



# 2013 Grants & Scholarships



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ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NSW  
FOUNDATION

## Welcome

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) Foundation works to make a difference in rural and regional NSW by providing grants and scholarships for education and community development.

Together, with the generosity of our donors and supporters, the RAS Foundation has been instrumental in helping rural Australians realise their potential and achieve their ambitions. Education and leadership are fundamental to building a strong and sustainable future and addressing the skills shortage in rural and regional areas.

By providing a range of targeted grants and scholarships for rural students and communities, the RAS Foundation seeks to ensure that rural and regional NSW is strong and viable now and into the future.

## Giving to Date

*Program:* **RASF Community Futures Grant** (formerly \$25,000 Question)

*Duration:* 5 years

*Grants Awarded:* 10 Grants

*Funds Distributed:* \$250,000

*Program:* **JB Fairfax Award for Rural Journalism**

*Duration:* 5 years

*Grants Awarded:* 5 Grants

*Funds Distributed:* \$50,000

*Program:* **Rural Scholarships** (TAFE & University)

*Duration:* 3 years

*Grants Awarded:* 126 Scholarships

*Funds Distributed:* \$609,000

*Program:* **E3 Grant** (retired)

*Duration:* 3 years

*Grants Awarded:* Grants to 59 Schools

*Funds Distributed:* \$266,000

*Program:* **RASF Community Kitchen donated by Bunnings Warehouse**

*Duration:* 2 years

*Awarded:* 2 Sydney Royal Easter Show demonstration kitchens

*Value Distributed:* \$50,000

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**TOTAL**

**\$1,225,000**

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## Rural Scholarships

RASF 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. Providing a financial helping hand to achieve their education goals and aspirations, these scholarships are open to students of any age and embrace a diverse range of tertiary education and training pursuits.



**Alexandra Coe - Gunnedah**

**Bachelor of Applied Science (Occupational Therapy)**

Moving to Sydney to pursue her studies, 21-year-old Alexandra is specialising in neurology and mental health. She is passionate about improving the quality and accessibility of health care services to people living in rural areas of Australia and overseas once she has finished her degree.

*Scholarship donated by the Christopher Cuffe Foundation*



**Alisha King - Diamond Beach**

**Bachelor of Advanced Science (Advanced Geography)**

21-year-old Alisha is passionate about solving the large-scale problems affecting rural NSW. In 2012, Alisha founded Uni Connect, an online platform dedicated to helping rural and remote secondary students make informed decisions about tertiary education. Last year she was the co-President of the Women's College Charity Committee which raised over \$20,000 for a range of charities.

*Scholarship donated by Mary Weal*



**Alister Meek - Hobbys Yards**

**Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management**

Growing up on his family's farm near Blayney, 19-year-old Alister undertook an agricultural exchange in Canada in 2012 working on a cattle and cropping ranch. Alister hopes to become a fourth generation farmer and use his degree to one day take over the family farm at Hobby's Yards – a mixed farming enterprise with Poll Hereford beef cattle and breeding ewes.

*Scholarship donated by Hungry Jacks Australia Pty Ltd*



**Ameliah Scott - White Cliffs**  
**Bachelor of Veterinary Science**

Growing up on a cattle and sheep station 80km south of White Cliffs in north western NSW, 23-year-old Ameliah has witnessed firsthand the devastation caused by drought. This experience has contributed to her determination to set-up a flying vet and mobile practice near Broken Hill that would service surrounding areas once she has finished her studies.  
*Scholarship donated by Michael & Shanny Crouch*



**Claudia Raleigh - Cootamundra**  
**Bachelor of Agricultural Science**

17-year-old Claudia loves working on the family property – weekends and holidays spent with her brothers and sisters in the shearing sheds or sheep yards. She is keen to pursue a career as a secondary school agriculture teacher in a remote school, using animals as a tool to help disadvantaged children realise their potential and increase their self-esteem.  
*Scholarship donated by NSW Stud Merino Breeders' Association*



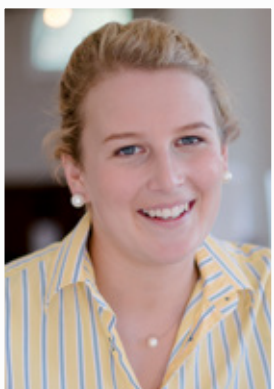
**Bethannie Cook - Carcoar**  
**Bachelor of Commerce (Marketing and Accounting)**  
**Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management**

