



Make a
Difference

Jan Cathcart Scholarship

Q & A with Charlie Reilly

What is your connection to the Australian rice industry?

I grew up in Leeton (except for a three-year expatriate stint in West Africa), and the rice industry has been central to our family. We moved to Leeton when I was a baby after my dad secured a finance role with SunRice.

Why did you apply for the Jan Cathcart Scholarship?

My parents both worked with Jan and had great respect for her, and I am privileged to receive a Scholarship in her name. I'm also particularly passionate about women having a more prominent role in the ag sector.

The Jan Cathcart Scholarship traditionally goes to someone with a farming background. I wanted the opportunity to prove that there are local people beyond the farm gate who are passionate, willing and able to make a significant contribution to the industry.

What has happened since winning the Scholarship?

Since receiving the Scholarship, I was offered a fantastic role in SunRice's legal department as a paralegal both in the Leeton and Sydney offices. The legal team have all been amazing to work with and have really taken the time to teach me all I need to know. It has been incredible to have the opportunity to work at SunRice and get hands-on experience at the same time as studying a Bachelor of Law majoring in Commerce Law.

The financial assistance has been an unbelievable help towards my future, and the work experience opportunities will benefit me through broadening my industry knowledge, and I look forward to continuing this journey.

What has happened in your career since winning the Scholarship?

I have learnt many things since winning in 2020, but the most important thing is that

there is a real place for women in business, particularly in agriculture. It has been a pleasure to see how SunRice is embracing inclusion and diversity.

In a traditionally male-dominated industry, I believe that the rice industry is leading the way in working towards gender equality in agribusiness. I am so excited to be part of this.



What would you say to women considering applying for the Scholarship?

I would tell someone who is considering applying for this Scholarship to not hesitate. It has been a life changing experience for me, and I would recommend it to any aspiring future female leader.

I have had to overcome some learning difficulties to get to the position I am in today. I want to inspire other young women to show them that through hard work, anything is possible.