
Introducing MFS Trainee – Kate Connolly

This year, thanks to the support from MFS host producers, MFS is able to once again run the traineeship program. After a rigorous advertising and selection process, the two successful trainees are locals Cameron Johnson (Cooma) and Kate Connolly (Bredbo).

Kate is working in the Bombala district and Cameron is working in the Cooma district. This year MFS has opted to go back to using a group employer MEGT to make the employment a simple process and to have the benefits of a more structured support system. Kate and Cameron are also undertaking a Cert III in Agriculture which is all work-place assessed and delivered by the group trainer ATEL.

Kate is a delightful young girl (18) who has deferred University this year to gain some practical skills in agriculture before commencing an Agricultural Science Degree in Wagga in 2015. She has already worked across five different properties including Tintagel Pastoral Company, Inverloch, LeTompe, Bellevue and Finchley, learning many different skills and ways of farming.

Kate has been helping with mustering, feeding out, drafting sheep, drenching, crutching and has spent a day with a fencing contractor. She is living in Bombala in rental accommodation and enjoying her year very much so far. All reports have been very positive with Kate a hard worker who is very keen and willing to learn and uses a lot of initiative and diligence going about her work.

Kate is currently working with Coleen McCoy at LeTompe. Coleen originally became involved in the program to use the extra help however she now realises how rewarding it is to be able to help encourage young people to choose a career in Agriculture and teach the skills and share experience with the younger generation.

MFS has been able to source funding from **AWI** of \$1000 per trainee which will go towards paying the trainees to attend the shearing school at “Coolringdon” in May. MFS will also support Kate and Cameron to attend the working dog school coming up in Bombala in May and has helped buy protective and practical clothing for the trainees as well as coordinate their work programs.

MFS thanks **NSW Farmers (Cooma Branch)** for their donation of \$1000 to support this traineeship program as well as **RB Sellars** who have again donated 2 work shirts and a winter work jumper to both trainees.

Next newsletter will feature an article on Cameron Johnson.

Out of interest, Daniel Rowson (our Cooma trainee in 2012) has recently won the Dalgety Show Rural Achiever Award and has acknowledged MFS in helping him achieve his Certificate III in Agriculture and gain invaluable practical experience on Monaro properties.

For more info please contact Nancy Spoljaric. nancy@msanda.com.au



Photo of Kate and her working dog "Socks" who she acquired from Lisa Phillips.