

# Weekly Career News

## TERM TWO

Tuesday 10 June 2015

### FOCUS ON CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE

#### Agriculture isn't just farming-

It is focused on "the entire food chain, managing the environment and minimising the impact of human endeavours on natural resources".

About 50% of all jobs in the agriculture industry are in capital cities. These jobs include environmental management, research, development, agribusiness and education.

The demand for agricultural science graduates is growing. Enrollments in agricultural courses rose between 15 – 20% nationwide in 2014 demonstrating an increased interest in the industry.

There is also an ongoing demand for agricultural science graduates with economics and management training, source- <http://bit.ly/1FGtcP0>

With four jobs for every graduate, 1 in 6 jobs in agribusiness and a starting salary on average of \$60 000, studying agriculture is a very attractive option for students, source- <http://bit.ly/Lu8cFR>

#### Experts are needed in the areas of:

- Sustainable farming practices
- Land management
- Land conservation
- Climate change practices
- Food security
- Agricultural research and policymaking.

#### Students can specialise in areas such as:

- Economics
- Marketing
- Animal and plant biotechnology
- Catchment management
- Climate change impacts
- Crop management and production
- Plant and soil science
- Nutrition and feed production
- Sustainable production and consumption
- Water management, and
- Rural business practices

### FOCUS ON CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE

**Courses:** The following are examples of agriculture courses you can study:

- **La Trobe University:** You can study Agriculture and Technology and Agricultural Sciences, <http://bit.ly/1FGtcP0>
- **University of Melbourne:** You can study the Bachelor of Agriculture, <http://bit.ly/1BWdaib>
- **University of Tasmania:** You can study Food Science and Innovation, Agriculture, Agricultural Science, and Animal Science, <http://bit.ly/1cleoa4>
- **Charles Sturt University:** You can study Agriculture, Agricultural Science, Agricultural Business Management, Ecological Agricultural Systems, and Animal Science etc., <http://bit.ly/1MkDAj6>
- **University of New England:** You can study Agribusiness, Agricultural and Resource Economics, Agriculture, Agrifood Systems, Animal Science and Rural Science, <http://bit.ly/1KS0tZc>

#### Resources

- Career Harvest, <http://bit.ly/1f0m8jW>
- Agrifood Careers, <http://bit.ly/1MEcG6D>



Download the Science: Taking you places resource, which has a focus on primary industries-

<http://bit.ly/1clun8h>

## FOCUS ON CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE



### Meet Shaun Darmody

1<sup>st</sup> year Bachelor of Agriculture Business Management, Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga

**Subjects studied in the VCE-** English Language, Mathematical Methods, Further Mathematics, Physics, and VET Engineering.

**Why did you want to study agriculture?** I completed VCE in 2013 then took a year off and worked on a sheep and beef property in North East Victoria. It wasn't until later during my gap year I realised I wanted to study agriculture and make it my career. Until that moment it was a passion for me that I did in my recreational time.

Like all Ag students say 'we do it because it's in our blood'. So I am currently studying what I love and am making a future out of something I love doing. Does it get much better?

**What is your course like?** Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga is a fantastic place to be studying agriculture. There are endless amounts of opportunities in the local area; this means lots of field days out to talk to farmers and those involved in the industry. It also allows students to undertake placements throughout their studies.

**Why should young people consider studying agriculture/ agribusiness:** As I like to say, if farming stops, the world stops. Agriculture is the backbone of the country. For that reason it is an exciting industry to get involved in. It is rapidly changing and young people are the ones who need to be aiding the innovations in the industry.

**Below:** A picture of Shaun's family property



## FOCUS ON CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE



### Meet Monica Ley

3<sup>rd</sup> year Bachelor of Agricultural Science, Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga

**Subjects studied in the VCE-** English Language, Media, French, Further Mathematics, Outdoor and Environmental Studies.

Why did you want to study agriculture? Why not? I am a fourth generation farmer who could not spend a day working indoors to save my life. It's all I've wanted to be since I was around five years old and I haven't dreamt of doing anything else.

Creating new life is also a beautiful thing, both animals and plants. Going into agriculture during my VCE years and in tertiary education also is a way of being able to care for the environment and be sustainable at the same time.

**What is your course like?** It's challenging but broad in terms of being able to specialise in a particular sector of the agricultural industry, covering both management and finance, livestock and pastures, cropping, and weed and pest control.

**What subjects and experiences have you enjoyed the most?** I have enjoyed the more practical subjects such as crops, pastures and weeds, with a high focus on plant identification and what affects growth and yields. Having little to no experience in anything other than livestock and machinery when coming to university, I enjoyed expanding my knowledge on agriculture as a whole. I have enjoyed the experiences of networking through career expos, attending conferences and networking through being on committees for events such as the Women in Ag Day.

**Why should young people consider studying agriculture/ agribusiness:** With a rapidly increasing population, farmers will still need to feed and clothe the world. Studying agriculture can also open up many more doors. You don't just have to be a farmer. Career opportunities include property development, management, finance, research, agronomy, extension, consultancy, teaching and many others.

