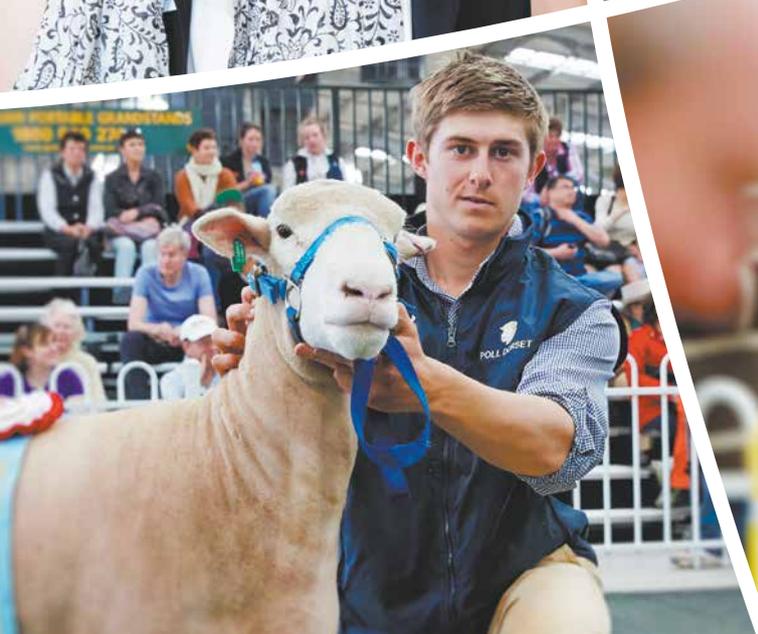


EMERGING LEADER Awards



Conducted by



RASV

EMERGING LEADERS AWARDS

Emerging Leaders in Victorian Agriculture Awards

The Emerging Leader Awards are part of The Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria's (RASV) commitment to nurturing and celebrating the next generation of industry leaders.

The Awards recognise people under 40 who have demonstrated leadership qualities and make a contribution in their profession, to the wider industry and community.

Award recipients will receive up to \$5,000 to put towards the development of their careers and be provided with additional networking and industry opportunities through the RASV calendar of events.

The Awards are a unique opportunity for employers, colleagues and friends to nominate a young person they believe deserves recognition and opportunities to develop their career.

EMERGING LEADERS AWARDS

PAST RECIPIENTS

2015 Emerging Leader Awards

Presented to:

Brandon Sykes

Mawarra Herefords

Brandon have grew up in the agricultural industry, being the third generation of his family business, Mawarra Herefords, which he is currently a full time employee. He has always been involved in the running of the farm and never considered taking on a career outside of the cattle industry. He loves what is involved when breeding cattle, from genetic selection, animal nutrition and showing and promoting livestock.

Heavily involved in Herefords Australia Youth, being the current President. In 2013-14 Brandon was selected as one of six Herefords Australia Youth Ambassadors and later selected as Ambassador of the year.

During his 12 month term as ambassador he coordinated the Herefords Australia Youth National Youth Show, held numerous workshops such as Judging clinics. He also founded the Victorian Hereford Youth Group which now has more than 50 members. Brandon exhibited a team of 8 Hereford and Hereford influence steers at the 2014 Melbourne Show Beef Carcase Competition to promote the carcase benefits of the Hereford breed.

In 2013 he travelled to Canada for five months to further his knowledge in the cattle industry. Brandon brought back many different techniques and ideas, especially in regards to marketing seed stock, in particular through video production and now produces videos of his own sale animals and breeding stock.

EMERGING LEADERS AWARDS

PAST RECIPIENTS

Hayden Findlay

Managing Director, Ravens Creek Farm

Hayden Findlay has had a passion for farming and working on the land for as long as he can remember.

After graduating from high school he followed his passion and gained valuable experience working on farms around Victoria and South Australia. He went on to obtain a Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management in 2007.

In 2009, Hayden and his wife Jasmin decided to pursue their dream of making a living off Hayden's small family farm in Moriac. After experiencing firsthand the damage conventional farming was doing to the land, Hayden conducted extensive research and self-education into an alternative, regenerative form of farming.

Over the past seven years Hayden has been redeveloping the 90 acre family property. In this time he has converted a standard beef farm providing minimal income, into a biodiverse, naturally regenerating environment with a wide variety of stacked enterprises. These enterprises include a farm shop and cafe, PYO berries, grass-fed beef, free range pork, honey, free range eggs, seasonal vegetables and cut flowers.

