



the **ARCHIBULL** PRIZE

# CAREER SNAPSHOT

As a district veterinarian with NSW Local Land Services based in Wagga Wagga, Dione Howard is not so far from her family's Illawarra Merino Stud and mixed cropping property where she spent her childhood surrounded by the sounds of headers and shearing sheds. Her interest in agriculture continued at high school as she participated in sheep and cattle show teams. This, in turn, led to Charles Sturt University and while studying she cemented her passion for the livestock industry through extra-curricular activities such as the National Merino Challenge and Intercollegiate Meat Judging competitions.

Today Dione is part of a team working with farmers to maximise herd and flock health in the Riverina. One of her major roles is disease surveillance to ensure Australian exports retain their disease-free status. In order to accomplish this she may begin her day at the Wagga Wagga Livestock Marketing Centre checking that animals are tagged and documented correctly as they move through the saleyards or she may sign off on animals before they are exported overseas. Next she may visit a local farmer and don overalls to test sheep in his yards for calcium and magnesium deficiencies. Or perhaps she will prepare a presentation on disease management for an upcoming field day. Throughout her working week Dione will deal with a myriad of agricultural professionals including agronomists, pharmaceutical companies, nutritionists, researchers and plant and animal pathologists. "As a district veterinarian I wear many different hats, sometimes advisory and sometimes regulatory, but all of them help to maintain the excellent reputation of Australia's livestock industries," she says.

Outside of her work with Local Land Services Dione is the inaugural Youth Ambassador for WoolProducers. In this role she joins the WoolProducers Board at their meetings to gain an insight into policy and governance issues affecting the wool industry, and undertakes research projects, which she then presents to the Board. Dione also mentors young and aspiring agriculturists through the Youth Voices Leadership team. Dione is proof that following a career in agriculture is more than just one job; it can be a lifelong learning and leadership journey.

This is Dione's career in agriculture. What will yours be?



## DIONE HOWARD

DIONE HOWARD GREW UP WITH SHEEP ON HER SIXTH GENERATION FAMILY FARM IN NSW'S RIVERINA DISTRICT. IT WAS AN UPBRINGING THAT INSPIRED HER TO GROW HER CAREER AS A LIVESTOCK VETERINARIAN.