

2008 Annual Conference

30 Years As One Voice

Media Release



Wednesday 30 July, 2008
PR/140/08

Scholarship winners future face of country NSW

Outstanding young rural achievers with diverse goals for the future are this year's winners of the NSW Farmers' Association Tertiary Scholarship Awards.

The eight winners, with everything from a passion for eco agricultural systems to rural mental health each received \$5000 at the Association's Annual Conference today.

NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie says the judging panel is confident that the future of rural NSW is in good hands, following the high calibre of entrants.

"All the winners plan to use their talents and skills back in the bush and many of them are currently doing so already, showing their level of keenness and ambition," Mr Laurie said.

Applicants are asked to demonstrate a commitment to agriculture and rural communities; all round abilities, including leadership qualities and communication skills; and how their current studies will benefit rural life in the future.

In 2008, a new scholarship has been awarded for the first time to a full-time student in their first or second year of full-time study at a vocational level in agriculture.

Winners of the 2008 Tertiary Education Scholarships

- **Edmund Green (GOOBANG VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP)**

Ted is currently attending Tocal Agricultural College. He is in his first year of study for a Certificate 3 in Agriculture and will continue next year to complete Certificate 4. He grew up near Nimmitabel, and hopes to live and work in a rural community and to enjoy his chosen career path in agriculture.

- **Pip Job (GOOBANG SCHOLARSHIP)**

Pip and her husband Selwyn, breed Seedstock Shorthorns on their property 'Peedamulla' at Cumnock. She is studying for a Bachelor of Ecological Agriculture at CSU, and is heavily involved in Landcare and the community. Her passion and enthusiasm for sustainable agro-ecosystems and rural communities is leading Pip towards a major in social/community development and extension in ecological ecosystems.

- **Jessica Lee (GOOBANG SCHOLARSHIP)**

Jess grew up on a farm near Larras Lee and is currently in the second year of an Arts/Law degree majoring in Political Science at the ANU in Canberra. Whether she makes it into politics or the legal profession, Jess hopes to see a heightened standard of legal education across Australia and improved access to legal resources in rural communities.

- **Lachlan Rothwell (GOOBANG SCHOLARSHIP)**

Lachlan is currently in his fourth year studying Agricultural Economics at the University of

Sydney. He grew up on his family's mixed farming business near Mendooran, and plans to travel overseas upon finishing his degree before returning to find employment in the agribusiness industry.

- **James Austin (E.L. O'BRIEN SCHOLARSHIP)**

James is currently in his final year studying Agricultural Science at the University of Sydney, majoring in Soil Science and Agronomy. He grew up on his family's mixed farming property near Trangie, Central West NSW. James is involved in Depression Awareness in rural communities, an issue that is extremely close to his heart. Upon the completion of his studies James aims to return to rural NSW and work as an agronomist, focussing on precision agriculture.

- **Ashlene McKay (JOHN WHITE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP)**

Ashlene is in her final year of Medicine at the University of Newcastle. She grew up on a mixed farming property near Canowindra. Ashlene is completing her final year in Tamworth at the University of Newcastle's Rural Clinical School, a step that she hopes will equip her with the skills to contribute to other rural communities in the future.

- **Matt Schiller (ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP: MENTAL HEALTH)**

Matt is currently in his third year of a combined Medicine and Arts degree at the University of New South Wales. He grew up on a property outside of Hay, and when he graduates, plans to spend his initial years in a rural hospital, before most likely specialising. He has already completed a wide range of work experience in the Riverina, including work with a GP, a neurologist, the NSW Ambulance Service, and the Hay Hospital.

- **Katherine Amos (ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP)**

Katherine is currently in her second year of a Bachelor of Arts in Media and Communications degree at the University of New South Wales. She grew up on a beef cattle property near Gunnedah. She looks to use the skills she obtains from her degree to promote and capture the essence of rural life through digital media and film production.

Contact:

Amanda Barwick (Media Manager) 0428 400 736
Ellen McNamara (Media Officer) 0429 990 218

Celebrate | Reflect | Connect