

EMERGING LEADERS AWARDS



PAST RECIPIENTS

2017 Emerging Leader Awards recipients

Justin Corbitt
Head Brewer, Hawkers Beer (Australian Brewers Guild)



With a background in finance and international business, Justin's first taste of the beer industry was in 2013 volunteering at the Paulaner Brauhaus in Singapore, where he was based for work. A year and half later he took the reigns as President of the Singapore Craft Brew Club. Justin relocated to Melbourne in 2015 with his wife Erica, an Aussie. Having enjoyed his experience in Singapore's beer industry so thoroughly, he was keen to get involved in the thriving Melbourne scene.

Justin became part of the Hawkers team in September 2015 starting out on the packaging line, shifting to the brew decks only five months later. He has gone on to excel in brewery operations, including leading the development of Hawkers's bourbon barrel ageing program – one of Australia's largest. Testament to Justin's commitment to continuing to learn and grow, he is currently undertaking his Masters in Brewing and

Distilling with Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh. His capacity for innovation and creation led him to be titled 'Champion of continuous improvement and process implementation' within the Hawkers team.

Justin recently submitted his application for his Masters Thesis Course at Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh, in the Brewing and Distilling program and will use the awarded funds to go towards covering the cost for the course.

Adam Mountjoy
Branch Manager, Rodwells, Yea & Alexandra



Adam Mountjoy is currently employed as a Branch Manager of Rodwells Yea & Alexandra branches in Victoria. Being passionate about the rural sector & specifically the livestock marketing areas of business, Adam & his team of 10 employees across 4 sites have grown business substantially over the past 9 years of management. Being a past National winner of the ALPA Young Auctioneers competition Adam enjoys & relishes the challenge of Auctioneering whilst mentoring & training aspiring young auctioneers to reach their full potential. Adam regularly assists in the development of young auctioneers through the PD& E committee aligned

with ALPA's young auctioneers schooling program.

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Adam has a long relationship with Agriculture being brought up on the family farm & wool buying business at Huntly, then being employed by Rodwells since leaving school some 18 years ago. Adam along with wife Carlee and children Austin 5 & Sally 3 are active in farming along with his brother, currently farming 2500 acres of owned & leased country on the outskirts of Bendigo. Focussing on fat lamb, wool & beef production.

With the funding assistance from the ELVA bursary Adam intends to expand knowledge in the areas of trade & export marketing by attending one or both of the following events focused on the red meat sector.

Beef Ex, Rockhampton- May 2018 Lamb Ex, Perth – August 2018

With the experience gained from either event, he intends to implement the finer points of trade relationships developed to enhance relationships with key industry figures. These events are levelled at the higher echelon of both Beef & Sheep meat producers /marketers/processors & exporters of which will assist Adam in further career development in agriculture.

**Dr Sherrie Lee
Chiropractor – Whittlesea Specialist Centre**



Since being named the 2015 Victorian Rural Ambassador, Sherrie has been actively working alongside VAS Ltd to develop and implement new strategies to encourage youth participation in agriculture whether it be at a competition or administration level. Particular to her area of specialty, Sherrie has managed to cultivate a program aimed at increasing the amount of show horse judges between the ages of 18-30 years; as of 1st January 2016 there were only two judges matching this criteria- Sherrie and her younger sister Tamara. The success was overwhelming, growing the youth panel to over 15. From here Sherrie aims to expand the program not only in numbers in Victoria, but nationally over the next 2-3 years and expand the scope of the program to engage the 12-18 years bracket. Sherrie has also been invited to attend many agricultural show openings and speak at agricultural events for mentoring and leadership advice. In 2017, Sherrie became the Next Generation Chairperson- a youth program

designed to get more youth involved and engaged with agricultural shows across Victoria.

Sherrie graduated from her Masters in Clinical Chiropractic with Distinction Honours and has since opened up her own "Whittlesea Spine and Soft Tissue" clinic within the Whittlesea Specialist Centre. She is also extending her scope of practice to include animals- particularly horses, and hopes to one day pursue the line of research that will provide evidence for Chiropractic care and its ability to help the agricultural industry by improving meat, product and offspring yields.

Sherrie still competes with her show horses at local, state and national level and will again take the stage at the Grand National Saddle Horse Championships in March next year.

Message from Sherrie: When you find yourself in a situation where everyone looks at each other, its time for you to lead. You're a leader when you decide to become one. There's no initiation or a title. Just a decision.

Sherrie has put her ELVA bursary towards her postgraduate study in Animal Biomechanical Medicine. The course will take place over 2 years and will assist Sherrie in furthering her chiropractic education to enable her to expand her business to also include animal practice.

