



\$40,000 Blackwood scholarship opens again

TERTIARY students Australia-wide are encouraged to apply for the 2009 annual Blackwood Agricultural Scholarship award launched in WA this week.

The \$40,000 scholarship was started in 2005 as a joint sponsorship between Milton and Emma Moore, principals of Blackwood Murray Grey and KDM Angus, Boyup Brook, and Landmark, WAFarmers, and *Farm Weekly*, with auditors Pascoe, Hudson, Broom and Blyth.

It is open to any student enrolling in an accredited agricultural tertiary degree.

The scholarship offers four \$10,000 scholarships, one each year, with each winner receiving annual payments of \$2500 paid retrospectively on the successful completion of each study year for the duration of their degrees, up to a maximum of four years.

Students enrolling in a four-year degree can potentially receive the maximum \$10,000, while graduates of a three-year degree receive up to \$7500.

The inaugural award, which attracted 32 entries, was made in March 2006 to Muresk Institute of Agriculture student Simon Cheetham.

Mr Cheetham, Nyabing, studied a Bachelor of Agribusiness degree before joining Landmark in its finance department in 2007.

University of WA student Damen Guest, Salmon Gums, who was studying a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and Bachelor of Science in Commerce double degree, was awarded a special runner-up prize.

The 2007 winner was Muresk Institute, Curtin University of Technology, student Gavin Crane who completed a Bachelor of Agribusiness-Farm Management degree.

Gavin's win was even more notable as he was a second-time applicant who had not made the finalist list the first time.

His scholastic and personal growth, and community involvement, had improved such that he made a winning impression on the judges at his second attempt.

Again, due to the calibre of the entrants, a runner-up award was made to Murdoch University, Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine student Candice Gelmi, Waterloo.

The 2008 scholarship was awarded to Murdoch University Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery student, Stephaney Draper, York.

"Hopefully scholarships such as this will help encourage others to study agricultural based degrees," Ms Draper said.

As one of four women in the list of six finalists, she said it was a great opportunity to represent young women wanting to get involved in the industry.

"The number applying for the scholarship shows more women are seeking roles in agriculture and that is great to see," she said.

Another returning applicant, also studying Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery at Murdoch University, Jim McMahon, was named runner-up.

The need to encourage talented youth to consider the opportunities available in the



Blackwood Murray Grey and KDM Angus stud principal Milton Moore, Boyup Brook (left), congratulates Agricultural Scholarship winner Stephaney Draper, York.

agricultural sector and to highlight the diverse career paths available in rural-based industries was the catalyst behind the scholarship.

The Moores said the aim of the scholarship was to lift the profile of agriculture as a career.

"We need to start to value our farming community and recognise the industry as crucial to the Australian economy and way of life", Mr Moore said.

"The Australian consumer has been spoilt with the availability of quality food which is very affordable, but it will not always be this way unless we can attract energetic, dedicated people to the industry with new ideas that lift farm productivity.

"Our only chance of surviving in this tough environment is to do everything smarter and

employ the latest farming techniques.

Education was vital for farmers, Mr Moore said.

"Farmers do have a lot of advice available to them but there is a need to have a strong education behind you to interpret, understand and implement recommendations and programs," he said.

"Through our experience employing several farmhands with various levels of education and back ground it is possible to see how handling new technologies can be a challenge.

"Experience is invaluable, however having a tertiary background will be seen as essential for many farming jobs, especially if you want to progress further in your employment."

The other three sponsors of the



Blackwood
MURRAY GREY

DM
ANGUS

4th ANNUAL AWARD

\$40,000 BLACKWOOD

AGRICULTURAL SCHOLARSHIP

Proudly supported by






farm business

scholarship are Landmark, WAFarmers and *Farm Weekly* which, like the Moore family, share a commitment to the agriculture sector and are large employers of staff across rural Australia.

Landmark is a leading supplier of agribusiness services including grain marketing and management, merchandise, livestock, wool, insurance, fertiliser, finance and real estate.

Landmark HR business partner Warren Harrower said his company was proud to support the scholarship and had been impressed with the calibre of previous applicants.

