

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## Farming great talent: scholarship students celebrated

Support for students studying Agricultural Science at the University of Tasmania will be celebrated at AgFest tomorrow.

One agricultural science scholarship will be presented and many others recognised at a morning tea, acknowledging the generous support of scholarship providers, hosted by the School of Agricultural Science and Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research (TIAR).

The Bert Campbell Memorial Scholarship in Agriculture will be presented, to recipient Rhys Beattie, final year Agricultural Science student.

Bert Campbell was an innovative Tasmanian farmer and founding member of the Agricultural Contractors of Tasmania.

Dr Richard Doyle, Acting Head of the UTAS School of Agricultural Science, said the support of scholarship providers was invaluable to talented students.

“The generous sponsors of our Ag Science scholarships program ensure that study and research in the critical agricultural sector in Tasmania continue to flourish,” Dr Doyle said.

“The School of Agricultural Science sincerely thanks the providers of the scholarships.”

Dr Doyle said it was a mark of the calibre of Ag Science students that one of the School’s PhD candidates, Will Bignell, was recently awarded Young Achiever of the Year.

Another outstanding student, Helene Mitchelson, is the recipient of the Graeme Tole Scholarship. Helene was also awarded the Australia Post scholarship. She will travel to Denmark to study Agricultural Science related units at the University of Copenhagen.

Dr Doyle will speak at the function as will the UTAS Dean of the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology, Professor Margaret Britz.

**Information Released by:**

**UTAS Communications and Media, University of Tasmania**

**Phone: (03) 6226 2691 Mobile: 0447 537 375**

**Email: [Media.Office@utas.edu.au](mailto:Media.Office@utas.edu.au)**

## **Scholarship recipient profiles**

- Rhys Beattie, recipient of the Bert Campbell Memorial Scholarship in Agriculture:

Rhys, originally from Scottsdale, is in his final year of his Bachelor of Agricultural Science degree at Hobart. Rhys is particularly interested in the areas of pasture production, crop production for the Tasmanian environment and animal nutrition and production systems.

He chose to study Agricultural Science because he has a very strong interest in the agricultural area. He also has a keen interest in animal genetics and would like to continue with a breeding program of his own stud cattle.

When he graduates from UTAS, Rhys plans to seek employment in the agricultural industry and thinks he would enjoy work as an Advisory Agronomist or a crop field officer.

- Helene Mitchelson, recipient of the Graeme Tole Memorial Scholarship and Australia Post Scholarship:

Helene Mitchelson is currently enrolled in a Bachelor of Agricultural Science at UTAS and is setting off on a student exchange to Copenhagen to study agricultural science units at their university. She is originally from Westbury.

Helene has always had a keen interest in science and said she believes agricultural science is an extremely important industry. She grew up on a farming property and is hoping to work as an agronomist or in the animal production and nutrition industries.

Helene enjoys anything to do with the outdoors, including farming, camping and sport. Helene is also an accredited level one gymnastics coach and for the past four years has been running gymnastics classes.

- Gemma Sherwin is the recipient of the Beef Industry Trust Scholarship

Gemma is in the second year of her Bachelor of Agricultural Science degree at UTAS in Hobart.

As a child, she had a fascination with insects and was determined to become an entomologist. Gemma selected the Bachelor of Agricultural Science as a pathway into a career in Entomology. Originally she was interested in the

quarantine side of entomology but became more interested in the agricultural application of entomology, such as sustainable pest management.

Gemma would eventually like to take a career path towards integrated pest management systems in agriculture which reduce the amount of chemicals used in the industry, which she believes is essential for the sustainable future of Tasmanian agriculture.

Gemma is very interested in natural conservation and enjoys camping and bush walking. She is also captain of her local lacrosse team and has also taken an umpire role in the club.