



2016 GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

RAS_F

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NSW
FOUNDATION

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) Foundation was created in 2007 with a mission to help build strong and sustainable rural and regional communities through education and skills development.

Together with generous donations from our supporters, the RAS Foundation has invested over \$2.4 million into country NSW through a range of targeted grants and scholarships. This includes support of over 300 rural scholarship students to reach their educational dreams, and the awarding of vital community building grants in 29 communities.

All donations to the RAS Foundation are tax deductible. 100% of every donation received goes directly towards our programs ensuring rural and regional NSW remains strong and vibrant now and into the future.

GIVING TO DATE

Program:	RAS Foundation Community Futures Grant
Duration:	8 years
Grants Awarded:	23
Funds Distributed:	\$510,000
Program:	JB Fairfax Award for Rural Journalism
Duration:	8 years
Grants Awarded:	8
Funds Distributed:	\$80,000
Program:	Rural Scholarships
Duration:	6 years
Grants Awarded:	293 scholarships
Funds Distributed:	\$1,401,500
Program:	E3 Grant (retired)
Duration:	4 years
Grants Awarded:	Grants to 59 schools
Funds Distributed:	\$266,000
Program:	RAS Foundation Community Kitchen
Duration:	5 years
Grants Awarded:	6 Sydney Royal Easter Show demonstration kitchens
Funds Distributed:	\$170,000

Total	\$2,427,500
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RURAL SCHOLARSHIPS

RAS Foundation Rural Scholarships assist students who demonstrate a passion for rural issues and who are committed to playing a part in shaping the future of rural and regional NSW.

These scholarships provide a helping hand to students of any age so they can achieve their goals across a diverse range of tertiary or vocation, education and training studies.



HARRIET AMEY DUBBO

Harriet Amey is commencing her first year Doctor of Physiotherapy at Macquarie University. The 23-year-old is driven to address the shortage of physiotherapists in rural hospitals. After completing her studies, Harriet plans to return to her hometown or even further west to provide essential health care and help ease the burden of travel costs for rural patients.

Scholarship donated by: Rali Foundation



LACHLAN BARDEN NARRABRI

19-year-old Lachlan Barden is in his first year of Information Technology and Business at the University of Newcastle. Lachlan is passionate about technology. Growing up in rural NSW he experienced first-hand the struggle for digital access and services. With an increasing reliance on technology in the future, Lachlan looks forward to using his skills to connect rural communities.

Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation



CASSANDRA BAYLISS

NORTH BOAMBEE VALLEY

Cassandra Bayliss, 21, is a third year Oral Health student studying at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga. She cares deeply about dental health in rural communities after witnessing her disabled sister struggling with oral health issues. Cassandra has seen the difference health services can make to quality of life and she plans to join the fight to reduce oral health inequality for those living in rural NSW.

Scholarship donated by: Exponet



SALLY BEER DENILQUIN

Sally Beer, 22, is studying a double degree in Agriculture and Business at the University of New England. Sally recognises the ever-changing business pressures placed on local agriculturalists and has had the opportunity to observe different farming practices. These experiences have sparked a passion to work with Australian farmers to market livestock to our neighbouring countries, develop our trading relationships and improve animal welfare outcomes.

Scholarship donated by: UNE Foundation/RAS



JANE BRIEN WELLINGTON

Jane Brien is completing her second year of a Bachelor of Rural Science at the University of New England. Growing up on the land has given Jane, 20, a great perspective on both the challenges and successes brought about by the rural environment. She hopes to combine her studies and first-hand farming experience to make a positive difference to the agricultural industry. As a strong advocate for Australian agriculture, Jane hopes to inspire other women to join her in entering the industry.

Scholarship donated by: NSW Stud Merino Breeders Association



GRACE BEST GRENFELL

19-year-old Grace Best is studying a double degree in Mathematics and Science with her sights set on teaching these subjects in rural schools. Over and above her studies, Grace has already started to dedicate spare time to tutor students struggling with maths. Having attended small local schools herself, Grace's objective is to empower children and her community to become anything they wish.