"The inaugural winner Simon Cheetham is now employed in our finance department as a rural finance manager and he has proven a valuable asset to our team," Mr Harrower said.

"The scholarship provides financial assistance to young students enabling them to get their rural career underway.

"The program also offers other benefits including networking and the opportunity for students to voice their opinions on a range of topics."

WAFarmers president Mike Norton said the scholarships were a great initiative by the Moore family, involving young people interested in agriculture to look at the industry in a positive light.

"They can study with the confidence that their efforts will be rewarded with long term careers," Mr Norton said.

"Young, enthusiastic, practical people are desperately needed across agricultural industries as the global demand for food increases.

"Long term projections indicate that global food demand

will double by 2050, that there will be a population increase of 120 per cent in southeast Asia and India by 2040 and that demand for protein in China and India will increase by 50 per cent over the next 20 years.

"Opportunities abound for agriculture but what is needed is the younger generation to step up and take over the reins where the older generation is slowly retiring.

"WAFarmers is proud to support the Blackwood scholarships as a key means to facilitate this transition."

Farm Weekly publisher Trevor Emery said his company was a major employer of young people with a strong rural background or a specific interest in agriculture.

"We have been fortunate at *Farm Weekly* in recent years to have been able to attract some excellent young people from rural backgrounds to our company, especially in our livestock and editorial departments," Mr Emery said.


"We are delighted to be associated with this award and it is particularly pleasing to see some of the applicants from the past three years, having completed their studies and now appearing in significant roles across a diverse range of agricultural industries."

To be eligible to enter the 2009 scholarship, applicants must complete the nomination form in editions of *Farm Weekly*.

Entry forms will run in the next 12 editions before the closing date on Monday, February 9, 2009.

Applicants must make themselves available for an interview if required as part of the assessment process.

ENTRY FORM



\$40,000

BLACKWOOD AGRICULTURAL SCHOLARSHIP

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Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Phone: _____

Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Date of birth: _____

Degree enrolled in: _____

Institution enrolled at: _____

This response to the following questions, a copy of your previous year's study results and a recent photograph must be completed and attached to this entry form:

Why did you select this degree? How do you expect to make a contribution to the agricultural industry in the future?
(minimum 200 words)

Genetically modified cotton has been given the green light to be grown in the Old River region. Should other improved crop varieties and livestock breeds which have already been genetically modified to deliver improved traits also be introduced into WA or should the GM moratorium be retained?
(minimum 300 words)

What do you see the role of agriculture in the development of an effective trading scheme (ETS). Should agriculture be included in an ETS in 2010 or 2015 as proposed?
(minimum 300 words)

Do you think Emission Credit's proposed 'Fossil-free for Regions' funding will help keep people in rural and regional areas? What else should be given priority for funding?
(minimum 300 words)

Should agricultural production groups be more involved in the agricultural process?
(minimum 200 words)

What in your opinion is the single biggest challenge facing agriculture in the future?
(minimum 200 words)

Entries close each week Friday, February 6, 2009

Send your original entry form and nomination to:

Wendy Gould

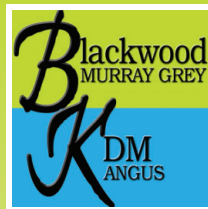
Attention: Wendy Gould, PO Box 1268,
Victoria Park East, WA 6981
email: wendy.gould@ruralpress.com

Win an Agricultural Scholarship worth up to \$10,000

The Blackwood Agricultural Scholarship will offer **FOUR \$10,000 scholarships**, one per year in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009.

The scholarship will be open to students enrolling (or currently enrolled) in an accredited agricultural tertiary degree.

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(minimum 300 words)

Where do you see the role of agriculture in the development of an emissions trading scheme (ETS). Should agriculture be included in an ETS in 2010 or 2015 as proposed?
(minimum 300 words)

Do you think Brendon Grylls' proposed 'Royalties for Regions' funding will help keep people in rural and regional areas? What sectors should be given priority for funding?
(minimum 300 words)

Should agricultural production groups be more involved in the agri-political process?
(minimum 200 words)

What in your opinion is the single biggest challenge facing agriculture in the future?
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Nominations close last mail Tuesday, February 9, 2009

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