



Media release

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Wyndham student wins Ballance scholarship

Starting out at university will be made easier for a Wyndham student selected as one of the recipients of a scholarship award through the Ballance Agri-Nutrients Co-Operative Scholarship scheme.

Natalie McEwan was thrilled to learn from Ballance Agri-Nutrients that she will receive \$4,000 a year for three years to support her as she begins studying for a Bachelor of Engineering at Canterbury University. Each year one of the Ballance scholarships is awarded to an engineering student as engineering expertise is important to continually improve the outcome and environmental performance of manufacturing plants.

Natalie grew up on her parents' sheep and beef farm near Wyndham. She holds a silver Duke of Edinburgh award and has multiple sporting and cultural interests. Natalie will be studying for her degree with a focus on chemical and process engineering and a view to applying her skills to the primary industries when she graduates.

The Ballance Agri-Nutrients Co-Operative Scholarship scheme was created to encourage young people to consider agriculture as a career. It subsidises tertiary level study that will enhance their skills and knowledge and enable them to contribute to the industry in the future.

Warwick Catto, Head of Agro-Sciences at Ballance, says the scholarship scheme is a very positive rural community initiative.

"This scholarship has a real community objective. By supporting young talent in the rural sector and encouraging their academic study we are fostering the future development of the agricultural industry, benefiting the rural community as a whole.

"Each year the number of scholarship applications increases and applicants are of an extremely high calibre. Natalie fought off some tough competition to win the scholarship and it's great to see young people like her passionate about developing their talents to support and enhance the mainstay of New Zealand's economy well into the future."

In the four years the scholarship programme has been running 28 scholarships have been awarded worth up to \$12,000 each and the company has employed two previous scholarship winners.

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