Scholarship donated by: David and Belinda Davidson



ANNIKA BROWN NEVILLE

Annika Brown is a second year Agricultural Business Management student at Charles Sturt University. At 20 years of age, Annika has a great love of the land after being raised on a fourth generation farm. Living in a family with no brothers, Annika is eager to learn the skills that will one day see her running the family farm and driving that enterprise into the future. As a German speaker, she also has a strong interest in international trade in agriculture.

Scholarship donated by: Michael and Jenny Millner



MITCHUM BOWER MILTON

Mitch Bower, 20, is a second year Medical student at the University of New South Wales. From the age of thirteen Mitch has had an ambition to increase the quality of healthcare in his community, and specifically to address the issue of doctor shortages that face our aging population. Having seen the good work healthcare professionals have achieved in his community, he is now striving to follow in their footsteps and make a difference.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation



SAMUEL BUSH COOTAMUNDRA

21-year-old Samuel Bush is completing his fourth year of a Bachelor of Agriculture/Laws at the University of New England. With a lifetime ambition to live and work in rural NSW, he hopes to combine his interest in agriculture with his legal knowledge to protect farmers' rights. Samuel is passionate about Australian food security and looks forward to supporting those who work the land for the future benefit of our country.

Scholarship donated by: Catherine and Huntly Gordon/UNE Foundation



JESSICA CAPPS BUXTON

Jessica Capps is a first year student studying a Bachelor of Rural Science at the University of New England in Armidale. This 18-year-old is fascinated by genetics. With generations of farming history in her family her interest is firmly on increasing productivity of nutritional food sources. Jessica hopes to help increase environmental sustainability through research and the use of developing technologies in 21st century farming.

Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family/UNE Foundation



HARRY COOPER CURLWAA

Harry Cooper is in his second year of studying Agriculture at Longerenong College. This 18-year-old is following his dream to manage a rural property and secure his position in the agricultural industry. Having worked on a farm since he was 12, Harry has taken every opportunity he can to gain knowledge and new skills. He hopes to work in the agronomy and sheep wool industry.

Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family



JOSIE CLARKE KEMPSEY

Josie Clarke, 18, is a first year Science student at the University of Sydney. Her passion for science grew after being involved in field surveys in her local area and visits to agricultural research institutes. Josie also has a strong interest in the environment and innovative scientific developments in agriculture. She is looking forward to a career pathway in plant and animal genetics which will enable her to play a part in the future of sustainable agriculture in Australia.

Scholarship donated by: Susan Maple-Brown



ZEB COXSEDE GILGANDRA

21-year-old Zeb Coxsedg is a Mechanical Engineering student at the University of Wollongong. He believes mechanical engineering is the basis of technological developments in the agricultural industry. Once Zeb has graduated he aims to contribute to innovative machinery and equipment design to help make a difference in the working lives of Australian farmers. Zeb is thrilled to be receiving an RAS Foundation scholarship for a third time.

Scholarship donated by: Graincorp



ELIZA COLES BOOROWA

Eliza Coles is a second year student studying her Honours of Psychology at the University of New England. Eliza is passionate about helping people in rural areas, particularly those affected by mental illness. The motivated 20-year-old aims to be a part of a movement that works to address the stigma attached to mental disorders, ensuring sufferers can take their first steps into recovery.

Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family/UNE Foundation



AMY DERRICK TEMORA

Amy Derrick, 23, is studying a Doctor of Medicine at the University of Queensland. Her desire to enter the field of medicine began when she saw respected role models with depression being supported by a very connected community. This showed her the value for good mental health care. Amy wants to encourage the prevention of mental illness by promoting healthy lifestyles with an emphasis on education, communication and community support.

Scholarship donated by: Robert White AO



REBECCA DUNCAN WEST HOXTON

18-year-old Rebecca is currently completing a Certificate III in Agriculture online. Ultimately, Rebecca hopes to become a veterinarian; however, she wants to first establish a greater overall understanding of Australian agriculture. Rebecca believes that with this foundation, she will be able to evolve as a practitioner who is aware of her surroundings, enabling her to offer assistance to the wider community beyond animals.

Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family



TAYLA FIELD SYDNEY

Tayla Field, 20, is a fourth year Agricultural Science student at the University of Sydney. With a focus on agronomy and horticulture, Tayla has had exposure to industry research and developmental activities through a highly relevant internship. Building a strong combination of scientific understanding and practical experience, she is working to prepare for a fast-paced, challenging industry. Tayla also hopes to inspire more city-based students to consider careers in agriculture.

Scholarship donated by: Susan Maple Brown



HEATHER EARNEY BEDGERABONG

Heather Earney grew up on a mixed operation family farm. She never dreamed of working in wool production until she began junior judging at the age of 12. From there Heather's interest grew to establish her own stud. Now, at the age of 20, Heather is completing her third year in Rural Science at the University of New England. Heather plans to use her studies to successfully pursue a career in farm management through strengthened networks, greater skills and knowledge.

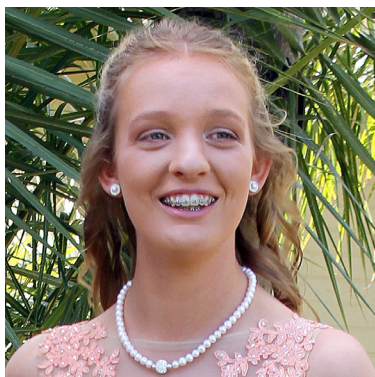
Scholarship donated by: Jemalong Irrigation Limited/UNE Foundation



KIMBERLEY GILBERT YOUNG

20-year-old Kimberley Gilbert is a second year Education student at Charles Sturt University focusing on primary and early childhood. As a proud Indigenous woman, Kimberley hopes to educate children, particularly supporting those struggling to learn and understand. In the future, she hopes to use her position as a teacher to lift the spirits of the community and inspire young people to engage.

Scholarship donated by: McLean Foundation



HAYLEY FAIRFULL MERRIWA

Hayley Fairfull is studying a Bachelor of Animal Science at Charles Sturt University. Although Hayley has been heavily involved in cattle, by completing this course she hopes to gain even deeper understanding of nutrition and genetics. The 18-year-old aspires to use her new-found knowledge to assist farmers to increase their productivity and produce high quality beef, perhaps sharing this expertise with other less fortunate nations to improve their agricultural yield.

Scholarship donated by: Agricultural Societies Council of NSW Ltd



STEPHANIE GORHAM FROGMORE

Stephanie Gorham is a fifth year medical student studying at the University of New England. She performed her first caesarean on a sheep when she was 15. Stephanie's passion, however, is women's health and she started medicine with the dream of becoming an Obstetrician and Gynaecologist in a rural area. Stephanie believes that women in rural areas deserve the best health care and should not be disadvantaged because of their location.

Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family/UNE Foundation



HANNAH HAINES SINGLETON

Hannah Haines, 20, is studying her Honours in Psychology at the University of Newcastle. Hannah's goal is to assist people in rural communities with mental illnesses, particularly depression. Although she is not yet certain whether she will focus on research or direct clinical practice, Hannah aims to have a positive influence on society's mental health. Hannah hopes to work on building a community where people feel more comfortable to reach out when help is needed.
Scholarship donated by: Community Mutual Group



ANGELA HAMILTON MUDGEES

22-year-old Angela Hamilton is in her fourth year of a Bachelor of Agricultural Economics at the University of Sydney. When she's not studying, Angie loves helping her family with their gate to plate lamb business. She is passionate about the future of the agricultural industry, the financial wellbeing of regional communities and educating those in metropolitan areas about the source of their food. Angie looks forward to making agriculture more sustainable; environmentally, economically and socially.
Scholarship donated by: The Horizon Foundation



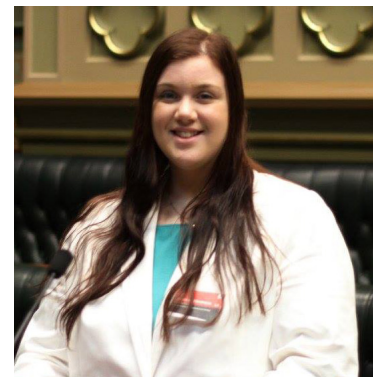
ADAM HARBER URUNGA

Adam Harber is studying Science in Agriculture at the University of Sydney. Discovering his calling when he began working on a cattle farm, Adam became more curious about improving productivity and sustainability on farms. The 21-year-old hopes to achieve a career in Agronomy, helping farmers operate in an efficient and profitable way according to the Australian environment and economy. Adam may choose to specialise in the area of beef, dairy or horticulture.
Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation



BRENTON HAWKEN PARKES

20-year-old Brenton Hawken is a second year Education student at Charles Sturt University. Brenton has always enjoyed school and has been dedicated to becoming a teacher since he was a young student. He doesn't think of teaching as a job but as an exciting pathway. He believes in the importance of education for communities and hopes to follow in the footsteps of his own role models by inspiring students to achieve their dreams.
Scholarship donated by: Exponet



VANAMALI HERMANS MURWILLUMBAH

Vanamali Hermans, 17, is in her first year of a Bachelor of Law/Political Science degree at the Australian National University. After involvement in a range of community campaigns including the reopening of her hometown's birthing ward, Vanamali developed a passion for advocacy and regional development. Vanamali hopes her degrees will help her lobby for the interests of rural communities and encourage more young rural women into politics.
Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation



NAPASSORN HOLMES FORSTER

Nap Holmes is studying her second year of a Bachelor of Physiotherapy at Charles Sturt University. 20-year-old Nap was motivated to consider a career in the health industry from an early age after she was inspired by a team of health professionals who aided her father through chronic illness. Having lived in rural areas all her life and experienced the lack of accessibility in professional health care, Nap is focused on using physiotherapy as a way to improve the quality of life for others.
Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation



AMY HOPKINS WYALONG

Amy Hopkins, 20, is a third year Education student at Charles Sturt University. While at school Amy found enormous satisfaction in helping cousins and friends with subjects they found difficult. This has been her inspiration to become a teacher. Amy is one of 52 grandchildren and is the first one to attend university. Amy hopes that one day she can inspire other children to complete their schooling and follow their dreams.

Scholarship donated by: OCS Fun Pty Ltd



ELLEN JAMIESON HAY

21-year-old Ellen Jamieson is a fourth year Education student at Charles Sturt University. As one of seven children, Ellen has always cared for siblings and enjoyed watching them grow. This, coupled with work experience at her local public school, cemented Ellen's plans to pursue Education as a career. She is passionate about Education and hopes to secure a position in a rural school, one day returning to her home town of Hay.

Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family



BLAKE HORCICKA BEGA

21-year-old Blake Horcicka is a second year Arts student at the University of Wollongong, focussing on English Literature and Indigenous Studies. Blake has benefitted from a positive public education experience and this has influenced his goal to be a high-school teacher. He hopes to complete a Master of Teaching after graduation and plans to return to regional NSW to provide students with a positive role model in a school that is the heart and soul of the community.

Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation



ZACHARY JOBSON FRENCHS FOREST

Zachary Jobson's interest in agriculture started from a young age and while he may hail from the city, the 18-year-old thinks that his Jamaican heritage in sugar cane farming meant that he was always destined for a career in the industry. Studying a Bachelor of Agriculture at University of New England, Zach is particularly interested in livestock genetics, and looks forward to the range of skills and areas of the agricultural industry that his course will give him exposure to.

Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family/UNE Foundation



KEELY HOWARD BRAIDWOOD

Keely Howard, 19, is studying Occupational Therapy at Charles Sturt University. Keely has been engaged in community sporting events from a very early age and wishes to increase the impact of her involvement further through helping people overcome physical challenges. With an interest in the elderly and brain injuries, Keely hopes to help patients pursue brighter, more active and fulfilling lives in rural communities.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation



ELIZA KELLY TRUNDLE

Coming from a farming family of nine, 17-year-old Eliza Kelly is driven to continue the family passion. After many years working on farms for either her family or as part of work experience programs, Eliza has gained insight into various areas of agriculture from cropping to working with sheep data. She is studying a Diploma of Agriculture at TAFE Western Institute and her dream is to see small rural communities thrive on the back of sustainable agriculture.

