure.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation



SARAH REDMAN *BARRINGTON*

Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science, Diagnostic Radiography

Sarah is currently in her fourth year of a Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science, Diagnostic Radiotherapy at Charles Sturt University in Port Macquarie. She was raised on a beef cattle farm in Barrington on the Mid North Coast of New South Wales before relocating to Laurieton at the age of 16, where she was able to access improved educational and support opportunities. In her spare time, Sarah enjoys being outdoors, playing soccer or travelling.

Scholarship donated by: Dr George Jacobs & Dr Janice Hirshorn



SARAH O'CONNOR NANA GLEN

Bachelor of Veterinary Science/Bachelor of Veterinary Biology

Sarah is a third year veterinary science student at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga and is from Nana Glen. A long-standing passion for equine dentistry led her to pursue a career in veterinary science and her interests now include a range of livestock systems. Sarah is involved with the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) and attends Royal Shows as a pig exhibitor, actively contributing to and learning from Australia's agricultural community. She hopes to graduate into an equine-focused practice, with the long-term goal of establishing her own business.

Scholarship donated by: RAS Youth Group



SARAH MCGANN MOGO

Master of Teaching (Secondary)

Sarah is from Mogo on the South Coast of New South Wales and is in her first year of a Master of Secondary Teaching at the University of Wollongong. She has a strong passion for English and literature, along with a keen interest in history. At agricultural shows, she is often found at local historical society tents, enjoying conversations about local history and leaving with an armful of books. She also loves horses and show jumping in her spare time.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation



SIENNA O'NEILL BATEMANS BAY

Bachelor of Primary Education

Sienna is from Batemans Bay on the South Coast of New South Wales and is currently in her second year of studying a Bachelor of Primary Education at the University of Wollongong. She is thoroughly enjoying her course and is passionate about becoming a primary school teacher and making a positive difference in the lives of young learners. Outside of her studies, she enjoys painting, swimming, playing sport, and spending time at the beach, one of her favourite places to relax and recharge. These interests help her maintain a healthy balance between study, wellbeing, and creativity.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation



SKYE CARTER *BATEMANS BAY*

Bachelor of Secondary Education - Health and Physical Education

Skye grew up in regional Batemans Bay and after graduating, made the move to the University of Wollongong and is now in her second year of a Bachelor of Secondary Education (Health and Physical Education). She has a strong interest in maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle, enjoying activities such as going to the gym, running, walking, and exploring the outdoors through hikes to waterfalls and scenic viewpoints.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation



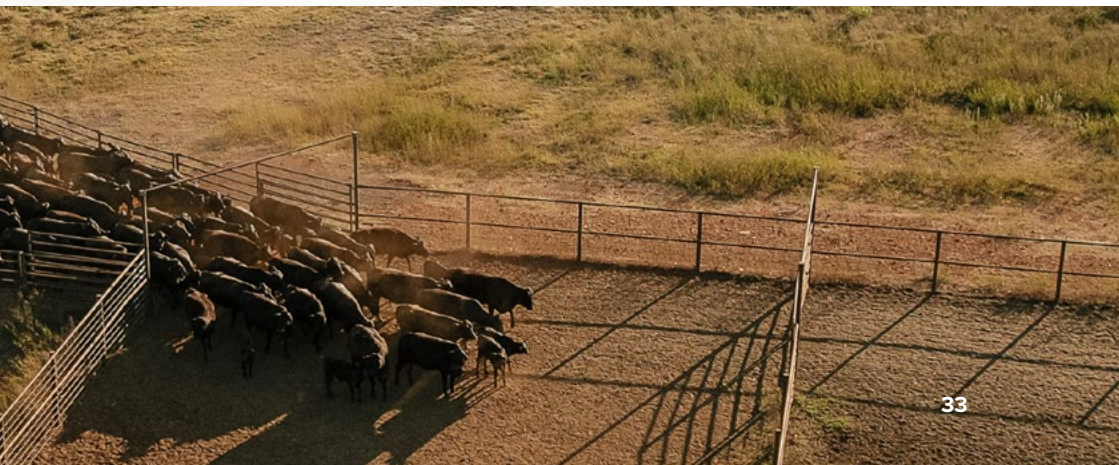


TIMOTHY RYAN MENAI

Certificate IV in Agriculture

Timothy is from the Sutherland Shire, where he grew up and developed an interest in agriculture through helping a family friend on their farm, as well as working on his school's on-site farm with sheep and chickens. This experience led him to attend Tocal College, where he is studying a Certificate IV in Agriculture after finishing his Certificate III. During the summer break between his studies, he discovered a strong interest in working with horses and he hopes to pursue a career involving horses, whether with stock horses or racehorses.

