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Pinnaroo star wins Country Show Young Ambassador Award

Enthusiastic and community minded Jeremy Schutz from Pinnaroo has been announced the 2009 Young Rural Ambassador state winner.

The 17 year-old was among eight South Australian regional finalists vying for the title at a presentation dinner held at the Grand Chifley Adelaide on Friday 10 July.

Representing the Pinnaroo Show and Murray Lands Show Association, Jeremy is a year 12 student at Lameroo Regional Community School. He participates in a school-based apprenticeship in metal fabrication and is a member of the CFS and Pinnaroo Football club. At the Pinnaroo Show he is involved in the speed shear and sheep yard dog trials.

"I was surprised when I heard my name called as the winner, but I am very excited and happy with the win," Jeremy said.

"In this role I would like to bring more people to my local show and embrace this opportunity to get my word out there and help out as much as I can in my community".

As part of his major prize Jeremy will be a special guest of the RA&HS during the 2009 Royal Adelaide Show in September when he spends a weekend with the Rural Ambassador state finalists.

Twenty year old ABB Grain administration officer Sarah Francis was announced runner-up. She represented the Maitland Show and Yorke Peninsula Show Association. Sarah recently moved back to Maitland from Adelaide and is involved with local sporting clubs, the show committee and raising awareness about blood and organ donation. Sarah is keen to encourage young people to return to the country and participate in their local community and shows.

"I really want to have a look at other country shows around the state and to get a website off the ground that enables young people to see what jobs are available in their local areas," Sarah said.

The six other regional finalists were Eleanor Lisk and Cody Crane (South East & Border); Courtney Nourse and Matthew Harmati (Northern); Kevin Lintern (Central) and Edward Scott (Southern). The outstanding calibre of the finalists highlighted their enthusiasm and participation in their communities, which holds the future of local shows in good stead.

In the fourth year of the Young Rural Ambassador Award, coordinator Peter Angus says it continues to identify and encourage passionate young people to become more involved with their local country show, show associations and the Royal Adelaide Show.

At the dinner, 2008 winner Crystal Rudiger spoke about her experiences over the past 12 months and encouraged finalists to maintain their show and community involvement and the new friendships developed through the award. She said it was an amazing experience she will always remember.

Royal Adelaide Show Special projects Manager Brad Ward was MC for the evening attended by 95 guests from rural and regional SA. Judges were: Emma Partridge (Stock Journal journalist); Ingrid Smith (2008 Rural Ambassador winner); Grant Piggott (General Manager of the Adelaide Event and Exhibition Centre) and Peter Angus (Young Rural Ambassador Award coordinator).

This award is conducted by the Agricultural Societies Council of SA and sponsored by Primary Industries and Resources SA; the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of SA Education Foundation, Stock Journal Publishers; RM Williams; National Australia Bank; and the Showmen's Guild of SA. This ongoing support and encouragement of youth is essential to this competition.