21-year-old Bethannie was born into a farming family on a sheep and beef property in central west NSW. Seeing firsthand the need for innovative solutions in order to run a viable and profitable rural enterprise, Bethannie chose to undertake two degrees concurrently ensuring that she has wide-ranging, transferable skills for a career in the agriculture sector.  
*Scholarship donated by the RAS Foundation*



**Eliza Star - Carrathool**  
**Bachelor of Agricultural Business**

Growing up on an irrigation property in the Riverina, 19-year-old Eliza has developed a passion for cropping systems, particularly rice and plant breeding systems. After completing her degree, Eliza hopes to become an Extension Agronomist involved in research and development and work overseas in a developing country to further her skills that she can then utilise in rural Australia.  
*Scholarship donated by ICT International*



**Bronte Doughton - Cooma**  
**Bachelor of Veterinary Science/Veterinary Biology**

Growing up in the Monaro region, Bronte developed a passion for beef cattle and wool and sheep production. A finalist in the 2013 The Land Sydney Royal Showgirl competition, 21-year-old Bronte is passionate about pursuing a career in large animal veterinary medicine, assisting farmers with the challenges of farm and herd animal production and the management of stock, including drought feeding and genetic improvement.  
*Scholarship donated by the Snow Foundation*



**Emma Bear - Young**  
**Bachelor of Health Science/Master of Occupational Therapy**

22-year-old Emma is an active member of her local community and was the chairperson of 'Young Youth', a youth council supporting the young people of the St Mary's Parish for seven years. When Emma finishes her studies, she plans to return to rural NSW and work as an Occupational Therapist, ensuring that support and medical assistance is more readily available.  
*Scholarship donated by OCS Fun Pty Ltd*



**Emma Croxon - Dubbo**  
**Bachelor of Speech Pathology**

Working as a teacher's aide, 20-year-old Emma worked one-on-one with special needs students and students with various learning difficulties – a role that saw her positively contribute to their daily life and encourage her on this career path. Emma intends on returning to Dubbo to work as a Speech Pathologist and one day fulfil her dream of starting her own practice.

*Scholarship donated by the Christopher Cuffe Foundation*



**Jack Mooney - Wells Crossing**  
**Bachelor of Rural Science**

20-year-old Jack grew up in the small community of Bucca near Coffs Harbour. His passion for poultry was evident from a young age when at 15 he purchased 100 Isa-Brown chickens and began supplying eggs to the local football club. Jack is keen to develop his interest in animal genetics and primary production and aspires to run a successful agricultural enterprise.

*Scholarship donated by RASF Foundation*



**Grace McPherson - Singleton**  
**Bachelor of Law/ Diploma of Legal Practice**

23-year-old Grace's drive and commitment to her career goals has seen her gain experience across a variety of areas including community legal centres, family law and in a large commercial law firm. She is passionate about becoming a rural law practitioner and intends to sit the bar exam and become a Barrister in order to better represent and support rural issues and communities.

*Scholarship donated by the Coal & Allied*



**Jacob Booby - Narrabri**  
**Pilot Training (Commercial Pilot Licence With Ag Rating & Pesticide Licence)**

18-year-old Jacob has a passion for flying. His passion was born from working at Spray Tech Aviation in Wee Waa during the school holidays, which led him to enrol at New England Flight Training School in Armidale. Jacob's goal is to become an agricultural pilot and forge a career in the agricultural industry and perhaps own his own farm one day.

*Scholarship donated by RASF Foundation*



**Hayden Zammit OAM - Broken Hill**  
**Bachelor of Management (Marketing)**

A strong involvement with the NSW Cancer Council and Camp Quality contributed to 18-year-old Hayden becoming one of the youngest recipients of The Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2012. Hayden is passionate about tourism, particularly the promotion of rural NSW, and hopes to continue in this field once he completes his studies.

*Scholarship donated by McLean Foundation*



**Jake Witchard - Kempsey**  
**Bachelor of Laws**

Actively involved in his local community, 19-year-old Jake's decision to pursue a career in law came from his desire to improve the lives of others and assist disadvantaged groups through greater access to legal services. After completing his degree, he hopes to return to Kempsey to assist indigenous youth, particularly in the area of social justice.