Hayden is a dedicated, passionate farmer who is eager to share his knowledge. He is a pioneer in various alternative farming techniques including planned grazing, key line design and agroforestry.

Hayden's incredible achievements were publicly recognised last year when he was named The 2014 Weekly Times Farm Magazine Outstanding Farmer of the Year.

At only 32, Hayden is at the beginning of his career in agriculture, and he has big plans for their property and their business, Ravens Creek Farm, over the coming years.

2014 Emerging Leader Awards

Presented to:

Ms Leila Sweeney

Leila Sweeney was nominated for the Award by her husband Sean McDougall in the categories of; professional contribution, industry contribution and community contribution.

At 25 years of age, Leila has constructed a multifaceted career as a Fashion Designer, Business Woman and Charity Ambassador, Secondary School Teacher, Primary Producer and has launched the charity 'Live Rural'.

Born and raised in the New England regions of New South Wales, Leila is a typical country Aussie girl who has a passion for working with wool fabrics to create elegant and beautiful garments. Leila's love for designing and creating garments started at a young age, when she was given the opportunity to enter the Australian Wool Fashion Awards, after which, her love became her passion.

Leila went on to study a Bachelor of Design majoring in Fashion Design at Raffles College of Design and Commerce in Sydney. Initially the thought of moving to Sydney terrified Leila, but once she was immersed in the city life and the world of fashion she simply could not get enough. Leila launched her own fashion label 'Leila Sweeney' in 2008 and has designed and created garments and headdresses for celebrities such as Layne Beachley, Mel B, Tina Arena, Sonia Kruger and Francesca Cumani.

Leila now lives with her husband on their property in Tatyoon, where she has created her own country style studio from where she works. This allows her clients to absorb the country life they are surrounded by when they visit her studio. She gathers her inspiration from the peaceful elegance in which she is hemmed on a day-to-day basis. Leila also works as a Textiles and Fashion teacher in Hamilton where she shares her skills and knowledge with future generations.

Her drive to create 'Live Rural' focuses on creating an awareness of Australian farming communities among the general population, encouraging everyone to develop an emotional connection. Leila hopes that she can bring awareness of the amazing efforts country Australians go to everyday and provide an insight into the lives they lead.

The Emerging Leader Award selection panel described Leila as "an outstanding applicant, who is innovative and dynamic".

Leila has aspirations to enhance her professional clothing collection which is to feature wool in all garments. Her aim for the collection is to have it created from Australian wool that is spun and knitted in Australia. Leila is planning to use her award money to purchase new equipment and machinery that will assist in achieving her desired aim for her collection and to also attend a conference for career and professional development.

EMERGING LEADERS AWARDS

PAST RECIPIENTS

Mr Dan Korff Highly Commended

Dan was nominated for the Award by a business acquaintance, Marion Gibbins, CEO of Australian Association of Stud Merino Breeders Ltd, in the categories of; professional contribution, industry contribution and community contribution.

Dan holds a Bachelor of Business (Agriculture) from Marcus Oldham College in Geelong, which he completed in 2011 and currently hails from Coonabarabran in North West NSW.

He has held various management positions in the sheep & wool industry including: Jackaroo & Management Cadet at Twynam Pastoral Company (Mungadal); Stud Overseer at Hazeldean Pty Ltd; Manager at Avington Merino Stud; Manager at 'Clavering', Pyramul Pastoral Company (current).

Dan is a Director & Company Secretary of the Future Farmers Network, and is also involved in several other industry groups including AWI, Australian Stud Breeders Association & Australian Superfine Woolgrowers Association.

Driven & determined, Dan believes in, and is excited about the future of our industry and the people in it. He is passionate about doing anything he can to encourage and support young people in the industry.

Having been educated in the state and spending several years working in Victorian agriculture, Dan is keen and sure he will make his way back to Victoria when the next opportunity arises!

The selection panel described Dan as "someone who shows excellent leadership qualities within the wool industry and someone to watch in the future".

Dan has enrolled in a Bachelor of Organisational Leadership through the University of New England, as the elements of the course are what he believes to be very important in developing and encouraging Australian agriculture. Dan believes that this course will play a huge part in further development and career building in agriculture and plans to put his award money towards assisting with associated expenses of the course.

EMERGING LEADERS AWARDS

PAST RECIPIENTS

Mr Tim Pilkington Highly Commended

Tim was nominated for the Award by business acquaintance James McKeefry, State Manager at the ANZ.

