

Travel & Training Bursary Report

FFN member: Andrew Crosland, NSW

Event: Intercollegiate Meat Judging Competition (IMJC),
Wagga Wagga

My name is Andrew Crosland and I am a postgraduate student of Veterinary Studies at the University of Sydney. Recently I attended the 25th annual Australian Intercollegiate Meat Judging Competition (ICMJ) at Charles Sturt University held over the semester break.

The ICMJ, running since 1990, is a unique competition bringing together universities from all over Australia and even the world, with this year's competition including teams from Japan, Indonesia, and America.

For those of you wondering what on Earth a 'meat judging competition' involves, it is exactly that. We judge meat. When I first heard of it I too was a little perplexed. Why would I want to spend a week of my holidays looking at animal carcasses? However, the more I took part in university practicals at Narellan Select Wholesale Meats, the more I enjoyed it. Next thing I know I'd signed myself up to the Sydney University team.

The competition itself was run over two days, however, the entire event ran for 6. The program for this year included lectures from guest speakers from the beef, lamb, and pork industries as well as representatives from the feedlotting and grazer industries. A careers expo was also held which provided great opportunities for networking as well as meeting potential employers for the graduate students. We also received extensive hands on training to improve our judging skills and each day wouldn't have been complete without a dinner hosted by one of the industries showing off their wares.

This event is a vital stepping-stone and a massive eye opener into what is available for a person with an interest in the red meat industry. I would like to thank the Future Farmers Network firstly for their sponsorship of the Sydney University team, but also for their Training and Travel Bursary, which enabled me to participate in the event.

Andrew Crosland