Scholarship donated by: Ronald Arnott 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.



TAYLA GOFTON
SCOTTSDALE, TASMANIA

Tasmanian-born storyteller Tayla Gofton is the 2026 recipient of the JB Fairfax Award for Rural & Regional Journalism and Communications.

Now in her third year of a Bachelor of Communications (Journalism) at RMIT University, she is building her skills across digital media, podcasting and television news, including work on The Swanston Explainer podcast and Channel 31's Newline.

Raised on her family's dairy farm in north-east Tasmania, Tayla brings an authentic understanding of small-town life and a strong commitment to regional representation in the media. She is passionate about preserving local histories and highlighting the challenges facing rural communities, from mental health to pressures on farming families.

Established in 2008 through the generosity of John B Fairfax AO, the JB Fairfax Award supports aspiring rural communicators with a \$12,500 cash prize and internships at The Land, ABC's Landline and the Sydney Royal Easter Show media centre.

Award donated by: John B Fairfax AO

2026 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) run by the Australian Wine Research Institute (AWRI).



**EMMA VERCOE***LINDEN PARK, SOUTH AUSTRALIA****Sydney Royal Wine Study Scholarship***

Emma was raised surrounded by vineyards on her grandfathers' property in the Hunter Valley, NSW. After finishing her schooling in Sydney, she later realised studying Oenology, perfectly combined her passions for chemistry, agriculture and wine. After completing her WSET level 2 and 3 in Sydney, she made the move to Adelaide to study Viticulture and Oenology at the University of Adelaide. Since her grandfathers' passing, she continues to pursue winemaking with a purpose – to get involved in the industry in any way she can. In her final year she looks forward to taking stewarding and judging opportunities, working with producers large and small and engaging in industry events.

**FELEASHA PRENDERGAST***MARGARET RIVER, WESTERN AUSTRALIA****Sydney Royal Wine Professional Development Scholarship***

Feleasha is a winemaker for Evans & Tate. She holds a Bachelor of Viticulture and Oenology and has gained extensive international vintage experience across New Zealand, the United States, Canada, Germany, and Australia. Feleasha has a strong passion for Chardonnay and white winemaking and is committed to continual learning and improvement. She has been involved in wine judging for five years, judging at capital city and regional wine shows, and currently sits on the WA Wine Show Committee. Feleasha will study the Advanced Wine Assessment Course through the AWRI.

**JAIMEE MUTTON***BROKE, NEW SOUTH WALES****Sydney Royal Wine Professional Development Scholarship***

Jaimee is a Hunter Valley based wine industry professional with a passion for regional Australian winemaking. She holds a degree in Wine Science from Charles Sturt University and WSET Level 3, combining strong technical knowledge with hands-on winery experience. Jaimee completed her first vintage at Tyrrell's before progressing through roles at Agnew Wines. She is actively involved in judging and stewarding at wine shows, including Rutherglen wine show and NSW wine show. Jaimee will be studying the advanced wine Assessment course through the Australian Wine Research Institute.



MATT LUGG

ROSEBUD, VICTORIA

Sydney Royal Wine Professional Development Scholarship

Matt is the winemaker and viticulturalist at Portsea Estate on the Mornington Peninsula. He founded his own label - Lugg Wines - in 2020, exclusively focusing on sparkling wine. Matt completed his Bachelor of Wine Science in 2020 and has a passion for regenerative viticulture. Having enjoyed stewarding and judging at wine shows for many years, Matt has been awarded the Sydney Royal Wine Professional Development Scholarship to study the AWAC. Through this scholarship, Matt hopes to progress his judging, grow as a leader, and give back to the industry.



MICHELLE LI

BALAKLAVA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Sydney Royal Wine Professional Development Scholarship

Michelle Li is a Clare Valley-based winemaker currently at Knappstein Wines. She holds a Master of Viticulture and Oenology from the University of Adelaide and has gained extensive experience working across diverse Australian wine regions. She has been an active wine show judge since 2021. Michelle contributes to the industry as a committee member for the WCA and Rootlings Network. By participating in the AWRI Advanced Viticulture Course, Michelle aims to deepen technical viticulture knowledge to better conduct winemaking decisions and strengthen collaboration with viticultural teams from grape to glass.



