



Travel & Training Bursary Report

FFN member: Kimberley Fawkes

Event: Beef Australia 2018

Date: 6th-12th May, 2018

Beef Australia 2018 was held in Rockhampton Queensland during the first week in May. It is a week long event, held every three years, allowing the beef industry and associated suppliers to showcase their breeds and technology. As a part of the event there is opportunity to attend a variety of seminars, network with a plethora of people right across the agricultural sector and learn about new innovations available to the beef sector. I was privileged to be chosen as one of two FMC/FFN bursary recipients which allowed my family and I to attend this wonderful event which fulfilled a career long dream of mine. FMC is an American based organisation with the product rights to distribute a variety of chemicals within Australia, including Granlan which is used mostly to control woody weeds such as African Box Thorn, Brigalow Regrowth etc.

I attended four out of the five days taking advantage of a number of seminars and functions including the Beef Connections Luncheon where I was able to gain insight into the future leaders program run for the event and the projects which the recipients were in the process of completing, the Next Gen forum which provided a good networking opportunity with other young people attending the event while listening to a variety of presenters share their story of success within their chosen careers and the RCS Regenerative Agriculture session which highlighted the importance Agriculture and particularly alternative farming methods has to play in recuperating and repairing landscapes.

Other events attended including some networking opportunities through RCS and KLR provided valuable insights from successful producers who are working within the Regenerative Agricultural space.

All these experiences afforded me opportunities to network with likeminded producers, gain an insight into the suite of products offered my FMC and understand where they could be of best use within production systems and understand further the importance of carbon within the farming cycle and a variety of farming methods which have been proven to increase carbon levels within the soil such as high density grazing, agro-forestry and cover cropping. Thanks to FMC and the Future Farmers Network for providing the bursary to make this opportunity possible.