

## Clare Scriven MLC

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development

Tuesday 16 July 2024

## South Australia's Young Rural Ambassador for 2024 announced

Elsie Johnson from Peake, in the Murray Mallee region, has been named South Australia's Young Rural Ambassador for 2024 for her contribution to the community and her dedication to agricultural shows.

Representing the Murray Bridge Show, Elsie received the award at the SA Country Shows Youth Presentation Night on Friday night.

Elsie is completing Year 12 at Walford Anglican School and aspires to undertake an Agricultural Science degree with elements of marketing and business. She participates in dance and is completing a Certificate 4 in Dance Teaching and Studio Management. Elsie volunteers weekly in the school OSHC program, connecting with the younger students. She enjoys attending country shows, entering cookery and participating in young judges and paraders competitions including sheep and poultry.

Representing the Karoonda Show, Matilda Baumgurtel, from the Murray Lands was runner-up, recognised for her art and baking entries at local shows, her work as a tutor and a grain classifier for Viterra last summer and for her focus on sustainable farming practices.

The Young Rural Ambassador Award, supported by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA), has been run by SA Country Shows for 25 years. The award recognises the contribution young adults in rural and regional South Australia make to agricultural shows. It also acknowledges the importance of strong youth participation to the agricultural show movement.

Competing provides excellent opportunities for participants to express their views, advance their communication and networking skills and develop closer links with rural communities in South Australia. The awards have become a valuable succession process for South Australia's country shows with entrants often assuming leadership roles within their respective show societies, communities and within agricultural industries.

The 2024 Young Rural Ambassador Award state finalists: Henry Williams (South East and Border), Rachel Frick (Northern), Elsie Johnson (Southern), Edward Lock (South East and Border), Hollie Preston (Northern), Gwendolyn Van Zwol (Central), Matilda Baumgurtel (Murraylands), Mackenzie Wilson (Northern).

### Quotes attributable to Clare Scriven

*I congratulate Elsie Johnson and Matilda Baumgurtel on her achievements along with all the finalists of this year's award and look forward to seeing them continue their bright path.*

*Young people are the future of our agricultural industries, are a core part of our regions, and are significant contributors to our economy.*

### **Quotes attributable to Jacqueline Francis, SA Country Shows**

*The Young Rural and Rural Ambassador Awards work to recognise, develop, and celebrate the youth of SA Country Shows, we could not do this without the support of our country shows, the dedicated committee, and our generous sponsors.*

*As Youth Competitions Coordinator each year I get the honour to meet and work with the Young Rural Ambassador Award entrants from across the state, and each year I am amazed by the talented and accomplished youth that I meet, and this year was no different.*

*It is wonderful to watch them connect with like-minded people and build a network that will support them as they continue to be involved within their show and community.*

*I look forward to seeing what this group of finalists achieve and to working with our 2024 State Winner Elsie Johnson over the next 12 months during her years as the State Young Rural Ambassador.*

### **Quotes attributable to Elise Johnson, South Australia's Young Rural Ambassador for 2024**

*I feel very fortunate to be awarded the title of 2024 SA Country Shows Young Rural Ambassador. All the 2024 State Finalists would be worthy recipients of this award.*

*It is inspiring to meet and network with like-minded young people associated with country shows that will ensure the future success of country shows in regional areas.*

*I look forward to seeing what this year's finalists achieve at their respective shows in the future.*

*I look forward to these next twelve months of building my networks across many SA Country Shows and champion the promotion and engagement of opportunities for youth involvement in country shows.*