

MEDIA RELEASE

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2015 Rural Ambassador to share passion for rural South Australia

Pinnaroo farmer Jeremy Schutz will continue to share his passion for keeping young people involved in agriculture and rural communities after being named South Australia's 2015 Rural Ambassador last week.

Conducted by the Agricultural Societies Council of South Australia, the Rural Ambassador Award, a highlight of the Royal Adelaide Show, celebrates the important role youth play in rural South Australia. The State Government is a major sponsor of the award through Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA).

Jeremy, 23, who is also the first Rural Ambassador winner to have also taken out the Young Rural Ambassador Award; runs the family farm in Pinnaroo, which breeds Merino sheep as well as first cross Border Leicester lambs.

Jeremy is excited to represent South Australia as its 2015 Rural Ambassador.

"I am thrilled to win the award," he said. "It's an amazing privilege to win the award and represent the state at this level. I hope I can do the award the justice it deserves."

"The week at the show has been a really rewarding experience and an exceptional opportunity for all the regional winners of the rural ambassador award."

While his background is in agriculture, he recognises the growing importance of also keeping young people involved in horticulture, an important primary industry sector in his region.

Award co-ordinator Peter Angus said Jeremy was a deserving winner of the award and is destined for a bright future.

"Jeremy is passionate about his local community and keeps involved in many activities, including the Pinnaroo Show, the Country Fire Service, football, tennis and much more," Mr Angus said.

"We believe his hard-working attitude will see him go far in his farming career. He's determined to share his passion for the rural lifestyle and what it has to offer to young people in the community."

The winner's prize includes a \$5,000 scholarship from the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of South Australia Education Foundation, while the two runners-up will each receive \$1,000. All three will travel to New Zealand next year on a two-week study tour as their major prize.

The 2015 runners up are Cassie Ryan from Keith (South East & Border) and Damien Liebelt from Uraidla



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(Central). The other state finalists were William Denholm (Northern), Dusty Jones (Southern), Bevan Schutz (Northern), Laura Rivett (South East & Border) and Robert Dutschke (Yorke Peninsula).

The Rural Ambassador Award is open to people aged between 20-30 who are committed to their local show and community, and highlights the importance of youth in the agricultural show movement. Entrants are selected by their local show before competing in regional finals, and a representative from each region contests the State final at the Royal Adelaide Show. The program enables young people to develop a network of enthusiastic and proactive leaders in communities around the State.

The Rural Ambassador Award is sponsored by PIRSA, the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of SA Education Foundation, Stock Journal, RM Williams, the Showmen's Guild of SA and Jardine Lloyd Thompson.

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