

### **Carli Springate - Mount Alexander Shire**



Carli has worked in the public and private sectors in the Health industry in various Administration Management roles. Since returning to live in Castlemaine 8 years ago, Carli has worked for Bendigo TAFE in a variety of roles and locations from Loddon Prison, Kyneton and Maryborough campuses. Her current role is the Campus Administrator of the Castlemaine campus of Bendigo TAFE. Carli holds a Bachelor of Arts, Diploma of Business and Cert IV in Training and Assessment. She is the mother of three children. Outside of family commitments, Carli has also held various committee roles at her children's playgroup and kindergarten.

### **Tracey Strachan - Loddon Shire - Loddon Shire Scholarship**



Tracey was a dairy farmer for over 20 years and currently runs a sheep and crop farm in Calivil as well as being the Executive Assistant to the Director of Food and Fibre at Bendigo TAFE. Tracey has spent decades volunteering in her local community as a netball coach and has also served four years as President of the Loddon Valley Football/Netball League. She enjoys connecting with others and helping other people reach their goals. Tracey loves getting out in nature gardening, camping, hiking, kayaking and spending time with her family. Tracey is a wife, mother and grandmother.



### **Amy Treacy - Gannawarra Shire - Gannawarra Shire Scholarship**

Amy is a mother of three who was lucky enough to grow up on a dairy farm near Cohuna. She thoroughly enjoys her current work in the financial services industry and is also a qualified teacher with a degree in Information Technology. Amy's community involvement includes being the Event Director at Cohuna Parkrun as well as various roles in the sporting and community clubs that her family are affiliated with. Amy is interested in health (physical and mental), psychology and travelling/tourism and is passionate about developing healthy, safe and connected rural communities for ourselves and our future generations.



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# **2018 Participants**

### **Claire Billing - Swan Hill Rural City**



### **Swan Hill Rural City Scholarship shared**

Claire co-owns and operates a small business in Swan Hill. Claire's passion for her community and it's people has always been strong. She has become involved in many community groups and currently is a volunteer member of the State Emergency Service, an active member of the Swan Hill Sunrise Rotary Club and a board member of Swan Hill incorporated.



### **Phillip Brien - City of Greater Bendigo**

### **Bank Australia Scholarship**

Phillip is a proud Kamaroi man who relocated from Sydney to Flora Hill in 2015. Phillip is employed by Forest Fire Management Victoria where he is a well respected and highly capable bushfire risk analyst. He is a foundation member of DELWP's Indigenous Inclusion Network and is passionate about supporting young Indigenous leaders. He is an active member of the young professional's network and maintains an active role as both an FBA and general firefighter.



### **Nathalie Brown - City of Greater Bendigo**

### **City of Greater Bendigo Samantha Bell Memorial Scholarship**

Natalie works in Fire and Emergency Management with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. Nathalie has worked in emergency preparedness, coordination and management over the past 10 years. She is interested in successful succession planning for small towns, engaging younger people to step up and opportunities for intergenerational learning and trust development to prevent burn out.

### **Veronica Budnikas - Mount Alexander Shire**

#### **Mount Alexander Shire Scholarship shared**



Veronica has lived in Australia since 2000. She's earned a Master's degree and built an e-learning business. She spends her days designing, developing and delivering courses for a diverse range of clients, from corporations and not-for-profits through to top-shelf education institutions. Veronica is vice-president of the Harcourt Valley Primary School Council and a provisional board member of Castlemaine District Community Health.

### **Paula Collard - Northern Grampians -Hugh Williamson Scholarship**



Paula has worked with community and Aboriginal legal services, state government departments, public service and the private sector. She has been involved in research, policy, criminal and civil para-legal work. Now that she is retired, Paula dedicates her time to the community volunteer workforce, which she believes is much more satisfying. She is heavily involved in the Raillery Hub Inc. as Chairperson, working to improve the St Arnaud Rail Station for community use. Paula is also editor of the community newsletter and a member of the Kara Kara Catchment Management Network.



### **Shanelle Crole - City of Greater Bendigo**

#### **Coliban Water Scholarship**

Shanelle was born and raised in Bendigo before moving to Melbourne to study journalism. Shanelle worked for a community organisation and fundraised more than \$3000 for Parkinson's Victoria. Shanelle now works in Corporate Communications with Coliban Water. She is passionate about strengthening our sense of community - whether that be inside groups or the broader community. Shanelle believes there are always opportunities to increase people's feeling of connection and one way is by increasing awareness of other's journeys.



### **Charmaine Delaney - Buloke Shire**

#### **Buloke Shire Council Scholarship shared**

Charmaine is the manager at the Donald Learning Group Inc. and is heavily involved in the Donald community through her work and her involvement as a member of the Donald Chamber of Commerce and the CWA Donald Nightingales. Charmaine is keen to develop a greater understanding of the pathways and connections available to her to better assist her community and to open networking opportunities and gain a boarder understanding of our region.

