



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Tuesday 14 October 2014

### **CELEBRATING AGRICULTURAL EXCELLENCE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

Two young women will have the added financial benefit of a grant to further their careers through the Agricultural Bureau of SA's annual Spirit of Excellence in Agriculture awards.

Assistant Farm Manager, Tara Hindson was named winner of the Peter Olsen Fellowship and self-employed Alexandra Thomas was the recipient of the Rural Youth Bursary *sponsored by PIRSA*.

Tara works on the family farm, bordering SA and Victoria, near Frances. Her vision is to continue to manage a successful and sustainable farming business with environmental and ecological aspects at the forefront to ensure viability for the next generation.

With a love for agriculture and a strong interest in compost and farming biologically, Tara will put the \$8000 grant towards a study tour which will further explore new benefits and opportunities.

"I see biological farming as a way of the future. If farms become more biological and environmentally sustainable, then that will assist in reducing costs and increasing quality and yields.

"It is a known fact that a balanced soil produces a balanced product and with demand for cleaner, greener products, we need to produce quality with less chemical residue", Tara said.

Winner of the Rural Youth Bursary *sponsored by PIRSA*, Alexandra Thomas has her own consultancy business in work health, safety and training. Based at Pt Lincoln she has worked with over 35 businesses in the past year. The \$5000 bursary will be put towards a study trip to Norway – a country which is internationally recognised for best practice in fisheries management.

"I am committed to my next goal of facilitating a fishing industry driven, collaborative approach towards improving work health and safety performance.

"To ensure best practice and a positive and measurable impact on the broader community the research tour to Norway will assist with seeking viable solutions to material risks and problems commonly encountered by the fishing industry", she said

Also recognised was Professor Andrew Barr from Pinery, SA for his exemplary work in the grains industry and for mentoring young Ag Bureau members in the Services to Primary Production Award.

Andrew runs a cereal cropping farm and is a current member of the Board of Trustees CIMMYT Mexico (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre) and a member of the Grains Research Development Corporation Southern Panel. He has bred 24 cereal varieties including Australia's largest oat variety and Eastern Australia's largest malt barley varieties).

### **Media Contact**

Mark Grossman  
Chair Advisory Board of Agriculture  
0408 085 682

Karen Baines  
Awards Co-ordinator (Advisory Board of Agriculture)  
0421 677 860

## **Spirit of Excellence in Agriculture Awards**

### **Peter Olsen Fellowship**

An annual agricultural fellowship awarded to a young farmer between the ages of 18 and 35 which aims to boost on-farm skills and knowledge.

The funds go towards further study, study tours or special projects.

It is named after the late Peter Olsen, an Advisory Board of Agriculture member at the time of his death in a tragic plane accident in 2000.

2014 winner: Tara Hindson (M 0418 472 264)

### **Rural Youth Bursary *sponsored by PIRSA***

The Rural Youth Bursary is a grant for young people, aged between 18 and 30 years of age working in rural areas.

It provides the opportunity to pursue further study, undertake a study tour or develop a special project in their chosen career.

2014 winner: Alex Thomas (M 0457 842 775)

### **Services to Primary Production**

This award, nominated by Agricultural Bureau branches, recognises the provision of exceptional services to primary productions.

Eligibility is not restricted to farmers but to anyone involved with primary production including the service industries, government, education and agri-politics.

2014 recipient: Professor Andrew Barr (M 0428 277 085)

### **Awards Contact**

Mark Grossman  
Chair Advisory Board of Agriculture  
0408 085 682

Karen Baines  
Advisory Board of Agriculture  
0421 677 860