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Gawler high achiever wins Country Show Young Ambassador Award

Enthusiastic and community minded Aaron Bain from Gawler has been announced the 2011 Young Rural Ambassador state winner.

The 18 year-old was among eight South Australian regional finalists vying for the title at a presentation dinner held in Adelaide on Friday 15th July.

Representing the Gawler Show and Northern Show Association, at the Gawler Show Aaron has exhibited poultry, been involved with organizing the children's pet show, attended show promotional days and spoken at functions.

He is currently undertaking a graduate program at the Ahrens Group after previously completing a Certificate III in Business. Aaron is heavily involved with harness racing as a driver and is the Harness Racing SA Media Liaison officer. Within the community he plays football for South Gawler.

"The opportunities and experiences that will come from such a prestigious award will be endless and I look forward to representing the show society to the best of my ability", Aaron said.

"I am very privileged to win this award as the other seven finalists represented their Show Societies and areas with upmost pride and professionalism and have a bright future".

"The show society needs a burst of youth for not only their crowds but their exhibitors and volunteers and in my role over the coming twelve months I look forward to encouraging and promoting the country show scene".

"I would like to thank the Gawler Show Society for the opportunity twelve months ago to represent them and I look forward to working closely with the committee led by Peter Angus at this year's show in late August".

As part of his major prize Aaron will be a special guest of the Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society of SA during the 2011 Royal Adelaide Show in September when he spends a weekend with the Rural Ambassador state finalists.

Twenty one year old university student Sarah Horne was announced runner up and represented the Cleve Show and Eyre Peninsula Association. Sarah has enjoyed competing with horses in country shows for many years and has been the convenor of Horses-In-Action at Cleve Show since in 2009. Sarah enjoys working on the family farm as much as possible.

She's studying a Bachelor of Nursing and plans to return to the country when she has completed her degree.

"Being involved in the Young Rural Ambassador Award has been a fantastic experience, not only in personal development from attending interviews but the best part is meeting like-minded people my age that are also passionate about their local country shows. Being awarded runner-up young rural ambassador was a bonus, I would like to take my experiences back to the Cleve community and try to encourage people my age to get involved with our show," Sarah said.

The six other regional finalists were Joel Heinicke (Murray Lands); Harrison Berry (South East & Border); Jacinta Ferguson (South East & Border); Justin Clarke (Northern); Jacqueline Lintern (Central) and Tom Hastings (Southern). The excellent standard of the finalists highlighted their enthusiasm and participation in their communities, which holds the future of local shows in good stead.

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

At the dinner, 2010 winner William Denholm spoke about his experiences over the past 12 months and encouraged finalists to maintain their show and community involvement and the new friendships developed through the award. He said it was a terrific experience he will always remember.

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; the Showmen's Guild of SA and Jardine Lloyd Thompson. The valued ongoing support and encouragement of youth is essential to this competition.

Taryn Mangelsdorf, 2010 Rural Ambassador state runner up was MC for the evening attended by 90 guests from rural and regional SA. Judges were: Deanna Lush (Stock Journal Editor); Janet King (Junior Vice President of the ASC of SA); Grant Piggott (General Manager of the Adelaide Event and Exhibition Centre) and Peter Angus (Young Rural Ambassador Award coordinator).

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L – R :
2011 Young Rural Ambassador winner Aaron Bain and runner up Sarah Horne

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