*Scholarship donated by RASF Foundation*



**Jaime Manning - Wyee Point**

**Bachelor of Animal and Veterinary Science (AVBS)**

After a university placement at a merino stud in 2012, 21-year-old Jaime had the opportunity to steward at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, a role that allowed her to further develop her skills and passion for sheep. She is currently undertaking an honours project using GPS technology to investigate sheep predation through a simulated dog attack.

*Scholarship donated by the Rali Foundation*



**Joanne Nicholls - Tibooburra**

**Bachelor of Educational Studies**

Joanne is a mother of three. After working as a Senior Administration Manager at Tibooburra Outback School of the Air for eight years, she decided to follow her passion for education and obtain her teaching qualifications. Her goal is to teach at a small community school where she can make a difference to the lives of the local children.

*Scholarship donated by the Rali Foundation*

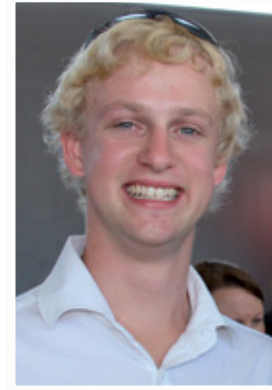


**Jessica Monteith - Berry**

**Bachelor of Agricultural Science/ Bachelor of Business Finance**

23-year-old Jessica was a runner-up in the 2012 The Land Sydney Royal Showgirl competition, a 2013 Youth in Ag Day Ambassador, Shoalhaven Young Citizen of the Year and Hands Across NSW Ambassador. Her career goal is to work in Agribusiness Finance and help farmers and agribusiness professionals become more effective in their operations.

*Scholarship donated by the Snow Foundation*



**Jonathon Bear - Young**

**Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science**

Jonathon's interest in radiography began when he had to undergo an x-ray as a child. The 20-year-old's fascination evolved further when he completed work experience in Year 10 at Young Hospital. His long term goal is to open his own private practice of medical imagery in a rural community and to practice abroad in developing countries.

*Scholarship donated by the Christopher Cuffe Foundation*

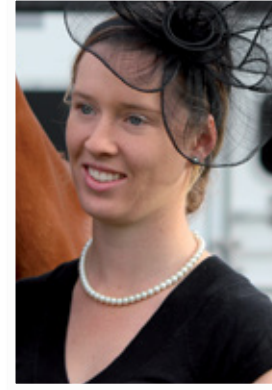


**Jessica Said - Wagga Wagga**

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

24-year-old Jessica's passion for rural Australia started when she was a child growing up on a commercial mixed beef, merino sheep and cropping enterprise. Thriving on rural life, Jessica aspires to work in veterinary science, specifically in reproduction, and assist with the survival and wellbeing of rural communities once she completes her studies.

*Scholarship donated by RAS Youth Group*



**Karla Wicks - Denman (Hunter Valley)**

**Bachelor of Equine Science**

19-year-old Karla has always had a passion for horses. A member of her local pony club for 17 years, she has a keen interest in eventing and breeding performance horses and with her degree, will increase her knowledge on the technical aspects of horse management. Karla's goal is to enter the secondary teaching profession as a science, agriculture and equine studies teacher.

*Scholarship donated by Coal & Allied*



**Laura McKay - Muswellbrook**  
**Bachelor of Music and Diploma of Language**

Music has played a large part in 19-year-old Laura's life. She learned to play the violin and piano from an early age and her passion for Japanese was developed in high school. As a teacher, Laura hopes to pass on her love of music and language to her future students.  
*Scholarship donated by Coal & Allied*



**Max Ridley - Forbes**  
**Bachelor of Agricultural Science**

18-year-old Max grew up in Corinella, 60km west of Forbes on the family mixed livestock and winter cereal cropping farm. He aspires to work as an Agronomist in local rural and regional areas. The winner of the National title at the Primary Industries World Skills competition in 2012, Max has also assisted with the Western District Exhibit at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.  
*Scholarship donated by Graincorp*



**Lauren Hunt - Merriwa**  
**Graduate Diploma in Education**

22-year-old Lauren grew up on a beef property in the small rural town of Merriwa in the Upper Hunter Valley. After completing a Bachelor of Rural Science she decided to undertake a Graduate Diploma in Education so that she could become a high school agriculture and science teacher. Lauren hopes to return to small communities and inspire her future students to learn about agriculture.  
*Scholarship donated by RAS Staff*