## FOCUS ON CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE



### Meet Jaimi Brown

Bachelor of Agriculture  
Business Management,  
Charles Sturt University.

Agribusiness Analyst,  
National Australia Bank

**Subjects studied in the VCE-** English, Mathematical Methods, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Product Design and Technology.

### Why did you want to study agriculture?

Because it promoted a healthy life work balance whilst working in small rural communities with lots of networking opportunities. I believed in studying a degree that could not only help myself forge a career but also help people in communities. Without agriculture, we wouldn't have food and fibre to feed, live and grow. I believed and still believe agriculture in Australia still has a lot of growth in it. It is no longer about the mining boom in Australia- it is the agricultural boom.

**What was your course like?** I loved my course. Whilst my class was small with 10-15 people in each subject, you engaged in proper discussions. Lecturers were so supportive and had an open door policy, they were always there to bounce ideas off and guide you in your learning. I was fortunate enough to travel with the University to China, and study the agricultural industries and techniques in a developing country.

The theoretical knowledge I absorbed helped me to gain an understanding of the development we as a country have made in agricultural techniques. But, the cultural experience I received was invaluable. We are continuing to grow our agricultural trade with China and I now understand all the difficulties we experience as exporters to such a closed economy like China.

I engaged in livestock management, plant growth, cropping, finance & economics and human resource subjects. The education I received in my degree made me a well rounded graduate. It also provided me with all the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in any career within the agricultural industry.



## FOCUS ON CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE

**What is your graduate position like?** I began a journey into the agribusiness world with a position as an Agribusiness Analyst with the National Australia Bank's agribusiness department. My day consists of talking to farmers about financial lending and deposit products, going to farms to discuss future opportunities for the client, seeing clients at livestock sales and general administration roles.

**Why should young people consider studying agriculture/ agribusiness:** There are so many opportunities within the agricultural industry to travel and see the world whilst being employed. You have the opportunity to study a degree that will continue to feed and clothe the world. Business, finance and science students can all forge successful well-paying careers in agriculture. Agriculture is no longer just about a farmer burning diesel in the paddock.

It is about innovation growth and strategy to reduce carbon emission, feed the world and ensure we maintain a natural environment. The agricultural industry has evolved so much that you can work anywhere in Australia and the world, from a paddock, to the office to the science lab all in one day.

The agricultural industry has been at the forefront of adaptation and technological innovation, so it is quite an exciting industry to be apart of. Anyone considering a degree in business, finance or science should consider a career in agriculture. You could be the next face of agriculture in Australia.



### Meet Luke Visser

Bachelor of Agriculture  
University of Melbourne

Agronomist  
Murray Goulburn Co  
Operative Co.

**Subjects studied in the VCE-** English, Mathematical Methods, Specialist Mathematics, French, Chemistry, Outdoor Education and Environmental Studies.

**Why did you want to study agriculture?** I was pretty unsure exactly what I wanted to do. I had always worked on farms while I was at school and was always interested in the industry but I think the main thing was I didn't want an office job but still wanted to do something where I'd use my brain.

## FOCUS ON CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE

**What was your course like?** I enjoyed the spread of practical and theory based work. However, one of the best things about the course was the small circle of people and therefore the social aspect.

**What is your graduate position like?** I work for Murray Goulburn Co-Operative Co. as an agronomist. I enjoy being out and about talking to farmers and helping them solve problems in their paddocks on a day-to-day basis and helping them to achieve their goals and improve productivity.

On a typical day, I visit a number of farmers to look at paddocks and find solutions to crop/pasture selection and weed/insect/disease identification. Basically my role is to try and get dairy farmers to grow as much grass as efficiently as possible to best achieve productivity.

**Why should young people consider studying agriculture/agribusiness?** The industry is growing short of younger people. There is an incredibly broad range of careers possible after graduating and there is a huge potential to swap and change between pathways. For example, within the company I work for alone there are Field Officers, Agronomists and Nutritionists and it's not uncommon to switch between.

After studying agriculture, you can go anywhere from big offices in the cities, to scientific research, to on-farm advisory roles to farm management itself. It is very important to think of the industry as being far greater than farming alone.



## VOCATIONAL & HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS

**Are you interested in apprenticeships and/or traineeships?** The Australian Apprenticeship Pathways website is fantastic! You can research career pathways and courses, undertake literacy and numeracy aptitude tests in your area of interest, and contact apprenticeship and group training centres in your local area. Go to [www.aapathways.com.au](http://www.aapathways.com.au)

## VOCATIONAL & HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS

**Business at Victoria University:** Did you know you can undertake a year of paid full time employment as the third year of a four year business degree through the Cooperative Education program at Victoria University? For information about the program and stories from students who have participated in the program, go to <http://bit.ly/1BWdBJr> You can also check out the business programs at Victoria University at the upcoming Be You at VU day on Wednesday 8 July, <http://bit.ly/1GwDdE8>



