

Peter Angus

- SA Rural Ambassador 2000

Australian Rural Ambassador 2001

My association with the Young Rural Ambassador Award has certainly been a most rewarding experience and changed my direction in life. It opened many doors, leading to new career



opportunities, allowed me to meet many people, even Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth in 2002, and importantly increased my self-confidence and ability to speak in public.

Some of the best aspects of the award are the opportunities that present themselves for participants, leadership roles and the great people who you become acquainted with. This is immeasurable, as the chance to meet other young rural South Australians and the friendships that have been forged are invaluable.

I thoroughly enjoyed my four days at the Royal Adelaide Show in September 2000 and met some terrific people. As a group we all got along really well, enjoyed learning about how the Show is run and what is involved behind the scenes. As the State winner I won a \$6000 scholarship and travelled overseas in 2001, spending ten weeks in the United States of America and a fortnight in Ireland visiting farms, fairs, cities and other places of interest which was fun and informative.

A National Rural Ambassador Award final was held at the Sydney Royal Easter Show in 2001, with finalists from New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia, Tasmania and myself competing. To win the inaugural award, presented by Warren Truss, Federal Minister for Agriculture was a huge honour.

During my time as State and National Rural Ambassador from 2000 to 2002 I spent the autumn and spring show seasons attending over 25 country shows throughout South Australia, ranging from Mundulla to Kimba to Angaston and Pinnaroo. Having the opportunity to experience and observe how different shows are run, sharing ideas, meeting people and travelling around the state has been excellent. I have enjoyed becoming more involved with my local show, Gawler, and with the Northern Districts Show Association and Agricultural Societies Council of SA by joining committees and contributing a voice for the younger generation.

One of the positive outcomes of this award has been the establishment of a SA Country Shows Youth Network to support and encourage the involvement of young people aged 35 and under in the running of country shows by a group of past finalists. Over time this network will continue to develop and grow, providing a forum for interested people to ensure that shows remain relevant and continue to change with the times.

2002 marked the 5th year of the Rural Ambassador Award in South Australia and I hope to organise a reunion for past participants in mid 2003 to share what has been happening over the years and what finalists are doing now.

The Rural Ambassador Award highlights the importance of enthusiastic, skilful and industrious young people, with knowledge about rural life, rural issues and agricultural shows, so if this is you, please consider entering the award. It has lots to offer, and you won't regret it-I certainly didn't!