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MEDIA RELEASE

Riverina Murray Scholarship Winners Announced.

The first scholarship recipients from the Destination NSW and Meeting and Events Australia (MEA) partnership to undertake Diploma of Event Management have recently been announced. The Diploma aims to nurture the professional development of those working or interested in a career in the event management sector. High demand saw three scholarships worth \$6,500 each awarded to residents from across the Riverina Murray region.

The winners of the three scholarships include Leeton based local, Hannah Fitzsimon, Meghen Harris, from Tumut and Hannah Gebert of Wentworth.

Destination Riverina Murray General Manager, Richie Robinson says, “following the strength of the applications received; the judging panel made a strong recommendation that three stand-out entrants be put forward. Deciding on just one winner from the outstanding list of applicants proved too difficult so three scholarships for the region have been awarded.

The scholarships are part of the NSW Government’s \$6 million Regional Conferencing Strategy & Action Plan, with Destination NSW partnering with Meetings and Events Australia (MEA), the peak body representing the events industry in Australia. The awards encourage the upskilling of event organisers residing in the Riverina Murray region while further enhancing the tourism sector.

Meet the three scholarship winners from the Riverina Murray region

Hannah Gebert - Wentworth

When it was announced to the Riverina Murray region that a regional scholarship offering a Diploma of Event Management was up for grabs, Hannah Gebert knew she had to apply. The Wentworth Shire Visitor Information Centre employee with a background in not-for-profit has long maintained a passion for events and it was her articulated plan to continue supporting local operators and current, and future events set out in her winning proposal that ultimately caught the eye of the judging panel.

Hannah was elated to learn that she had been chosen as one of the three recipients and is looking forward to studying and putting her new skills to use. “Tourism in the Wentworth region is booming, and statistics show that more and more people are willing to travel to our part of the world to enjoy everything our region has to offer. I am hoping my new skills will mean I can provide a higher level of support to the many event organisers in our region”.

Hannah Fitzsimon - Events Officer Leeton Shire Council

In February 2018, Hannah Fitzsimon was promoted to the position of Events Officer at Leeton Shire Council, having spent several years moving up the ranks of the organisation. When the tenacious Events Officer discovered Destination Riverina Murray was launching an event management scholarship program, Hannah put forward her application.

Hannah’s attention to detail and an unmistakable passion for her local region convinced the judging panel of her merits, and she was selected as one of three recipients of the scholarship.



"I am looking forward to undertaking the course and fast-tracking the evolution of my ideas for Leeton in an online, expert environment. Leeton Shire has a number of large industries with a global presence located within the region including SunRice and Freedom Foods, and I am hoping I can utilise my new skills to think laterally and work collaboratively with these organisations and innovative local farmers to attract new emerging business events to our town. Ultimately, my goal is to plan and execute events that will ultimately stimulate our local economy in a variety of ways".

Meghen Harris

Tumut local Meghen Harris has been selected as one of three recipients of a state-wide event management scholarship program to support aspiring event managers living in the Riverina Murray region.

When Meghen first heard about the scholarship, she said, "I thought it would be a good experience to apply. Even if I didn't win, I knew the application process would be beneficial and help hone in on what I wish to achieve in the events sector" she said.

Ultimately, the judging panel deemed Meghen to be an ideal candidate for the scholarship, noting her evident passion for the events industry and the self-drive to develop different skills.

Looking forward to sinking her teeth into study, Meghen said it has made her more focused than ever on her chosen career path. "I believe my region has exceptional potential for a diverse range of events and undertaking the diploma will allow me to bring new innovative ideas, solid risk management plans and overall better the community by sharing the skills and knowledge I will gain. I am excited to contribute to building the reputation of the region as an 'event' destination, and I believe these qualifications will allow me to contribute to a robust events calendar within Tumut and the surrounding areas".

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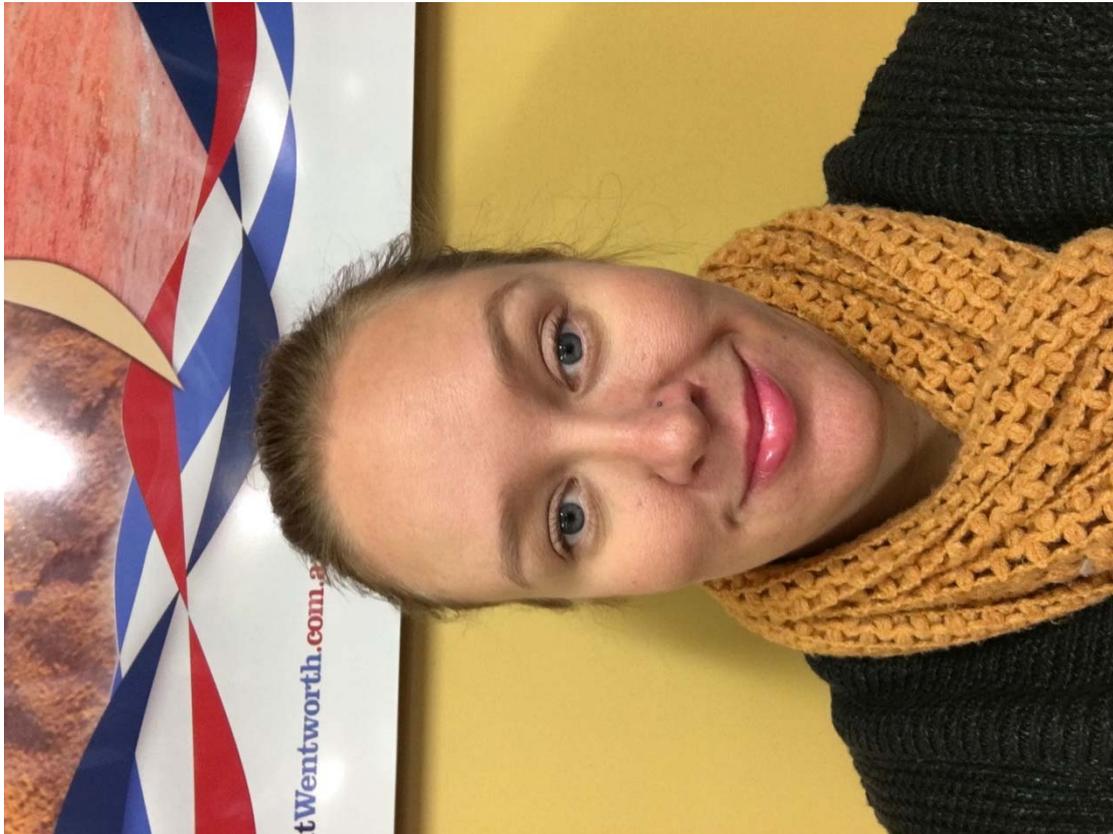
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Images:

Hannah Gebert



Hannah Fitzsimon





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