



Make a
Difference

Jan Cathcart Scholarship 2022

Q & A with Alexandra Morona

What is your connection to the Australian rice industry?

I grew up on my family farm "Tholobin" near Deniliquin and have been hands on with cropping and animal enterprises since a young age. Excitingly in the C21 season we trialed a new rice VO71 variety, and were impressed with the dwarf variety and its yields (14T hectare, where Reiziq averages about 11T).

Why did you apply for the Jan Cathcart Scholarship?

My primary reason for applying for the Jan Cathcart scholarship was my family's involvement with the rice industry. My grandparents received an award for 50 years of involvement with rice, and this motivated me to combine my interests in animal production/nutrition and agriculture. Considering all that the rice industry has done for my family, I also wanted to be a part of it.

How has winning the Scholarship assisted your future career plans?

With the help of the Jan Cathcart Scholarship, I look forward to contributing to the rice industry through studying how rice can play an even stronger role in stockfeed and the livestock industries. I also look forward to working in and giving back to rural communities. I aspire to become a woman who contributes perpetual hard work and commitment to the industry, as did Jan.

I am currently studying full time, completing my final year of Bachelor of Science (Honours). My Honours project is exploring how the interval of feeding affects reproduction in containment fed ewes. Over the summer holidays I was offered a position with CopRice as a sales rep for northern NSW, where I worked for five months. I worked closely with the ag retail team and nutritionists, all of whom made me feel extremely welcome and provided me with a wealth of knowledge and support throughout my time there.

Why is this Scholarship important to the rice industry?

I believe the Scholarship is of great value as it encourages and nurtures young women to be actively involved in the rice industry. The Jan Cathcart Scholarship creates diverse opportunities by enabling women from a range of fields to come together and contribute to the regional communities they grew up in.



What does the Scholarship mean to you?

From a young age, I have had a passion for production and agriculture. It is both through my upbringing on the farm, and my tertiary studies that I am interested in utilising complementary relationships between animals and crops for optimal production and sustainability. I hope to take advantage of placement opportunities within different sectors of SunRice, and hopefully one day be involved with the latest innovations of CopRice.

Why would you encourage other women to apply for the Scholarship?

I see this Scholarship as an amazing opportunity that enables women to become involved in the rice industry, rural communities and more broadly in agriculture.