**Megan Raines - Gilgandra**  
**Bachelor of Law, Bachelor of Criminology**

22-year-old Megan grew up on a rural property near Gilgandra. Megan is passionate about supporting the local community and is involved in various volunteer roles including netball organisations, on-campus leadership positions, her local Lions Club and community legal centres. Megan's goal is to practice as a Solicitor in a law firm that is committed to enhancing legal awareness in rural areas.  
*Scholarship donated by Hungry Jack's Australia Pty Ltd*



**Leslie Braman - Mossy Point**  
**Graduate Diploma in Education (Primary)**

Leslie, a mother of three, has a passion for teaching. She has spent most of her professional career between IT and training. Her decision to undertake a Graduate Diploma of Education will allow her to continue to support her husband, who suffered a major stroke in 2012, with his rehabilitation while also positively contributing to her local community.  
*Scholarship donated by Mrs Sue Maple-Brown*



**Melanie Beer - Narrandera**  
**Bachelor of General Studies, Bachelor of Teaching**

Mother of four, Melanie is passionate about ensuring that children living in regional NSW have access to quality teaching and opportunities. Her decision to change her career direction underlines her desire to make a difference in her community. She believes that a teacher can make a positive impact on a child's life and enjoys thinking of creative ways to engage students in learning.  
*Scholarship donated by RAS Foundation*



**Melinda Quayle - Gilgandra**

**Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood and Primary)**

Growing up in a small rural community, the 23-year-old understands the importance of being involved in a variety of activities beyond the classroom; activities that build social networks, confidence and aid in the development of life skills. Once she finishes her degree, she aims to become an advocate for teaching and education in rural areas, in particular western NSW.

*Scholarship donated by the Christopher Cuffe Foundation*



**Mitchell Shaw - Dalmeny**

**Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery**

20-year-old Mitchell dreams of becoming an indigenous GP. An active member of his community, he volunteered for six years in the NSW Rural Fire Service, was a member of the Eurobodalla Shire Youth Committee, volunteered for four years at the annual Eurobodalla Youth Week event 'Aamplify' and helped to raise \$6,000 for the Moruya Youth Refuge and Father Chris Riley's Youth off the Streets initiative.

*Scholarship donated by RAS Foundation*



**Mia Kerr - Wagga Wagga**

**Bachelor of Veterinary Science / Bachelor of Veterinary Biology**

Growing up on a farm at Darlington Point, 24-year-old Mia developed an interest in animals from an early age. She has a particular interest in cattle medicine and would like to work in a mixed regional veterinary practice once she finishes her studies. Mia's ultimate goal is to own and operate a mixed rural veterinary practice.

*Scholarship donated by Michael & Jenny Millner*



**Monica King - Forbes**

**Bachelor of Veterinary Science / Bachelor of Veterinary Biology**

Growing up on a mixed crop and sheep farm in Forbes with her parents, two sisters and brother triggered 18-year-old Monica's interest in animals. Monica has identified a need for more veterinarians in rural NSW and also aims to address issues such as animal welfare standards and sustainability once she finishes her degree.

*Scholarship donated OCS Fun Pty Ltd*



**Mikaela Gahan - Fairy Hill, Casino**

**Bachelor of Nursing**

18-year-old Mikaela is committed to gaining employment in rural NSW and intends on specialising in neo-natal nursing and become a qualified midwife. Growing up in the small rural community of Fairy Hill on the outskirts of Casino with her mum and sister, Mikaela is a member of her local Pony Club competing at Club, Zone and State level, as well as local Agricultural Shows.

*Scholarship donated by the Christopher Cuffe Foundation*



**Niel Ellis - Molong**

**Bachelor of Physiotherapy**

Born in Cape Town, South Africa, love and impending fatherhood saw Niel move to Australia in 2010 with his wife before the birth of their first child to be closer to her family. Niel has always had a great interest in the human body and is passionate about a career that involves helping people to improve their quality of life.

*Scholarship donated by the Christopher Cuffe Foundation*





**Peta Lennon - Ashford**  
**Bachelor of Education (Primary)**

Peta was inspired by the dedication and passion of her teachers at Ashford Central School to pursue a career in teaching. Growing up on the family farm in Emmaville as the youngest of three children, the 18-year-old is an active member of her local community and is committed to giving back to the community which has supported her throughout her schooling years.

