

Veterinary science students recognised for excellence

Thirteen CSU veterinary science students have been rewarded for their effort and dedication to study through Charles Sturt Foundation Scholarships.

The scholarships were awarded to students studying the Bachelor of Veterinary Science on the University's Wagga Wagga Campus for outstanding academic performance, community involvement, leadership and dedication to the future of the veterinary profession.

The inaugural J H Chalmers Memorial Scholarship was awarded this year to Naomi Bakker, a third-year veterinary science student who has a particular interest in veterinary reproduction and nutrition.

"The scholarship has contributed to my living expenses and allowed me to put a lot more time towards my studies and university activities instead of working a part-time job. Not having to juggle work with my studies has been a real blessing," she said.

Scholarships awarded to veterinary science students this year included: Claire Petterson (Country Womens' Association of NSW – Riverina Group), Naomi Bakker (J H Chalmers Memorial), Amanda-Lee Charman (Kapooka-Legacy), Jocelyn Hoogstraten, Megan McGrice and Jocelyn Todd (Masterfoods – Petcare), Joelle Russell (Redgate Poll Hereford), Sarah Sutherland (Rotary Club of Wagga Wagga Sunrise), Jessica Said and Lauren Said (Rotary Club of Wagga Wagga Wollundry Book Prize), Amy Dutton (Tarcutta and Wantabadgery Merino Breeders Association), Torquill McKillop (The Rural) and Sarah Sutherland (Wagga Wagga City Council).

The Charles Sturt Veterinary Science Foundation has also commenced fundraising to support a Professional Experience Program which will help students cover

the costs associated with the compulsory practical placement component of the veterinary course. Moruya Veterinary Hospital is the first donor to support the program, providing a donation of AU\$1,500 to assist students to cover costs such as accommodation, transport and meals while undertaking the required practicum.

Chair of the Charles Sturt Veterinary Science Foundation committee, Professor Jim Pratley says the scholarship program not only provides students with financial support during their studies, but also the invaluable opportunity to create industry links and networks.

If you would like more information on how you can support veterinary students at CSU through the scholarship or professional experience program, please contact the Foundation on 02 6338 4680 or complete the donation form at the back of this magazine.



(L-R): Amanda-Lee Charman, Megan McGrice, Jocelyn Hoogstraten, Jocelyn Todd, Claire Petterson.

Scholarship remembers J H Chalmers

Jeffrey Chalmers, Lyn Angel and Robyn Paton, children of well-known Wagga Wagga veterinarian, J H Chalmers BVSc (Sydney) MACVS, have established a Charles Sturt Foundation scholarship in memory of their father.



The late Dr J H Chalmers.

Dr Chalmers moved to Wagga in 1955 having bought a local veterinary practice which became the Wagga Wagga Veterinary Hospital, where he was the senior of four partners before retiring in 1983. Many final year students were given their introduction to large animal practice by John and his partners over seven decades.

Throughout his professional life, Dr Chalmers stood on numerous sub-committees on Bovine Eye Cancer and Ovine and Bovine Brucellosis and was the Senior Veterinary Advisor to the Poll Hereford and Murray-Grey societies. He received a number of prestigious awards recognising his contribution to the industry, including the Australian Veterinary Association

Meritorious Service Award and the Seddon Memorial Prize, and he was elected as an inaugural member to the Australasian College of Veterinary Scientists.

Dr Chalmers also demonstrated an enormous commitment to the Wagga community. He was an original member of the Interim Board of the Riverina College of Advanced Education, an antecedent institution of Charles Sturt University, and was extensively involved in Rotary and Legacy.

The lifetime scholarship will each year benefit a third-year Veterinary Science student and was awarded for the first time in 2007 to Naomi Bakker.