### **Rebecca McHutchison - City of Greater Bendigo**

#### **Murray Primary Health Network Scholarship**

Rebecca works for Coliban Water in the Account Solutions Team. Primarily she works with customers in hardship to find mutually beneficial solutions to issues that are affecting their ability to pay their account. She also identifies and refers vulnerable customers to support agencies including family violence and financial counsellors. Rebecca is interested in health and wellbeing and likes to be active. She also has a strong involvement with her children's activities, including school, football and basketball.



### **Jackie Nieuwenhuizen - Macedon Ranges Shire Council**

#### **Macedon Ranges Shire Council Scholarship**

Jackie started her working life as a stage manager and loved the world of the theatre. After traveling and volunteering overseas she re-trained as a primary teacher and moved into the area of literacy intervention. Jackie has also worked widely in managing events to promote books and reading through the Centre for Youth Literature and the Melbourne Writers Festival Schools Days. Jackie is passionate about literacy and also sings with and event manages for the Pollyphonics Community Choir and helps at Landcare working bees.



### **Genevieve Policarpio - Loddon Shire**

#### **Gardiner Foundation Scholarship**

Genevieve comes from the Philippines. She works at the Hicks dairy farm in Calivil and is also a part time worker in an Apple Orchard. Genevieve loves to communicate with other people so she decided to apply as a volunteer at the Pyramid Hill Neighbourhood House in May 2016. Later on, she also joined the Senior Citizen Group in Pyramid Hill. Genevieve is a graduate of Bachelor of Education majoring in Mathematics in the Philippines in 2006. Currently she's working towards her Certificate IV in Accounting.



### **Natasha Romas - City of Greater Bendigo**

#### **Denis Tricks Young Regional Community Leader Scholarship**

Natasha is in her fourth year of study of a Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Business at La Trobe University. She is currently the President of the Bendigo Student Association after serving on the board since 2016. She also serves as a Student Ambassador at the University, which allows her to interact with new and potential students to share her insight and guidance for life at university. Natasha is passionate, driven and keen to grab every opportunity to learn and grow



**Fiona Machin - City of Greater Bendigo  
City of Greater Bendigo Scholarship**

Fiona works with the City of Greater Bendigo as their Inclusive Communities Officer with a focus on Aboriginal reconciliation and on delivering Council's first Reconciliation Plan. Previously she worked for Scope Global to deliver training for volunteers as part of the Australian Government's Australian Volunteers for International Development program. Fiona is a community development worker and has a PhD in International Relations. She is passionate about Aboriginal reconciliation, refugee and asylum seeker policies, multicultural and intercultural practice, literacy and learning services, and youth entrepreneurship.



**Sarah Matthee - Macedon Ranges Shire Council  
Gisborne & District Community Bank scholarship**

Sarah works at the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal as the Philanthropic Services Manager. She relishes working in the not-for-profit sector, having held a range of volunteer, board and staff roles over nine years with Engineers Without Borders Australia, and has volunteered at environmental and arts organisations. Previously a chemical engineer, lawyer, and tennis coach, Sarah enjoys working in teams and learning about the ecosystems of different sectors and businesses. Sarah lives in Gisborne, where her husband runs a small sourdough bakery from their house – supplying stores around the Macedon Ranges under the brand Millett Road Maker.



**Harry McAnulty - City of Greater Bendigo**

Harry graduated in Community Development from University of Ulster Northern Ireland. He has worked in conflict resolution and community development roles in The North of Ireland as well as various roles in health promotion in Ireland, England and Australia with a key focus on LGBT health. Harry believes in the principles of social justice, equality and inclusion and has supported projects in rural Swaziland that break the cycle of HIV, AIDS and poverty in addition to supporting local LGBTI groups in Bendigo. He is currently working as the VACountry program coordinator which is a regional extension of primary HIV prevention and support programs of The Victorian AIDS Council.



**Indivar Dhakal - City of Greater Bendigo  
Believe in Bendigo Scholarship**

Indivar is currently employed at Loddon Shire Council as Manager Technical Services. He also holds the position of Secretary for the AusNep Foundation Inc. Indivar enjoys meeting new people and is passionate about creating social cohesion. Indivar is keen on being actively involved in community based projects and activities to give himself a chance to explore the community that he and his family live in.



**Justin DiCaprio - Buloke Shire  
Buloke Shire Council Scholarship shared**

Justin runs an online Aquarium Business Aquarium 000 which also financially supports the Watchem Community Hub which is run by the Watchem Progress Association, where Justin is a volunteer coordinator. One of Justin's career highlights was when he worked with the City of Grater Bendigo Youth service and established and coordinated a LGBIT Youth group Way2Be. He is also involved in Mens Shed, Progress Association, Buloke Tourism, Central Vic LGBTI support group.