Scholarship donated by: Graham & Glynn O'Neill



CAMILLA KENNY MENDOORAN

24-year-old Camilla Kenny is a Social Work student at Charles Sturt University. This motivated young woman won the 2015 Dubbo Showgirl competition and is determined now to achieve her ambition to help communities tackle mental illness. She has a particular passion for discovering innovative ideas to engage with people and encourage a healthy mind. Camilla looks forward to providing counselling and support to those in remote areas.

Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation



DANIEL LAWSON NAROOMA

21-year-old Daniel Lawson is a third year Veterinary Science student at Charles Sturt University. Raised on an aquaculture farm, Daniel has strong roots in rural NSW from which a passion for both domestic animals and wildlife has flourished. He hopes to work with primary producers – the lifeblood of rural communities – to maximize productivity, profitability, and animal welfare to ensure the animal production industry remains viable for future generations.

Scholarship donated by: Snow Foundation



KATHERINE LAHIFF ULLADULLA

Katherine Lahiff has begun her first year of studies in Advanced Nursing at the University of Wollongong. Although she has always had a desire to work in an industry where she makes a real difference, the 18-year-old first realised her passion for helping others after attaining her First Aid Certificate and Lifesaving Medallion. With the patience and understanding for the complexities of nursing, Katherine looks forward to the challenge of diagnosis, healing and helping others.

Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation/Snow Foundation



BRIANNA LOVE SANCROX

Brianna Love is studying a Certificate III in Horse Breeding at Tocal Agricultural College. The 18-year-old was attracted to this course as it will equip her with a range of academic and practical components enabling her to pursue a lifelong passion for breeding and training horses. Bree has set her sights on representing Australia at the Olympic Games in Equestrian Eventing, and looks forward to contributing to the ongoing improvement of Australia's equine breeding stock.

Scholarship donated by: Rali Foundation



TARA LANGFIELD NARRABRI

Tara Langfield has commenced her first year of an Arts degree at Newcastle University with the goal of moving into Occupational Therapy next year and pursuing a career with disabled children. It is the 18-year-old's dream to tailor a mobile occupational therapy service that operates in rural areas. It concerns Tara that country children and families have access to less intervention and support than their city counterparts and she is looking forward to making a difference in this area.

Scholarship donated by: Mary Weal



CASSIE MACBEAN RANELAGH

Medicine has always been a passion for 35-year-old Cassie MacBean, who has worked in the medical industry as a pathologist in rural NSW for more than 10 years. Studying Medicine at the University of New England, Cassie has been inspired by her husband and the wonderful rural doctors who treated him for leukaemia. She has seen the impact that great doctors can have on local communities and she aspires to show the compassion and dedication required of a country doctor.

Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation/UNE Foundation



TARA NEEDHAM SYDNEY

Tara Needham, 22, is a fifth year Veterinary student at Charles Sturt University. Her passion for science and love of working with animals are the drivers for her career choice. Tara's strong interest in large animals makes her eager to focus on this area of veterinary science. At the other end of the scale, she also hopes to be able to offer honeybee reproductive technologies to commercial beekeepers to improve disease resistance and productivity.

Scholarship donated by: Bayer Animal Health



EMILY PRICE COWRA

Born and raised on the land, 19-year-old Emily Price was on a horse with her father droving cattle before she could walk. As the years passed Emily spent more time working the land: driving tractors and ploughing paddocks, counting the bales of hay during harvest and vaccinating cows. This instilled a deep passion for farming in rural Australia. Now Emily is in her second year of Agricultural Science at Charles Sturt University. She hopes to focus on animal genetics.

