



The J.B. Fairfax Award for Rural Journalism

The *J.B. Fairfax Award for Rural Journalism* has been established to encourage quality coverage of rural and regional affairs by Australian journalists. The Award has been created through a private donation by Mr. J.B. Fairfax, AM, and is managed by the **Royal Agricultural Society of NSW Foundation (RASf)**.

The *J.B. Fairfax Award for Rural Journalism* focuses on encouraging undergraduate or postgraduate students of studies relevant to rural affairs to consider a career in rural journalism upon graduation.

One annual award of \$10,000 will be offered to an outstanding student enrolled in any undergraduate or postgraduate degree of relevance to rural affairs at an approved Australian education provider, to be used towards the costs of the student's education.

Applicants for the award must:

- submit a feature article of up to 1,500 words, exploring a contemporary issue, trend or activity of interest to rural and regional communities, of publication standard;
- demonstrate an active interest in rural affairs and a commitment to pursuing a career in rural journalism upon graduation.

The student whose application is judged as most meritorious will **receive an award of \$10,000** to be contributed towards the costs of their study. In addition, the student's article will be **published in a major rural publication** after the award is announced.

The selection panel will be comprised of Mr. J.B. Fairfax, AM, a rural affairs journalist or editor and a representative of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW Foundation.

Timeline

Applications for the inaugural award are now open, and close on 15th October, 2008. Short-listed applicants will be interviewed in November 2008, with the winner announced in February 2009. The winner will be invited to attend a presentation ceremony at The Sydney Royal Easter Show in April 2009.

What then?

The \$10,000 award will be made available to the successful recipient in the 2009 academic year, on receipt of formal documentation from their approved education provider confirming enrolment and indicative costs of course fees, required materials, college fees and/or other relevant educational costs.

In addition to the \$10,000 award, the successful recipient's winning feature article will be published in a Rural Press publication within three months of the conferral of the award. Award recipients will be invited to meet with the RASF on an annual basis for the duration of their degree and, upon completion, will be required to make a short presentation to key stakeholders of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW.

How to apply

Download the application form or apply online from the RASF website www.rasf.org.au

Eligibility

Applications are open to students enrolled, or intending to enroll, in an undergraduate or postgraduate degree in 2009 relevant to agriculture and/or rural journalism. Evidence of current and/or proposed enrolment is required.

In future years, it is anticipated that **practitioner awards** will also be awarded.

Questions?

Contact the RAS Foundation on (02) 9704 1234 or via email foundation@rasf.org.au