An Agronomist with Elders and President of the Vic No Till Farmers Association (VNTFA), Tim dedicates his time and utilises his knowledge and passion for agriculture to drive innovation and profitability in farming enterprises. He has mentored and supported younger Agronomists coming through the industry, set up focus groups within the local Elders branches and volunteered his time to contribute to the industry and support local community and agricultural student groups.

Tim volunteers his time to lead the VNTFA, a farmer based group and has ensured its continuance through developing governance and structures to be certain of success. His leadership skills have reinvigorated the group to ensure it remains relevant for long term members and advanced farmers as well as those starting their no till journey.

Tim's passion, knowledge and understanding of agriculture is key to his success, always looking to expand his knowledge base and empower others to do the same and see agriculture in Australia grow and develop.

The selection panel described Tim as "someone with great potential and who is a good promotion for the industry".

Tim has recently taken a position as Senior Agronomist & Agribusiness Specialist at Compass Agribusiness Management Centre after leaving Elders.

He would like to put the award money towards further education for his future career development and has identified the Australian Institute of company directors course as an area of interest he would like to pursue.

2013 Emerging Leader Awards

Presented to:

Ms Ashlee Hammond

Ashlee was nominated for the Award by her mentor and friend Bruce Anderson, in the category of outstanding contribution to industry and community.

Ashlee is a 21 year-old La Trobe University student, currently completing her third year of a Bachelor of Agricultural Science degree. She plans to complete her Honours before pursuing a career focusing on educating urban consumers about agriculture.

Holding numerous leadership roles, Ashlee is Vice President of La Trobe Agricultural Science Society and committee member of Young Agribusiness Professionals (YAPs). An active community member, Ashlee has volunteered at the Royal Melbourne Show for the past five years, is a 2012 ABC Heywire winner and was a participant in the National Agricultural Think Tank (Canberra, 2012).

Ashlee is a published author of *Around the Ring: a compilation of ring craft techniques* (2010) for which she collaborated with leading beef cattle judges across Australia, England, Ireland, Canada and USA in order to compile her book.

The Emerging Leader Award selection panel described Ashlee as “an incredibly unique and motivated young person”.

Ashlee was accepted into Honours in Agricultural Science at Latrobe University, now known as Polytechnic. With an intense research year ahead of her she planned to put some of the money towards funding associated expenses. Ashlee was also completing a project in the Dairy Industry, working with a farm near Tatura, so some of the money was to go towards travel expenses.

There were also conferences and networking days which Ashlee identified would develop her professional network within industry and planned to attend the Influential People’s Forum held in March 2014.

Ashlee’s long term goal is to travel to America after completing Honours to learn more about the dairy industry and meet & network with more people in industry.

EMERGING LEADERS AWARDS

PAST RECIPIENTS

Mr Tom Whitty

Tom was nominated by his colleague Ailsa Gibson in the category of outstanding contribution to industry for his dedication to industry advocacy and educating consumers about agriculture.

A 26 year-old Journalism and International Relations graduate from Monash University, Tom is currently employed as Public Affairs Advisor for the Victorian Farmers Federation.

Tom is a city boy with a passion for raising awareness about rural Australia and is often called upon to speak and advise on advocacy and social media, including providing skills training for rural Australians on how to use online platforms.

As co-founder of successful social media platforms AgChatOz and Rural Mental Health, Tom volunteers his time to contribute to these forums. In just three years AgChatOz has become not only the largest social media network for farmers, but for all Australians, and reaches an average 275,000 people each week and peaked at 900,000 this year. It has trended nationally nine times and continues to provide a direct paddock to plate connection.

The selection panel describes Tom as “an outstanding candidate for the Award, with great initiative and potential”. This is the first formal recognition Tom has received for his contribution to agriculture.

Tom put his award money towards travel expenses to the United States to attend the AgChat Annual Conference which was held in August 2014. Tom presented a speech on “AgChatOZ Example” and illustrated what has been achieved over a three year period with other initiatives that he has commenced as a result of this. He also spoke to related groups about expanding the concept with some pipeline ideas and projects on the agenda.

The RASV was also pleased to have Tom host our Young Producers Event held at the 2014 Royal Melbourne Show.



For more than 160 years,
the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria
(RASV) has been inspiring excellence
in Victorian agriculture and food production.

In this pursuit for excellence the RASV
conducts a range of world-class agricultural
and leisure events throughout the year.

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