**Are you interested in studying at the University of Melbourne in the future?** You can subscribe to the 'My Melbourne' monthly newsletter for future students. It's a great way to keep up to date with what's happening at the University, learn about courses, and find out about upcoming events. To subscribe, go to <http://bit.ly/1dZXV2B>

**Apprenticeships through Swinburne University:** A team of 7 advanced building, carpentry and plumbing apprentices from Swinburne University got to spend several weeks volunteering their time to assist with building projects at the remote village of Jamnya, India. Through an AsiaBound scholarship, the students worked alongside students, teachers and skilled local labourers to construct new school facilities and living quarters for teachers and families. For information on the program, go to <http://bit.ly/1f0hlok>

**Fashion at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS):** UTS fashion graduates recently made up 9 out of 12 young fashion designers to exhibit at the Virgin Australia Melbourne Fashion Festival in the National Graduate Showcase. According to UTS, never before has one educational institution secured the majority of these highly coveted positions. The other three graduates were from RMIT. You can watch highlights from the Graduate Showcase here- <http://bit.ly/1AZVyHz>

**Reminder:** Applications for the Bachelor of Information Technology Co-operative Scholarship at University of Technology Sydney close 19 June. The three year fast tracked course is industry sponsored and valued at \$46 500, <http://bit.ly/1KBXpSP>

**Have you considered arts and cultural materials conservation?** If you enjoy art, history and science this may be the career area for you. The Grimwade Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation has recently been launched is the only centre of its kind in Australia. The Centre features research and teaching labs with cutting edge analytical equipment to detect the paints and pigments used by artists and to examine drawing underneath paintings. The Centre has the responsibility for the conservation of The University of Melbourne's vast collection of cultural material. To view a video about this amazing centre, go to <http://bit.ly/1f0dB6c>

**Do you have a passion for graphic design?** Aaron James Draplin is an American graphic designer. He has undertaken work for major companies such as Vans and Nike and will be teaching a master class for high school students at JMC Academy, Melbourne campus on Friday 31 July. He will be talking to participants about the role of the graphic designer in contemporary times, how design can influence, how to start your career, and how to deal with clients etc. For information and to register, go to <http://bit.ly/1KmFtxl>

**Interested in design?** A University of Canberra Industrial Design graduate- Dylan White has been awarded both the 2015 Object Design Category winner and Overall Award of Excellence winner in the Australasian Graduate of the Year awards, by the Design Institute of Australia. To see Dylan's designs, go to <http://bit.ly/1F6cZ3R>



**Are you in Year 12 and considering taking a gap year?** Antipodeans Abroad is running important GapBreak Application Days from Tuesday 30 June – Thursday 2 July. Students interested in applying for a volunteer or paid work travel program in 2016 can select a 25 minute Application Meeting on one of these days, which will occur over the phone. For information on Antipodeans Abroad and GapBreak, and to book an Application Meeting, go to <http://bit.ly/1GoxQom>

**Upcoming Events: June**

- **MyDays, Charles Sturt University:** Communication & Creative Industries (23), Policing & Criminal Justice (29), [www.csu.edu.au/go/myday](http://www.csu.edu.au/go/myday)
- **Information Evenings,** Monash University, various dates and locations, <http://tinyurl.com/n2dlulx>
- **19: Experience Day,** La Trobe University, Albury-Wodonga, [www.latrobe.edu.au/experience](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/experience)
- **19, 20: Open Day,** Whitehouse Institute of Design, Melbourne, <http://tinyurl.com/7nk2vrc>
- **24: 2015 Environmental and Marine Careers Expo,** Melbourne Aquarium, [www.melbourneaquarium.com.au/schools](http://www.melbourneaquarium.com.au/schools)
- **24, 25: Focus on Melbourne,** Music (24) and Fine Arts (25), University of Melbourne, <http://tinyurl.com/pcsqoqf>
- **27: High School Workshops,** JMC Academy, Melbourne, [www.jmccademy.edu.au/](http://www.jmccademy.edu.au/)
- **29: Science in the City & Laboratory Tour,** RMIT, Melbourne, <http://tinyurl.com/pvsg8fj>
- **29, 30: Experience Days,** Australian Catholic University, Melbourne (29) and Ballarat (30), [www.acu.edu.au/97108](http://www.acu.edu.au/97108)
- **30: Discover Deakin University,** Melbourne Campus, <http://tinyurl.com/q3yaqln>
- **30: ENGenUty,** Engineering and IT day, Monash University, Clayton, [www.eng.monash.edu/engenuity](http://www.eng.monash.edu/engenuity)
- **30 June – 1 July: Science Bootcamp at the CSIRO,** Clayton, <http://tinyurl.com/jvm32an>

**Upcoming events: July**

- **1: Discover Deakin University,** Geelong Campus, [www.deakin.edu.au/discover-deakin](http://www.deakin.edu.au/discover-deakin)
- **4: High School Workshops,** JMC Academy, Melbourne, [www.jmccademy.edu.au/](http://www.jmccademy.edu.au/)
- **6 – 8: Year 8 CHALLENGE,** Monash University, <http://eng.monash.edu.au/challenge>