OLIVER THOMAS

ANGASTON, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Sydney Royal Wine Professional Development Scholarship

Growing up in the Adelaide Hills and looking for an “enjoyable” profession, a vintage in 2009 commenced a career path in winemaking. Graduating with a Bachelor of Viticulture and Oenology from the University of Adelaide in 2014, vintages in the Adelaide Hills, Barossa, Priorat, Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Douro Valley and Marlborough broadened perspectives. Based in Barossa since 2012, Ollie is Winemaker for Murray Street in Greenock. Seeking to contribute to the wine show system, he will study the Advanced Wine Assessment Course (AWAC) at the AWRI in Adelaide in November.



RACHAEL KUCZYNSKI

ORANGE, NEW SOUTH WALES

Sydney Royal Wine Study Scholarship

Rachel was born in South Australia and moved to Orange when her father took on a vineyard manager role. Growing up near the vineyard, she spent many school holidays helping in the vines, which introduced her to the wine industry. After finishing school in 2014, she briefly studied forensic science before returning home to work at Tamburlaine Vineyard. In 2020, she joined the Tamburlaine winery in Cudal for vintage, where she developed an interest in laboratory and cellar work. She later progressed to laboratory manager and trainee winemaker. In 2022, she began a Bachelor of Wine Science at Charles Sturt University. In her spare time, she enjoys league tag, the gym, and travelling.





MASTER OF TEACHING

The Master of Teaching Scholarships for Ag Graduates provides financial support and mentorship 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.





DANEKA HATTY *MATONG*

Daneka, a fifth-generation member of a farming family in the Riverina region of New South Wales has been connected to agriculture her entire life. Completing a Bachelor of Agricultural Science in 2023, Daneka has gained industry experience in both laboratory and sales roles in the agricultural sector. She is now studying a Master of Teaching (Secondary) specialising in Agriculture at the University of New England. Alongside her studies and work, she remains actively involved in her local community and enjoys sport, baking, and being outdoors.



EMMA BRACKS *GROSE WOLD*

Emma is from the Hawkesbury region in New South Wales and is currently studying a Master of Teaching (Secondary) after completing a Bachelor of Agriculture at Charles Sturt University. Inspired by her upbringing in the thoroughbred racing industry and inspired by dedicated high school teachers, she discovered her passion for teaching and is committed to inspiring future generations. Currently teaching agriculture at a local school, Emma aims to continue growing as an educator and give back to her community by teaching the importance of agriculture and encouraging students to pursue their passion in this field.





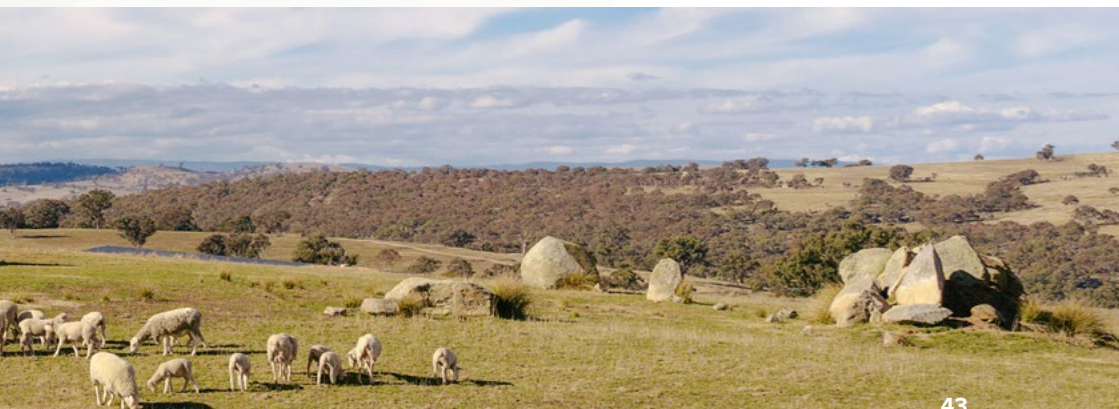
GRACE COLLINS *SYDNEY*

Grace holds a Bachelor of Agriculture from the University of New England and has lived in Armidale, New South Wales for the last four years. Currently, she is completing a Master of Teaching, combining her passion for agriculture with a commitment to education. In 2024, Grace was named the NSW Representative for the RAS Rural Achiever Award and she currently holds the position of Secretary of the Herefords Queensland Youth Affiliation and is a member of the Herefords Australia National Youth Expo committee. On the weekends, you will likely find her in competing in the show ring in between operating her small business, Stockyard Scarves.



