

## Hon Tim Whetstone MP

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development

Monday 9 September 2019

### **Mid north sheep farmer named 2019 State Rural Ambassador**

A young sheep and cropping farmer from Eudunda has been crowned South Australia's 2019 State Rural Ambassador Award.

Karl Milde, who represented the Northern Show Association, was named the winner at the State Rural Ambassador Award dinner run by SA Country Shows.

Runners up were Amy Doecke, who runs a transport business with her husband on their property (representing Central Show Association) and Jacinta Jenkins, an assistant winemaker (representing South East and Border Show Association).

Mr Milde grew up on his family's farm and has been keenly involved in the Eudunda Show. His extensive skill set includes operating heavy machinery and agricultural machinery, as well as knowledge of agricultural chemicals.

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development Tim Whetstone congratulated Mr Milde and emphasised the importance of the Rural Ambassador Award Program as an integral part of engaging youth in agriculture.

"Over the past 22 years, the Rural Ambassador Award Program has seen hundreds of young people participate in the program at local show, association and state levels, making substantial contributions to their regional communities," said Minister Whetstone.

"Well done to Karl, and the runners up Amy and Jacinta, as well as all the finalists for this year's award – I'm sure they'll continue to be role models in their local communities and maintain a strong presence at their shows."

The award program is open to people aged between 20-30 who are committed to their local show and community.

Mr Milde is also passionate about promoting the complexities of mental health across all ages and promote this to the community.

He is dedicated to his local sports, particularly football and lawn bowls, and has extensive skills in working with sheep (shearing and husbandry).

"I'm extremely honoured and privileged to win the award," said Mr Milde.

"I will continue the work from past rural ambassadors and develop and implement new ideas with the support of the networks I've connected with at my local community."

"I want to break down the stigma between the country and the city and also between different social groups within the rural sector."

The other finalists for this year's award were: Lauren Osborne (Southern), Sharna Juett (Northern), Rebecca Agnew (South East and Border) and Nicholas Rodda (Yorke Peninsula).



The top three in the awards will go on a two-week overseas study tour as their major prize. In addition, the group of finalists will all go to the Sydney Royal Easter Show in 2020.

The State Government is proud to be a sponsor of the Rural Ambassador Award, which began in 1998 and is run by SA Country Shows.

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