



## Travel & Training Bursary Report

**FFN member:** Kate Strong

**Event:** The RCS Farming and Grazing for Profit School

**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019

The RCS Farming and Grazing for Profit school was held in Tamworth from the 13th to the 19th of February 2019. The focus of the school was on a holistic approach to all the contributing factors of a successful farming business; people, land, livestock and money.

We learnt about the economics of running a business and the need to have gross margins of all enterprises on your farm. The finance associated with capital items and the best way to evaluate how to turn your business around from making a loss each year to turn a profit. We also went through succession and how to limit conflict within the shareholders of the farming operation when having a WOTB (working on the business) meeting. From there we covered the need for soil health and how that can affect the growth and potential of the livestock that is being carried on the farm and how cover cropping, pasture cropping and other non-conventional farming methods can help to increase production of farming land by helping to improve biological activity in the soil.

The facilitator for the school was Matt Barton, who has a mixed cropping operation near Wellington NSW. He has had major success with all the topics that we covered and his enthusiasm in encouraging us all to try them out on our own farm to see the same results added much to the whole experience.

RCS or Resource Consulting Services is an organisation based in Yeppoon and was founded by Terry McCosker in 1985. They are Australia's leading provider of holistically integrated agricultural education and training whilst also offering to advise clients on how to keep on improving their enterprises. They work to empower people, corporate farming companies and government groups to grow food that is productive and profitable whilst helping to regenerate their natural farming landscapes.

By attending the Farming and Grazing for Profit School I met farmers from all areas of Australia and a lot of diverse agricultural knowledge all completing the school for various reasons. This knowledge is invaluable and to be able to connect with others on the importance of regenerative agriculture was very exciting. Along with the diverse range of people present the school assisted my personal and professional development by teaching the importance of economics and finance in a farming operation whilst instilling in me the enthusiasm and passion for regenerative agricultural practices and that it is possible to have improved results of this supposed alternate type of farming.

I highly recommend the school to anyone that is interested in holistic agriculture or regenerative farming techniques. It is a very powerful tool to have and the enthusiasm and passion within the room are extremely empowering.