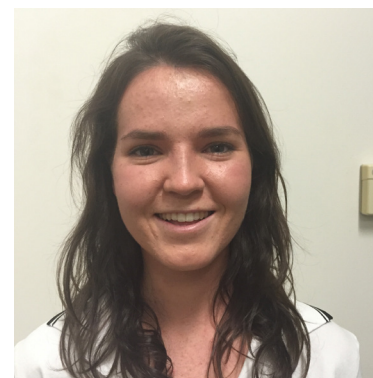
Scholarship donated by: OCS Fun Pty Ltd



KEILEY O'BRIEN GULARGAMBONE

Keiley O'Brien is passionate about youth in agriculture. Her interest in the industry developed growing up in rural Gulargambone which led her to embark on a double degree focussing on Agriculture and Business at the University of New England. Keiley has set her sights on a career as a grain buyer. In the future, her hope is to work to develop a more streamlined and technologically advanced grain receipt/feedback system to benefit producers.

Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation/UNE Foundation



PHOEBE PROWSE SINGLETON

20-year-old Phoebe Prowse is studying a Bachelor of Dentistry at Charles Sturt University. An RASF Rural Scholar for the second year in a row, this dedicated woman hopes to help fill the gap in rural oral health services. Never being afraid of the dentist herself, Phoebe is passionate about educating patients and making their trips to the dentist a more pleasant experience.

Scholarship donated by: Carmel Dyer-Pitroff



SHAE PARSONS LOOMBERAH

21-year-old Shae Parsons has always felt that agriculture was in her blood, even though she didn't grow up on a traditional production property. Growing up on the outskirts of Tamworth, Shae was inspired to follow a career in agriculture by her high school Ag teacher and is studying a Bachelor of Agriculture at University of New England. Shae is enjoying the diversity that her degree offers and hopes to one day become an Agriculture teacher herself.

Scholarship donated by: Catherine and Huntly Gordon/UNE Foundation



CLAUDIA RALEIGH COOTAMUNDRA

Claudia Raleigh has grown up on her family sheep farm and one day hopes to be an Agricultural teacher in a rural area. The 20-year-old believes that Agricultural education in high schools is vital to ensuring that young people continue to seek jobs in the industry. She is currently studying Agricultural Science at Charles Sturt University. Claudia also has a strong interest in sheep production.

Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family



AARON RAY UKI

Aaron Ray, 25, is immersed in a Joint Medical Program - Medicine at the University of New England. With seven dedicated years of study down Aaron has four remaining. His determination and passion for helping people is demonstrated through his volunteer work with Emergency Services and the NSW Rural Fire Service. He looks forward to working as a local doctor in a rural community after he has completed his studies.

Scholarship donated by: Michael Millner/UNE Foundation



SOPHIE SMETHURST UPPER LANSDOWNNE

19-year-old Sophie Smethurst is studying a Diploma of Agriculture at Tocal Agricultural College. Sophie hopes to share her knowledge from this course, using it as a foundation for a position as a consultant, teacher, veterinarian or farmer. Sophie is receiving a scholarship for the second time. She's committed to learning and working hard in a career she's passionate about as well as sharing her knowledge with rural communities.

Scholarship donated by: McLean Foundation



HARRISON SELLERS DELEGATE

20-year-old Harrison Sellers has a real passion for the agricultural sector and is a third year Rural Science student at the University of New England. Packing up and moving over 1,000 kilometres to University in Armidale has opened up many possibilities for Harrison. His goal is to become an industry leader while also being able to deliver new research information in a practical sense on the farm.

Scholarship donated by: NSW Stud Merino Breeders Association/UNE Foundation



LACHLAN SMITH MENDOORAN

Lachlan Smith, 22, is undertaking a Bachelor of Agribusiness at the University of New England. He chose this line of study with the goal to become a partner of a family property. Lachlan plans to use the knowledge gleaned from his course to run a sustainable, economical and profitable business. He hopes his smart business practices expand the property to create more employment opportunities, driving growth to the area.

Scholarship donated by: TA Field Family/UNE Foundation



ANN SHIPMAN GLENREAGH

18-year-old Ann Shipman is currently undertaking studies in Agriculture and Wool Classing at Tocal Agricultural College. She is also putting her practical farming skills to work as a trainee on a 12,000 acre property in Merriwa which runs Poll Shorthorn cattle and Merinos. In her spare time Ann enjoys working her Kelpie dog and honing her skills as a NSW State Under 21 representative in doublehanded sawing.

Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation



SAMANTHA SPARK WORRIGEE

19-year-old Samantha Spark is studying a Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Veterinary Science at Charles Sturt University. As an ardent animal lover, she has a passion for improving the health and welfare of production animals, particularly in the dairy industry. She is excited about the prospect of working with producers and assisting all animals from valuable stud stock to precious family pets.

Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation



VICTORIA TOOLE GRIFFITH

Victoria Toole is a second year health science student at the University of Sydney. Overcoming numerous obstacles throughout her own life, this strong and determined 19-year-old aspires to help in the rehabilitation of rural patients. Victoria looks forward to the privilege of accompanying individuals on their journey to recovery. Upon graduating she plans to return to make a difference to lives in the Riverina.

Scholarship donated by: Christopher Cuffe Foundation



JASLYN TUCKWELL BUNDEENA

Jaslyn Tuckwell is studying a Bachelor of Agriculture, majoring in General Agricultural Production at the University of New England. The 20-year-old looks forward to developing a career and progressing to a management position within the dairy industry. While many young agriculturalists are intrigued by beef, Jaslyn hopes her passion will be one day be a driving force in the dairy industry.

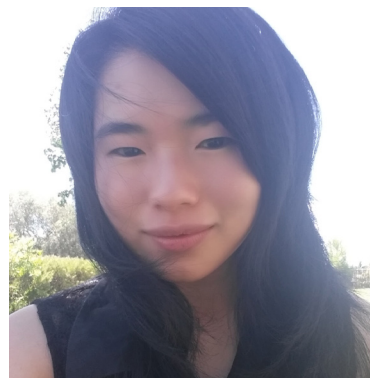
Scholarship donated by: RAS 2016 Cole Classic Fundraising team



SAMUEL TYACK WIRRINYA

18-year-old Sam Tyack has always had a keen interest in all things automotive. This, along with growing up on his family's property at Wurrinya, has seen him develop a passion for fixing agricultural machinery. Sam is studying Automotive Electrical Technology at Riverina TAFE and is relishing the opportunity to put his learnings into practice as a first year auto electrical apprentice in Forbes.

Scholarship donated by: Jemalong Irrigation Limited



TRANG VO CAMPERDOWN

Coming from a Vietnamese refugee background, 23-year-old Trang Vo spent her childhood in the Philippines before her parents settled in Australia and established a small watercress farm. Currently studying a Doctor of Medicine at the University of Sydney campus in Dubbo, her interest in studying medicine grew from spending a number of years volunteering in a local hospital. Trang is passionate about women's health and contributing positively to the lives of others.

Scholarship donated by: Rali Foundation

COMMUNITY FUTURES GRANTS

RAS Foundation Community Futures Grants encourage and champion rural youth leadership by providing up to \$25,000 funding for community projects that address a local need, resulting in enhanced social and economic outcomes for the wider community.



TAMMIE MCMASTER IVANHOE

Tammie McMaster, 34, will partner with the Ivanhoe Campdraft Committee to deliver a much-needed upgrade of the toilet and shower facilities at her local showground in Ivanhoe, a small community 10 hours west of Sydney on the Cobb Highway. Tammie is an active community member and was recently recognized with an Australia Day local citizen award. She has included additional livestock facilities in her project scope which will enable Ivanhoe to host more visitors and participants at a range of events, with a view to boosting local business in her town.



LAURA POLSON TAREE

Local journalist Laura Polson, 22, will partner with the Manning River Agricultural and Horticultural Society to create more comfortable spaces at the Taree Show. After being crowned 2015 Taree Showgirl, Laura wrote an open letter to her community asking for ideas to enhance this local event. Lack of seating and shade came up as key issues. Laura's project will engage an Indigenous artist to carve seating from local timber. The project will also include the provision of shade and will use local volunteer groups including the Taree Men's Shed and Tidy Up Taree.



KYMBERLEE CHASE CUDAL

Kymberlee Chase, 33, will work with Cudal Tennis Club to restore and revitalize the local courts and clubhouse to create a community venue accessible to all. With rural mental health at the front of her mind, Kymberlee was spurred into action after the recent loss of the Royal Hotel in Cudal, destroyed by fire in mid-2015. Alongside a dedicated local committee, she is passionate about creating a meeting place where her local community can get together, make social connections and keep active, forming a vital support network for each other in this small bush community.



