



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR JB FAIRFAX AWARD FOR RURAL JOURNALISM**

Are you a student who is passionate about pursuing a career in rural journalism? Applications are now open for the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) Foundation JB Fairfax Award for Rural Journalism.

The JB Fairfax Award for Rural Journalism aims to unearth an aspiring young writer who is dedicated to sharing the stories of rural and regional Australia. The successful recipient will receive a scholarship of \$10,000 and practical work experience at Rural Press and the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

RAS Honorary Councillor and Foundation supporter, Mr John Fairfax AO said that it was important to provide opportunities to the future voices of Australian agriculture.

“The Award is designed to attract people who are not merely committed to rural Australia but who are determined to unearth as many rich stories that lie hidden within our regional and rural communities,” Mr Fairfax said.

RAS Foundation Executive Officer, Jocellin Jansson said the scholarship aims to celebrate and champion a talented young writer’s aspirations to become a rural journalist.

“The JB Fairfax Award for Rural Journalism not only assists with financial support for students, but it also provides excellent professional development and networking opportunities, such as interning at the Australia’s largest annual event, the Sydney Royal Easter Show,” Ms Jansson said.

Eugowra’s Simone Norrie was the recipient of the Award in 2013. The 21-year-old is a fourth year sport studies and communication student and plans to work as a print journalist.

“Winning the JB Fairfax Award for Rural Journalism was a long term goal of mine and something that I am immensely proud of. To experience such a thorough interview process, have my article published and intern at the Sydney Royal Easter Show —these were all invaluable learning opportunities in my final year of study,” Ms Norrie said.

Each JB Fairfax Award for Rural Journalism scholarship applicant is required to submit a feature article of up to 1,200 words which explores a contemporary issue, trend or activity of interest to rural and regional communities, as well as a 600 word news item on a set topic.

Interested applicants are encouraged to visit [www.rasnsw.com.au/programs](http://www.rasnsw.com.au/programs) to find out more about the JB Fairfax Award for Rural Journalism and to complete the online application form.

**Applications close 30 September, 2013** and the scholarship recipient will be announced in early 2014.

The RAS Foundation is a philanthropic foundation which seeks to encourage educational opportunity and foster vibrant and sustainable rural and regional communities by supporting quality youth and community programs.

Visit [www.rasf.org.au](http://www.rasf.org.au) for more information on the RAS Foundation.

**For further information, high-res images and interview requests:**

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*Forging the future of Australian agriculture through competition and education*

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