

Pilot year for Future Farmers Student Connect project comes to a close

SAMMY LUBKE, SCF MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

The end of the school year is upon us and what a year it has been. SCF is proud to have partnered with the WA College of Agriculture Denmark, Great Southern Grammar (GSG) and Mount Barker Community College to host the Future Farmers Student Connect program made possible through the Federal Government's National Landcare Program Smart Farms Small Grants.

To conclude the final term SCF has hosted two successful careers information sessions, one at Denmark and the other at GSG. The students found the sessions to be very positive and relatable. Many learned about possibilities they had not considered before. It was noted that some advice from speakers contradicted others in terms of the best way to reach your career goals, especially in regard to further education. After some reflective discussion students realised that the speakers illustrated the diverse backgrounds and varied pathways to careers in the Agriculture industry. This demonstrated the breadth of possibilities ahead of them and that not one way was the best way. SCF would like to thank all the presenters who gave up their time to impart their personal experiences of their career journeys along with other relevant advice for the students. Speakers included Rodney Scott (CBH), Simon Bigwood (Rabobank), Brock Ramsay (Nufarm), James Bee (Elders), Carla Milazzo and Sarah Belli (DPIRD), Tim Chapman (Primaries), Phill Griffiths (PF Olsen), Emma Russelx (Grain Brokers Australia) and Phil Honey (SCF).

SCF also provided three scholarships, one at each school, for Year 11 Students going on to study Agriculture subjects in Year 12. The students were asked to complete a 500-1000 word essay on what role they saw technology, data management and the internet of things (IOT) playing in the future of the Agricultural Industry. All students who submitted an essay should be commended on their efforts; the calibre of essays received was very high, making the selection process considerably hard. Congratulations to Ruby Millard who won the SCF scholarship for the WA College of Agriculture Denmark for 2019.

Ruby was presented with her Scholarship Certificate and award by SCF CEO Christine Kershaw on behalf of the Board at the Denmark College's Graduation and Awards Ceremony held on Friday November 15 (pictured). The Great Southern Grammar and Mount Barker Community College winners will be announced after their graduation ceremonies have been held.