HOLLY KAY *GOULBURN*

Holly grew up in Goulburn, New South Wales and completed a Bachelor of Agricultural Science in 2021 before moving into the agriculture industry. She quickly realised that the extension of information was where her passion lay, which led her to enrol in a Master of Teaching (Secondary) with Charles Sturt University. She is passionate about helping students see the value and opportunity in agriculture and aims to use her industry background to give them authentic, real-world learning experiences. In 2024 she was proud to be named the Goulburn Young Woman, a role that has allowed her to promote regional communities and agricultural education.



COMMUNITY FUTURES GRANT

RAS Foundation Community Futures Grants encourage and champion rural leadership by providing each successful grant applicant up to \$30,000 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:

HOLBROOK SHOW SOCIETY INC

Contacts:

Rita Bowler & Emma Jane Musgrave

Project:

\$30,000 to complete stage one updates and repairs to Col Black room at the Holbrook Sporting Complex

The Col Black room is almost 50 years old and is neither environmentally or user friendly in its current state. Once renovated, the room has the potential to be widely used to host smaller community events for organisations such as local schools, sporting clubs and the NSW Rural Fire Service. The grant awarded will go towards stage one of the renovations, being the installation of new flooring, a concertina door, painting and blinds which will encourage better utilisation of this facility.



Organisation:

GOULBURN AP&H SOCIETY

Contact:

Jacki Waugh

Project:

\$30,000 to install seating around Goulburn Showgrounds

The lack of seating around Goulburn Showground is a big issue, particularly during large events and especially for the elderly, families with young children and those with a disability. This project will see the installation of new grandstand seating and benches around the showground site which will greatly enhance visitor experience at events such as the Goulburn Show, local farmers market, sporting clubs, dressage and livestock shows and encourage others to host events at the showground.



Organisation:

MARINE RESCUE NAROOMA

Contact:

Clive Beitz

Project:

\$5,258 to deliver CPR and defibrillator familiarisation sessions

Marine Rescue volunteers, qualified to deliver First Aid training will deliver CPR and defibrillator familiarisation sessions to communities who have funded and purchased AEDs for use by the public. These training sessions will be held at various community events around Narooma and aims to build community confidence around the use of defibrillators and CPR to those who may require immediate medical assistance. The grant awarded will fund CPR manikins, resuscitation kits and a defibrillator trainer.



Organisation:

**EULAH CREEK RECREATION
RESERVE LAND MANAGER**

Contact:

Bernadette Morgan

Project:

\$24,500 to upgrade Eulah Creek Hall

The Eulah Creek Hall Upgrade Project aims to revitalise this vital community facility through essential improvements that will enhance safety, comfort and long-term usability. The project includes a full electrical upgrade to bring the hall up to modern standards, ensuring reliable power supply, improved lighting, and safer infrastructure for all users. Heating and cooling systems will be installed to provide year-round comfort, allowing the hall to better support community events, meetings, educational activities and social gatherings regardless of weather conditions.



Organisation:

**RIDING FOR THE DISABLED
ASSOCIATION NSW –
MUDGEE CENTRE**

Contact:

Tracy Lucas

Project:

\$12,000 to supply and install exterior
blinds

Grant funds will be used to install a complete system of exterior blinds across the RDA NSW Mudgee Centre hub. This important weather protection initiative will help ensure that riders, support workers, volunteers, teachers and community members attending RDA riding days and events are protected from the elements, creating a safer and more comfortable experience for all participants.



Organisation:

**PETER WESTBLADE
SCHOLARSHIP**

Contact:

Sarah Weir

Project:

\$8,000 for educational training weekends

Grant funds will go towards providing educational training weekends in Dalgety and Woolbrook which will provide affordable access for young people (aged 18-30 years) to participate in practical training, professional development and networking opportunities relevant to the sheep industry. The all-encompassing nature of the training weekends provides attendees with high level education and practical skills to help them excel in their chosen career paths.



Organisation:

QUANDIALLA SOLDIERS MEMORIAL HALL INC

Contact:

Marlene Taylor

Project:

\$19,000 to upgrade the kitchen in
Quandialla Soldiers Memorial Hall

The **“Let’s Get Cooking”** project will modernise the kitchen through the removal of the old part and the installation of a new and functional kitchen space. The upgrade will include new vinyl flooring, benchtops, cabinetry and an electric stove, creating a more up-to-date facility that better meets community needs. By revitalising this important space, the project will support a broader range of activities, enhance opportunities for fundraising events and provide greater benefits to the various community groups that utilise the facility.



