



Make a  
Difference

# Jan Cathcart Scholarship

Q&A with Lily Delves

## How has winning the scholarship assisted your in your future career plans?

2023 has been a very exciting year, and the Scholarship helped me to hit the ground running for my second year of studying. The financial aid has especially helped me to focus on my academic and university life, and the opportunities that stem from the award are like no other. The people I have met, insight into SunRice as a company and all that I have learnt so far have all solidified my passion for sustainable agriculture and motivated me to pursue these interests.

## What has happened since winning?

The people I have met from all different sectors of the company have also taught me so much. It has been great to meet people from marketing, growers' services, sustainability experts and the rice growers themselves. Later this year, in-between Uni semesters, I will have the opportunity to come back to SunRice and work with a team in the sustainability and research sector. I can't wait to meet more people from the SunRice community, deepen my connection with others and contribute to the team.

I have also had the chance to network in the broader ag industry, for instance, I was lucky enough to join the Rice Growers Association at the Rural Women's Awards at Parliament House, that showcased seven of the gritty and innovative women who were national finalists for the Award. The conversations at our table celebrated women in agriculture and centred around the exciting future of agriculture and SunRice. It was fantastic to hear the goals, opinions, and ideas of such a wide range of minds.

## Why is this Scholarship important to the rice industry?

The Scholarship shows how dedicated the rice industry is to actively shaping a gender equitable future. It invites applicants from across different regions with varying fields of study but a common passion to focus on a future in rice. I am currently studying a double degree in Engineering and Environmental Science. My goal is to major in environmental engineering and use this within the agriculture sector. I am excited about how engineering infrastructure can improve water efficiencies within the irrigation system, create sustainable methods to increase biodiversity on farms, and potentially improve the resilience of rice growing systems.



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

The Scholarship fosters a strong sense of community for women in agriculture, and has ensured that young women are supported in their education and endeavours, which they can bring back to the industry and farming communities. I am so grateful to be a part of a warm, powerful, and ambitious group of women that have been brought together through the legacy of Jan Cathcart.

I feel I have become a part of a supportive and knowledgeable group with diverse experience, that will be looking out for me during my studies and career.

Of course, the financial support has also been imperative in terms of making studying away from home much more possible, but the award has offered so much more than just financial support. For me, one of the most special things about winning the Scholarship has been joining the group of Jan Cathcart Memorial Scholarship Alumnae who will not only support me to reach my current goals but have expanded my mindset and continue to empower me to set new goals.