*Scholarship donated by the Christopher Cuffe Foundation*



**Rosalind (Rozzie) O'Reilly - Narrandera**  
**Bachelor of Animal Science**

Rosalind's passion for livestock was fostered at a young age, growing up on a small sheep and cattle enterprise in the Riverina. Throughout high school she studied agriculture and developed a keen interest in the nutrition and genetic aspects of livestock. She plans to work in the field of consulting producers and ultimately own her own advisory business.

*Scholarship donated by Bayer Australia Limited*



**Rachel Dewhurst - Hermidale**  
**Bachelor of Applied Science (Occupational Therapy)**

Growing up on a property near the small, rural community of Hermidale, 19-year-old Rachel has always dreamt of working as a health professional in rural Australia. One of Rachel's career goals is to join the Royal Flying Doctor Service to deliver allied health care to people in remote communities all over Australia.

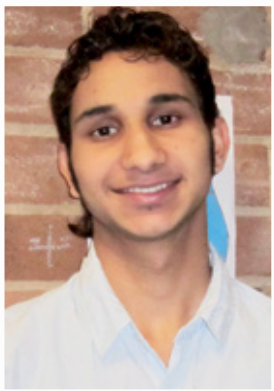
*Scholarship donated by the Christopher Cuffe Foundation*



**Samantha Townsend - Lyndhurst**  
**Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management**

19-year-old Samantha is passionate about Australian agriculture and encouraging young people to pursue the many exciting and rewarding careers it offers. Samantha is keen to further develop her passion for the sheep industry and would like to pursue a career working with producers to improve on-farm production and encourage participation in future research.

*Scholarship donated by the RAS Foundation*



**Ram Khanal - Lavington**  
**Bachelor of Medical Science**

Born in a Bhutanese refugee camp in Nepal, Ram and his family arrived in Albury in 2009 through the Australian Government's Humanitarian Resettlement Program. The 19-year-old has long held the dream of becoming a rural doctor. He is actively involved in his local community and has a strong desire to work as a doctor in the Albury region.

*Scholarship donated by the Christopher Cuffe Foundation*



**Samuel Williams - Lismore**  
**Bachelor of Medicine**

20-year-old Samuel grew up on a farm with his parents and four siblings in Walgett, north-western NSW before moving to Lismore. Samuel has aspirations to specialise in general practice and undertake advanced training in anaesthetics and obstetrics. He is committed to working in rural areas and wants to make a valuable contribution to improving the health outcomes of rural Australians.

*Scholarship donated by Mr Graham O'Neill*



**Sharni Scott - Hillston**  
**Bachelor of Education (Primary)**

For 23-year-old Sharni, the idea of attending university never seemed possible. That was until her high school English teacher encouraged her to “think big”. As the first member of her family to attend university, Sharni’s goal is to become a teacher that makes a difference in the lives of rural children and bring motivation and excitement to the classroom.

*Scholarship donated by the McLean Foundation*



**Tom Burge - Coleambally**  
**Bachelor of Physiotherapy**

Tom comes from the small irrigation farming community of Coleambally in south-west NSW. Growing up on the family farm with his three siblings, the 21-year-old developed a life-long passion for rural communities. This passion for the community coupled with a love of sport and science was the foundation for him to embark on his degree.

*Scholarship donated by Mr Robert White*



**Tamara Martin - Cobargo**  
**Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management**

22-year-old Tamara is passionate about the agricultural industry and is keen to pursue a career as either an Agribusiness Manager or continue her studies to become an agricultural teacher. Tamara has a strong interest in beef cattle and would one day like to own her own Limousin cattle stud where she would focus on improving the heard genetics to meet market demands.

*Scholarship donated by Michael & Jenny Millner*



**Tom Gillard - Duncans Creek**  
**Bachelor of Veterinary Science**

Growing up 50km from Tamworth at Duncans Creek, Tom moved to Sydney to pursue his studies. He grew up around animals and got to witness firsthand the difference a vet can make in the community. Of Aboriginal descent, Tom has a keen interest in furthering education opportunities for indigenous youth and aspires to become a rural mixed practice veterinarian or a large animal vet.

