

## **RURAL YOUTH AMBASSADORS**

**National Forum** 

Canberra

February 2021

#### **Participants**

#### Sarah Dally

Mount Gambier, SA



My passions surrounding rural education involves ensuring that all rural students have equal access to information and support when moving from high school into full time work, or further study.

Along with this this I am passionate about mental health awareness in teenagers, to support their needs, and to allow them reach their full potential.

## Cordy Lloyd

Guyra, NSW



I attend Guyra Central School. I also do some of my HSC subjects with Aurora College.

I am passionate about addressing the disadvantages rural communities are faced with in general however I am especially interested in addressing the disadvantages relating to education and would like to help develop solutions that address these disadvantages

Will Drogemuller
Moonta. SA

I attend the Moonta Area School which is about two hours from Adelaide.



I am passionate about giving rural people a fair and equal opportunity, this then gives rural young people the best chance to be able to follow their dreams.

# Samantha Solina Myrtleford, Victoria

I go to Marian College in Myrtleford, in Northeast Victoria.



I am a person that is very passionate about my studies and consider education as one of the most important things in life. Seeing that there are some many lacking aspects in the education system in rural communities (e.g subject diversity, travelling issues), I am very keen to be part of a group that continuously works on how to better education."

Amber Zuidema Foster, Victoria



I live in at the entrance of Wilsons Promontory National Park in Yanakie, South Gippsland and am currently completing Year 12 at Foster Secondary College.

Having lived in this area my whole life, rural education is something that I am passionate about.

I am so thankful for having grown up in the country and the unique schooling that I received as a result. That is why I want to help ensure that future generations of students are never disadvantaged simply because of where they end up situated in the world.



## Logan Scrivener I go to Gulgong High School in the Central Tablelands of NSW. Gulgong, NSW I am an enthusiastic member of the community contributing a lending hand here and there. I am always looking to the future and the improvements that can be made to the community in regard to rural education. This program has given me the confidence to display a knowledge of understanding of rural education as well as the improvements that can be made. Tayla Roberts I am 17 years of age from Streaky Bay about 700 kms from Adelaide, attending the Streaky Bay Area School. Streaky Bay, SA I am in a group of 9 Year 12 students. I am passionate about the country and coastal lifestyle, going to the beach, and surfing. I am also passionate about protecting the environment and improving education for rural young people in Australia. **Harry Botero** I am a Year 12 student at Tumut High School and undertake some of my studies through Aurora College. Tumut, NSW I like learning new things, talking to people, lifeguarding and swimming. Olivia Rees I go to a small school in a small town of Balmoral called Balmoral K-12 Community College, located in the South West area of Balmoral, Victoria Since our school is small, with less than 120 students from Kinder to Year 12 with 3 year 12's this year including myself. We invite other students from other schools (in particular, Edenhope and Goroke) that we are close to not just create team's/groups or partnership but also make and build friendships with one another through the activities. Jordan Lewis I am from Arno Bay in South Australia and attend the Cowell Area School. Cowell, SA I think rural education is one of the best ways to complete your schooling, but I believe it could be improved. I am very excited to help change rural education forever.



## Nellie Witt Alstonville, NSW



I am a young person that attends Alstonville High School in Northern NSW.

I have a strong passion for rural communities and as a result I am heavily involved in my community and I work part time with the Department of Primary Industry as a trainee.

I am keen to make sure that the tough experiences we have had in recent years I am able to make sure that I speak up and begin to improve how education is provided within our communities.

#### Maddie Dodd

Bright, Victoria



I am 17 and in Year 12 at Bright College.

The thing that I am most passionate about relating to rural school education would be creating the opportunity for young people to study what they're passionate about, regardless of where they live — especially when you have to study virtually.

#### **Abbey Marshall**

Finley, NSW



I live in a small rural town in New South Wales called Finley, with a population of around 1500 people.

I have lived here my whole life and completed primary education at the local Finley Public School and completed secondary school, years 7-11 at Finley High School. I now attend a Catholic College in Wagga Wagga, where I will finish year 12.

I am passionate about improving rural education for those in the future by incorporating ideas like collaborative teaching and classroom learning between schools. I am extremely dedicated to helping provide the best education for those living in rural communities.

# Claire Wright Canowindra, NSW



I am from the small country town Canowindra, located in Central West NSW. I am currently in year 12 at my local high school and am fortunate enough to be the female school captain for 2021. I have grown up on a cattle property 35kms west from Canowindra and hope to fulfill a career in Agricultural Science and Management.

I would like to highlight the current mental health systems and facilities that are in place within schools and inform others from a student's perspective about the current issues involving this area, and work towards improvements. It is essential students are listened to and their points are taken into consideration, for the changes to be effective. I am excited to be involved in the progression of rural education and hope to learn many skills and gain experience along the way which will allow me to benefit my small community as well as hopefully many schools across the country.



### Pabhijt Sandhu Mansfield, Victoria



I attend Mansfield Secondary College in Mansfield, North-East Victoria.

A great advantage of a rural community is everyone knows everyone. It makes it easier to get job opportunities, get more involved in the community and engage in the various sports in a beautiful environment.

Education in rural areas lack expertise in teachers during high school.

#### Lochie McLauchlan

Mortlake, Victoria



I come from a cattle farming background and I am now working on a beef and dairy farm.

My ambitions in the near future is to become a stock and station agent as well as travelling to Canada and USE showing cattle.

## Ben Caughey

Hay, NSW



I attend Hay War Memorial High School and Aurora College.

In relation to rural education I have always been passionate about the idea of incorporating education of after school pathways into our high school lives. Developing some sort of program that allows students to learn about life after school and how to manage and succeed in the adult life.

I also love the idea of connecting schools across an area or region through an online platform so that resources can be shared amongst students and teachers to help them in class.

A more recent passion of mine in regard to rural education is the mental wellbeing of students.

## Naomi Gerrard

Beaufort, Victoria



I am from Beaufort in Western Victoria; I am a year 12 student and School Captain at Beaufort Secondary College.

I believe that every student no matter their situation or where they are located should have access to resources that will provide them with the opportunity for the best education that they can receive.

For many students in rural communities' access to technology and internet connectivity can be a major problem, I feel that this needs to be addressed to ensure that rural students are not at a disadvantage.