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2016 Emerging Leader Award presented to:

Emma Germano
General Manager, I Love Farms



Emma Germano, from Mirboo North Victoria, is the General Manager of *I Love Farms*, a family run mixed farming operation supplying domestic and international markets. Emma is passionate about farming, advocacy and connecting consumers with Australian farmers.

Driven to find solutions to the global challenge of food security, Emma was awarded a Nuffield Farming Scholarship in 2014 which allowed her to undertake international research into global export opportunities for Australian primary producers.

Emma is an active advocate for Australian agriculture, holding multiple roles within industry, including the Vice-Presidency of the Victorian Farmers Federation Horticulture Group and a member of Horticulture Innovation Australia's Vegetable Market and Value Chain Development panel.

Ultimately, Emma strives to be a strong voice, representing Australian growers and ensuring a vibrant and sustainable future for agriculture in Australia.

Facebook /ILoveFarmsAus Twitter @GermanoEmma Instagram @ILoveFarmsAus www.ilovefarms.com.au

The ELVA Bursary will provide opportunities for Emma to replace and upgrade her office technology and communication devices as she wishes to create a more productive work environment within her busy schedule.

Grace Calder



Grace was nominated for the ELVA award in all three categories of Professional, Industry and Community contribution, with a willingness to share her learning and knowledge on all levels, and a leadership style that can be described as inclusive, positive and proactive.

Employed as a Lamb Industry Development Officer, with Agriculture Victoria, Grace's role includes, contributing to national sheep research projects, facilitating informative events for sheep producers, coordinates on-farm demonstration sites, and contributes to emergency management impacting Victorian agriculture.

Grace was an inaugural co-Chair of and RASV delegate to the Victorian Agricultural Shows Next Generation Committee, and has previously served on the VFF Young Agribusiness Professionals Committee. Grace also represented the RASV as one of two Next Generation delegates at the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth Conference in Singapore in November 2016.

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Growing up in a metropolitan area Grace was first exposed to agriculture during school, when a generous donation by a Victorian stud breeder allowed her school to open a Corriedale sheep stud. Showing sheep at Agricultural Shows was a key focus during her school years and in her final year, she registered her own stud Corriedale stud, with which she now competes at agricultural shows across Victoria.

Grace mentors young people from urban backgrounds who are considering careers in agriculture and support them to make the transition to university and beyond. She also works with a number of schools to assist them in setting up Corriedale studs, and provide technical information and advice to students and staff. In recognition of her efforts, Grace was named the 2015 Australian Corriedale Ambassador.

During the Royal Melbourne Show, Grace assists the RASV with the coordination of the Sheep Schools and Youth Competition, and stewarding at the Sheep Fleece Competition. She also exhibits her own Corriedale sheep at the Show.

Grace will focus on her professional development and sheep enterprise with the assistance from the ELVA bursary, with a 2 week beginner shearing and woolhandling course through SCAA scheduled and also looking into other equipment to support her business including a portable shearing handpiece and a self-feeder for her stock.

Melissa Neal



Melissa Neal is an enthusiastic member of the agricultural industry with a strong interest in training and development. She enjoys organising events that build stronger rural communities and businesses.

Currently Melissa is working as an Agribusiness and Community Development Consultant, Project Manager, Facilitator & Speaker. She provides a variety of services to a portfolio of small-medium business and not for profit organisations across Victoria, ACT and regional NSW. Her projects include agricultural research, development and adoption as well as leadership, community development and engagement.

Melissa is an experienced deliverer of educational activities to producers and supply chains in the southern beef and sheep industries, passionate about the red meat industry, committed to improving productivity and delivering high quality outcomes for industry and consumers.

Melissa is becoming a sought after public speaker, event MC and workshop facilitator for rural and corporate events. She is actively involved in a number of beef and agricultural organizations, promoting career development and networking opportunities.

Melissa was recognised as an Emerging Leader in Victorian Agriculture in September 2016 for her contribution to industry, community and professional roles.

As the Victorian Rural Ambassador 2014-15, Melissa has continued to develop and co-ordinate commercial and education focused programs for producers, young people and show goers across the country. She is a strong supporter of youth leadership and is currently establishing some exciting new programs in Victoria.

Melissa plans are to use the ELVA Bursary towards The Australian Institute of Company Directors Course. The AICD Course will provide a long term impact on her board performance, value of contributions and decision making. Melissa believes enhancing her knowledge of Governance, Finance, Strategy, Risk and Compliance are valuable areas for any organisation.