

Passionate advocates for country shows

Keeping the spirit of country shows alive are this year's crowned Rural Ambassador and Young Rural Ambassador for South Australia, Brooke Harvie and Alistair Keller.

Brooke, 25, representing the South East and Border region, was named the 2014 South Australian Rural Ambassador at the Royal Adelaide Show in September, while 19 year old Alistair, representing the Northern region, was named the 2014 South Australian Young Rural Ambassador in July.

Brooke said that being named Rural Ambassador for 2014 was a huge honour and is looking forward to her 12 months in the role.

"Growing up in the Limestone Coast, country shows were always an integral part of our community and it was always enjoyable going to other shows. Generations to come should also get to enjoy them," Brooke said.

"I want to get more people involved in local shows to ensure that the shows are able to continue for many more years to come."

Shearer Alistair, from Booleroo Centre, shares Brooke's sentiment.

"As the 2014 Young Rural Ambassador, I'm looking forward to meeting new people, travelling around to other shows, having the opportunity to network and trying to get more young kids involved in the show societies," Alistair said.

"I'm really passionate about getting kids involved in their country shows, and over the years have enjoyed helping them prepare their entries for local shows and the Royal Adelaide Show."

Rural Ambassador Award Coordinator Peter Angus said the two ambassadors showed great passion for community involvement in country shows.

"Both awards highlight the importance of youth in rural South Australia and in particular the agricultural show movement," Peter said.

"Country shows are a great tradition in rural areas for bringing people together, celebrating the community and showcasing people's skills and produce. It's great to see young people getting involved and making sure the spirit of the country show lives on."

Peter praised Brooke and Alistair for their achievements and commitment to their local communities.

"Brooke's infectious drive and commitment are worthy qualities for her new role," he said.

"She is a passionate advocate for the role that country shows play in the community, taking on a variety

of roles as well as giving back to her community by volunteering with organisations such as Naracoorte Netball Club, Naracoorte Racing Club and Kybybolite Memorial Sports Club.

"Alistair has shown an in-depth knowledge of his region and its primary industry sectors, as well as current and future issues for the area and country shows in general.

"He is an active SES and CFS member, committee member for the Melrose Sheep Dog Trials, and an Agrifood Skills Australia Ambassador. He was also named the Junior Citizen of the Year in 2012 for the District Council of Mount Remarkable."

The awards are conducted by the Agricultural Societies Council of South Australia, and are sponsored by Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA), the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of South Australia (Education Foundation), Stock Journal Publishers, RM Williams and Showmen's Guild of South Australia.

The Rural Ambassador Award is open to people aged 20-30 years, and the Young Rural Ambassador Award for people aged 16-19 years.

For further information, including how to enter the 2015 awards, visit www.sacountryshows.com



Rural Ambassador for 2014 Brooke Harvie (centre) with first runner up Thomas Darmody, Northern Association (left) and second runner up Luke Nuske, Murraylands Association (right) Photo courtesy of The Stock Journal.



Young Rural Ambassador for South Australia, Alistair Keller, with runner up Aoife Rutley at July's announcement. Photo courtesy of Festival City Photography.