Organisation:

GLEN INNES SHOWGROUND LAND MANAGER

Contact:

Phil Lynn

Project:

\$30,000 to restore the Heritage Sheep
Pavilion

The Heritage Sheep Pavilion at Glen Innes Showground is an important building that has long supported the local sheep industry by way of sheep shows, sheep judging, show fat lamb competitions, sheep shearing schools and competitions. Grant funds will be used to undertake vital repair, restoration, and maintenance work to preserve both the pavilion’s functionality it’s heritage identity.



Organisation:

MAULES CREEK CAMPDRAFT CLUB INC

Contact:

Ashlee Petch

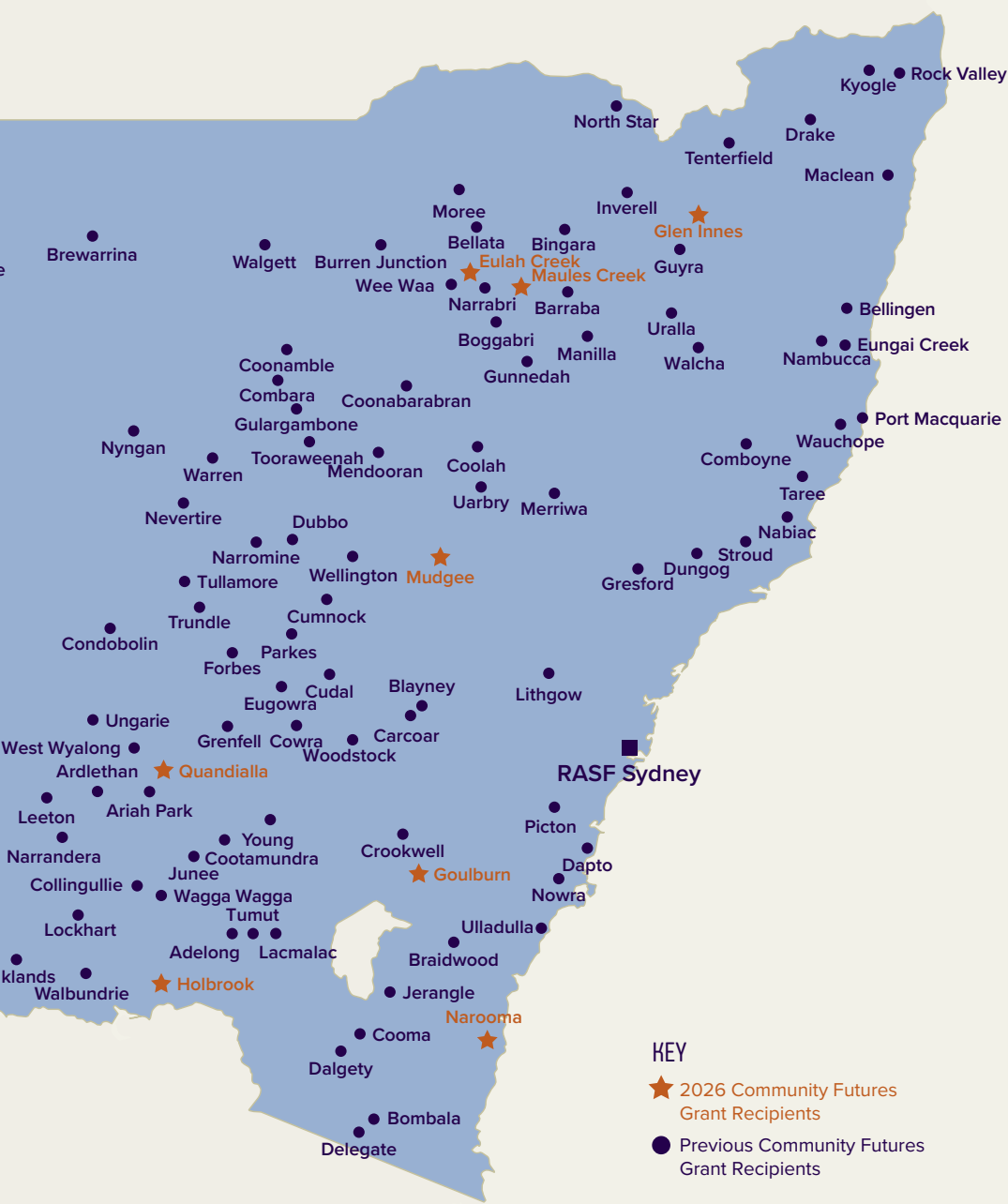
Project:

\$2,500 to install fencing at the children’s
playground

The children’s playground at the Maules Creek Recreational Grounds is currently unfenced which poses risk and safety concerns for the children and parents. The funding provided will install this essential infrastructure.



FUNDING COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN NSW





DONORS

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

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