*Scholarship donated by the Christopher Cuffe Foundation*



**Tayla Gilmore - Scone**  
**Bachelor of Business / Bachelor of Commerce**

18-year-old Tayla is involved in her local Pony Club and helps to organise the annual School Horse Sports event at the Scone Horse Festival. Buoyed by a strong sense of community, Tayla intends on pursuing a business career, assisting disadvantaged and at-need groups in rural Australia.

*Scholarship donated by Coal & Allied*

## RASF Community Futures Grant

RASF Community Futures Grants encourage and champion rural youth leadership through the provision of up to \$25,000 to fund youth-led rural community projects that address a need or issue in the community. Projects, that once complete, will result in enhanced social and economic outcomes for the wider community.



### **John Batten, Dapto Street Team - Dapto**

John, 22, is a voluntary Youth Community Liaison Officer for Dapto Anglican Church. John's project, the Dapto Street Team, provides support for young people through early intervention to lower the prevalence of anti-social behaviour particularly due to drug and alcohol abuse. The grant will go towards a purpose-fitted 12 seater, secondhand bus that would enable them to deliver services and support, as well as transport volunteer teams and youth.



### **Lisa Dooner, Rock Valley Post Office - Rock Valley**

Lisa, 34, is a committee member of the Rock Valley Hall. The committee will use the grant to rebuild the community-owned Rock Valley Post Office which was destroyed in September 2012 by fire. The post office was the heart of the small community, as well as being the local tourist information office. The grant has ensured that the local community can immediately start the re-building process.



### **Bryn Francis, Stroud Heritage Growers and Artisans Market - Stroud**

Bryn, 33, works as a Project Manager in the construction industry and will put the grant towards the Stroud Growers Market and Community Kitchen upgrade supported by the Stroud Lions Club. The upgrade will support the Stroud Heritage Growers and Artisans Market which seeks to integrate hospitality and event management training, particularly for local youth, into the monthly market program.

## JB Fairfax Award for Rural Journalism

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 rural journalism upon graduation.



**Simone Norrie - Eugowra**

***Bachelor of Sport Studies / Bachelor of Communication (Journalism)***

Raised south of Eugowra in central west NSW, 21-year-old Simone grew up on the family property where her parents are primary producers. Her strong interest and background in rural affairs inspired her to submit her feature article *The Gamble: the domestic lamb market is putting more pressure than ever on producers*, in the 2013 JB Fairfax Award for Rural Journalism.

*Award donated by Mr JB Fairfax, AO*

## Sydney Royal Wine Scholarship

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



**Brendan Carter - Lobethal, South Australia**

***Bachelor of Viticulture and Oenology***

In 2009, 23-year-old Brendan spent several months in France's Champagne region exploring his burgeoning fascination with wine; a trip that proved to be the catalyst for his studies and future career aspirations. Committed to the improvement of the viticultural landscape and overall wine quality, Brendan hopes to participate in various wine shows around Australia in a judging capacity.

*Donated by the Sydney Royal Wine Committee in honour of Graham Thorp, Wine Committee Chair (1984-1990)*

## Sydney Royal Dairy Produce Scholarship

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



### **Cassandra MacDonald - Adaminaby**

#### ***Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Bachelor of Veterinary Science***

Raised in Adaminaby, it wasn't until 23-year-old Cassandra started studying agriculture, in particular the role of dairy, while attending Hurlstone Agricultural High School, that her passion for the industry was ignited. Cassandra's goal is to pursue a career as a mixed practice veterinarian in rural NSW.

*Scholarship donated by Country Valley*

## RASF Community Kitchen Donated by Bunnings Warehouse

Donated by Bunnings Warehouse, this large demonstration kitchen is awarded to a rural and regional NSW community to breath new life into a community facility that can be utilised by the greater community.

### **Deniliquin Rovers Football and Netball Club - Deniliquin**

Deniliquin Rovers Football and Netball Club is a family-based Club located at Memorial Park. The clubhouse is a multi-purpose building used year-round by a number of sporting and community organisations, including the Deniliquin P&A Show and school groups. The kitchen will add another dimension to the facility, a dimension that given available funds would not have been possible for several years.



## Donors

We sincerely thank the following donors and sponsors for their generous support of the Royal Agricultural Society Foundation in 2013.

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- Michael Crouch AO and Shanny Crouch
- Michael and Jenny Millner
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