BELINDA BELL WARREN

Belinda Bell, 29, and Warren Pastoral and Agricultural Society are passionate about their showground facilities, however it's been tough to attract new events with an out of date PA system. After being hit by the drought, events mean everything to this small community. Belinda, a part-time Accounting Officer, along with the society have brainstormed a number of initiatives to keep their venue alive and relevant. A new PA system will allow the annual show and other events such as polocrosse carnivals and picnic races to continue to thrive and bring people to Warren.

JB FAIRFAX AWARD FOR RURAL JOURNALISM

This award aims to unearth a talented, young writer each year who is passionate about communicating the rich stories and issues from rural and regional Australia and is committed to pursuing a career in rural journalism.



HANNAH SOUTHCOTT COMBOYNE

Hannah Southcott is a young journalist who grew up on an avocado and kiwifruit farm in the small village of Comboyne, west of Port Macquarie. Her experience living and working on the farm has given rise to a strong interest in issues affecting rural communities. With family still working on the land, matters such as food security, the management of prime agricultural land and appropriate rural health care are close to home for Hannah. She is currently completing a Masters in Journalism at the University of Technology in Sydney, and hopes to pursue a career in rural journalism upon graduation.

Scholarship donated by: Mr JB Fairfax AO

SYDNEY ROYAL WINE SCHOLARSHIP

This award encourages and supports students who demonstrate passion, strong leadership qualities and who are committed to making a contribution to the Australian wine industry and their community.



ALEX BECKETT MAITLAND

Born and raised in the Hunter Valley, Alex Beckett's French and German language studies first led him to the wine industry when he worked at a boutique cellar door. This brief introduction had him hooked and 23-year-old Alex is now immersing himself in the industry, including spending time as a steward at the Sydney Royal Wine Show. Alex is currently in his fourth year of a Bachelor of Oenology/Viticulture at the University of Adelaide.

Scholarship donated by: RAS Wine Committee

SYDNEY ROYAL DAIRY PRODUCE SCHOLARSHIP

This award encourages and supports students who demonstrate passion, strong leadership qualities and who are committed to making a contribution to the NSW dairy produce industry and their community.



L-R: KATE ROSS (RAS),
EMMA LEE, JOHN FAIRLEY
(COUNTRY VALLEY)

EMMA LEE COBARGO

22-year-old Emma grew up on a beef and sheep property on the far South Coast of NSW. She is currently in her final year of Veterinary Science at Charles Sturt University. Emma is completing her honours research project examining the relationship between energy balance, milk yield and fertility in dairy cows in a robotic milking system. After graduation, she hopes to pursue a career in mixed practice, and to undertake further studies in dairy production medicine.

Scholarship donated by: Country Valley

RAS FOUNDATION COMMUNITY KITCHEN GRANT

At the conclusion of the Sydney Royal Easter Show, the cabinetry used for the Theatre Kitchen cooking demonstrations, along with appliances donated by Euromaid, are awarded to a community in regional NSW to reinvigorate a public facility.



L-R: MICHAEL KENNY (RAS),
ROBERT RYAN OAM (RAS), BEN
RITCHIE (BOURKE), KATE ROSS
(RAS), STEVE RORIE (EUROMAID)

WINNER: BOURKE PASTORAL & AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION INC

Bourke submitted a compelling application highlighting just how many different community groups would make use of new kitchen facilities, ranging from sporting clubs to the local CWA and members of the Isolated Children & Parents Association. This facility will have a widespread impact on the town of 2,000 and support the many organisations who come together at the showgrounds for their events and functions.

RUNNER UP: WELLINGTON MEN'S SHED

The Wellington Men's Shed was fortunate to have two new sheds recently donated by the Australian Army, plans for which will house a new kitchen. The group has received \$10,000 worth of appliances from Euromaid which will fully equip their planned kitchen. The grant panel was moved by the contribution the Men's Shed makes to the community and is pleased to help create a meeting place for men of the Wellington community.

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