

14 January 2008

## **RUSSEL HARLAND SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS CLOSING**

University students with an interest in far-Western NSW are reminded that a \$5 000 scholarship is available from the Western Catchment Management Authority (CMA).

Applications for the Russel Harland Memorial Scholarship close on January 31, 2008.

The scholarship is in its third year and is named in memory of the late Russel Harland, a stalwart of the natural resources in the Western Catchment, who passed away suddenly in November 2002, aged 44.

It is awarded annually to a university student from NSW doing their first degree, who displays strong personal, community and educational commitment to rural or regional areas, with particular reference to the Western Catchment of NSW".

The recipient of the 2007 Scholarship, Jenny Sandow of Pimpara Lake, 200km north of Broken Hill, has been working at the Western CMA's Broken Hill office for the past few weeks.

Jenny has been conducting final inspections of properties that undertook mesquite control through the Western CMA's incentive program and assisting the landholders with their photo-point monitoring of the affected plants. She is also helping to organise the "Sustainable Grazing Forum" which will be held in Broken Hill in March.

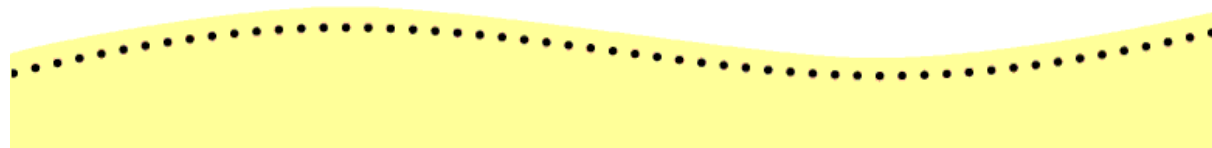
"It has been a great honour to receive the scholarship. It has given me the opportunity to invest what I have learnt at University back into my local community and the larger Western district," Ms Sandow said.

The inaugural recipient, Matt Goulton, graduated with a Bachelor Degree in Applied Science in Parks, Recreation and Heritage Areas at Charles-Sturt University and begins working full-time at the Western CMA's Walgett office today, following several work-placement stints over the past two years.

"The Russel Harland Memorial Scholarship has benefited me in many ways. The Scholarship itself has enabled me to purchase text books and equipment as well as help to pay for field trips and cover other university and living expenses. It has been a great learning opportunity and has introduced me to many great places and even greater people," Mr Goulton said.

"I would recommend applying to any student who fits the bill, as it provides many benefits for both you - the student, and the Western CMA," he said.

Mr Rory Treweeke, Chair of the Western CMA, says they are confident of choosing another outstanding recipient in 2008.



# MEDIA RELEASE



“The Western CMA has been established to invest in the future of the Catchment and its people and this is one, very practical way in which we can achieve this goal”, Mr. Treweeke said.

The Russel Harland Memorial Scholarship provides \$5,000 per year for up to three years to the successful applicant.

The scholarship recipient will be expected to complete at least four weeks paid work with the Western CMA for each year of their scholarship. Following the successful completion of their studies, scholarship recipients will be contracted to work with the Western CMA for at least one year.

Applicants must meet certain criteria, including being a full-time internal student entering their second year of an undergraduate course in an area of study relevant to the skills required within the WCMA. These include agricultural science, natural resources, earth sciences, Aboriginal/cultural heritage or communication.

For further information please call 1800 032 101 or visit the Western CMA website [www.western.cma.gov.au](http://www.western.cma.gov.au)

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