**Emma Dotollo - Loddon Shire - Gardiner Foundation Scholarship**

Emma works at Calmo Farms, a dairy farm located in Calivil. Emma was born in the Philippines and earned a degree in Veterinary Medicine there before moving overseas. Before she moved to Australia in 2016 Emma spent some time in New Zealand working in the dairy industry. She enjoys working overseas, traveling and learning about different cultures at the same time. But most of all, Emma has a big passion for charity works and a big heart for the less fortunate people in the world.



**Lara English - Gannawarra Shire - North Central CMA Scholarship**  
Lara is a Home Engineer, Business Partner, Farmer, Entrepreneur, mother to 4, Dreamer & Doer, a real go getter. Lara has worked in the travel and hospitality industry, and has been a singer. Returning to Cohuna in 2003, she now manages their small boutique regenerative bio dynamic farm enterprise. Community involvement and volunteering is an important connection and Lara is involved with her children's Primary School and their sporting activities, local farmers market, Next Gen and the Progress Association, Neighborhood House, North Central Catchment Management Authority and Rural Women in Agriculture.

**Justine Farley - Gannawarra Shire****North Central CMA Scholarship**

Justine is the Youth Engagement Worker at Northern District Community Health. She is passionate about providing mental health support options for farmers and access to opportunities for young people. Justine has travelled and worked overseas and is very involved in her local community through a range of sporting clubs and community groups. She is keen to get more involved in agriculture and to help people become more aware of the important role farmers play in the community.

**Samantha Ferrier - Shire of Campaspe****Hugh Williamson Scholarship**

Samantha's background includes managing an environmental education program for an Indonesian/Australian social enterprise and conducting environmental and cultural heritage assessments for a water authority. Samantha is currently the Environmental Education Officer at the Campaspe Shire Council. She is actively assisting her community adapt towards a more environmentally sustainable future, through awareness, engagement and action, and has established the group Plastic Bag Free Echuca-Moama.

**Barry Floyd - City of Greater Bendigo****Coliban Water Scholarship**

Barry completed a trade before travelling extensively overseas and nationally. He has worked around Australia, in the Ski industry. Barry completed a graduate diploma in Rural and Regional Planning. Barry currently works with Coliban Water in the role of assessing and responding to land use and development application referrals from local government for applications within the water supply catchments. Barry is the current secretary of the Bendigo MTB club, a member of the Spring Gully Rec Reserve Committee, Harcourt Mountain Bike Park community reference group, Deputy Chair of the Goldfields Track Committee.

**Kathryn Hall - Mount Alexander Shire****Mount Alexander Scholarship shared**

Kathryn is a Graphic Designer who is passionate about working with small ethically responsible business, community and not for profit organisations. Moving to Castlemaine, she has been involved in the Australian Breastfeeding Association, supporting and educating new parents across the region. Kathryn has a love of craft and is also a writer. Currently Kathryn is heavily involved in grassroots sport and has been instrumental in starting an all girl Futsal group and soccer team in Castlemaine.

**Jude Hannah - Loddon Shire****Inglewood & District Community Bank Scholarship**

Jude has recently returned to the region after living and working in the US, where she was the Associate Vice President for the Environments, Planning and Urban Design Studio in Los Angles. Jude is now in farming mode, growing chilli plants in Fernihurst. When not farming, Placemaking is one of Jude's strengths that she brings to the table and one she practices in both rural townships and urban cities. She is passionate and enthusiastic about the region, the opportunities it holds, and the need to be resourceful with our depleting resources, in particular water.

**Bronwen Haywood - Central Goldfields Shire****Pay it Forward Scholarship**

Bronwen grew up in North Central Victoria on a cropping and grazing property. With her zest for science and love of helping people she chose to become a community pharmacist. After travelling and working overseas she returned to her roots to establish a community pharmacy and raise a family in Central Victoria. Current community activities include Treasurer of the Zonta Club of Central Goldfields and a board member of the Committee for Maryborough.

**Samantha Hilliard - Swan Hill Rural City****Swan Hill Rural City Scholarship shared**

Samantha works at Sunraysia Institute of TAFE as a teacher in business and production farming. She is also an Education Advisor to teachers for developing resources for education and is a member of the Swan Hill Shire Agribusiness Committee. Samantha is also involved in Lions International and Sustainable Living in the Mallee. Her interests include motorcycling, singing, live music concerts, travelling and volunteering

**Linda Lynch - City of Greater Bendigo****Mandalay Resources Scholarship**

Linda works at Bendigo Community Health Services in two roles, Family Support Worker and as the Communities for Children Supported Playgroup coordinator. Recently Linda agreed to take on the important role of Community Advisory Team coordinator, in a voluntary capacity, for the newly formed Heathcote Community Children's Services Assoc. Inc. Linda will provide her skills and expertise in family and children's services to assist this new Children's Community Hub to set solid foundations and provide help and assistance to secure the much-needed health and wellbeing services.