

Rice Growers' Association Tertiary Scholarships open.

The RGA works to ensure a profitable long term future for individual rice growers and their industry. As part of this commitment each year the RGA awards two scholarships to the children or grandchildren of rice growers to assist with their tertiary education costs.

The RGA are grateful to SunRice and RRAPL for their continued support of this important award which has been instrumental in assisting the development and return of top talent to our local rice industry.

The Greg Graham Memorial Scholarship is valued at \$10,000 to assist with the costs of Tertiary education. Greg Graham was one of the driving forces behind the establishment of the NSW Irrigators' Council. He was president of the RGA until 1983 and had served as Secretary of the Deniliquin Branch of the RGA, Greg was also Chairman of the Southern Riverina Irrigation Districts Council, a Councillor for the Shire of Murray and a Member of the Murray Region Development Board. Greg had a great admiration and confidence in the future of young people.

The Peter Connor Book Award provides \$3,000 to assist with the cost of books and course materials. Peter Connor was a leading rice grower in the Coleambally district and before his death in 1984, had served as Vice President of the Coleambally Branch and delegate to the RGA's Central Executive between 1975 and 1982. Peter was also a Director of the Ricegrowers' Cooperative Mills Ltd.

This financial support alleviates financial pressures, purchases the bulk of textbooks, and facilitates greater focus on university study. It also enables students to move away from home and study at a time when this may not have been otherwise possible, particularly during drought years and other times of hardship.

In 2018 the eligibility criteria of the Greg Graham Memorial Scholarship was expanded to include the rice growers who are non-RGA members to ensure more applicants and greater goodwill is created for the whole rice industry from such a scholarship.

For eligibility requirements and to apply, go to the <u>RGA website – Education – Awards and Scholarships</u>

Applications close on Thursday 31 January 2019.

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