

10 August, 2016

Emerald student awarded Ekka Suncorp Bursary

Emerald Agricultural College student Louise Fitzgerald has been named the 2016 winner of the Ekka Suncorp Bursary.

Suncorp Regional Manager South West Queensland, April Cavanagh, said the \$5,000 prize would help support Louise as she completed her agricultural studies.

“Agriculture is an integral part of Louise’s life and we’re thrilled to be able to assist her in achieving her career goals,” Ms Cavanagh said.

“She completed her Certificates 1, 2 and 3 in Agriculture during high school, as well as undertaking a traineeship at a cattle and cropping property near Dysart.

“Louise relocated to Emerald from Ilbilbie, which is five hours from her home, to undertake her Diploma.

“She also competes in cattle judging and represented the Central Highlands at the Ekka this year.

“Suncorp has a long and proud history supporting agriculture and we wish Louise all the best with her studies and career.”

Louise was announced as the Bursary winner at the President’s Reception at the Ekka in Brisbane this week. She said the funds will contribute to her course fees, enabling her to further her studies.

“My love for the land, the environment and the people is why I want to pursue a career in the agricultural industry,” Louise said.

“My goal is to help people and I believe that farmers are the backbone of our country.

“With advancements in technology, new farming practices and climate change, we as the next generation of farmers must be prepared for what the future may hold.”

RNA Chief Executive Brendan Christou said the RNA was delighted to partner with Suncorp for this inaugural scholarship.

“More than 80 per cent of the state remains drought declared,” Mr Christou said.

“So many farming families are suffering the impacts and this scholarship will provide much needed relief.”

Suncorp has been supporting agribusinesses since it commenced operations in 1902 as the Queensland Agriculture Bank and is proud to continue its longstanding association with the Ekka.

ENDS

Image attached: *Suncorp Regional Manager South West Queensland April Cavanagh (left), 2016 Ekka Suncorp Bursary winner, Louise Fitzgerald and Australian and Queensland netball captain Laura Geitz, pictured at Suncorp’s Ekka high tea ladies’ luncheon.*

Media Contact: Alexandra Foley 0419 794 294

About Suncorp:

Suncorp Group includes leading general insurance, banking, life insurance and superannuation brands in Australia and New Zealand. The Group has 14,500 employees and relationships with nine million customers. Suncorp Group Limited is a Top 20 ASX-listed company with \$94 billion in assets. Suncorp Bank is Australia’s leading regional bank servicing more than one million personal, SME and agribusiness customers.