

Queensland Training Awards 2018

SAT School-based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year (Region: Darling Downs South West)

Lachlan Darr

Are you nominating yourself or someone else?

Someone else

Does the nominee know that you are nominating them?

Yes

Please note that the nominee will be notified that you're nominating them. Please add their email address below.

Please put not applicable if you do

| Certificate III in Agriculture

| Oakey State High School

| Rural Training Australia

| Not Applicable

Overview

As a school based trainee I am currently enrolled in a Certificate III in Agriculture and completing Year 12 at Oakey State High School. My employer is Oakey Beef Exports and my registered training organisation is Rural Training Australia.

Agriculture has been my passion my entire life, which means that a Certificate III in Agriculture is a perfect fit for any of my career aspirations. After doing work experience at Oakey Beef Exports, they offered me the opportunity of doing a school based traineeship. This traineeship came with a guarantee of full time employment on completion of my Year 12 studies. Oakey Beef Exports are a major employer and have on average 100 trainees over a range of areas. I am the only trainee in livestock and I believe that I have found my dream job. The growth and knowledge I have gained over the last 2 years has been incredible.

In 2016 I was able to extend on this experience by being awarded a scholarship to the "TASTE" program at Longreach Ag College. This experience reinforced my desire to work in the live stock industry. I couldn't have imagined a more perfect career path.

I enjoy sharing the knowledge I have gained from my Agriculture subject at Oakey State High School and with the Cattle Show Team. Rural Training Australia has been very supportive and I have enjoy the theory component as well as the on the job component of my traineeship.

Criterion 1: Career and study achievements

My Certificate III in Agriculture started out as one day a week work experience. After proving I was competent in my job role, I was offered the opportunity to complete the Certificate III with Oakey Beef Exports. During my time at Oakey Beef I have been trained to complete multiple jobs, which allows me to develop the specific knowledge and skills needed when working in the cattle industry:

These include:

- representing Oakey Beef Exports as an independent cattle buyer at fat and store cattle sales, using my own discretion and knowledge to buy cattle suitable for the brief provided
- being able to identify livestock by age, yield and weight
- learning multiple fencing techniques
- completing certificates in order to regularly operate a Bobcat
- certificate in handling cattle pre slaughter.
- monitoring the performance of cattle through out their 100 days in a feedlot. This involves monitoring their food consumption rate and working out the average amount of kilograms they are putting on each day.
- monitoring the animal wellbeing prior to slaughter.
- monitoring the animal's conditions to see if they are fit to load.

I chose to take part in my school based traineeship to boost my knowledge in the industry and develop a career path; as a result of my efforts in my traineeship my supervisor has stated that they would like to keep me on fulltime after the completion of Year 12. The traineeship with Oakey Beef will assist me to transition from school to fulltime employment in the cattle industry. By taking on this traineeship I have secured myself a career in my chosen career path, with a major employer in the industry of my choice.

To ensure I am making the most of this opportunity I try to work consistently towards finishing my training modules and I am have achieved the following competencies already:

AHCCHM303A Prepare And Apply Chemicals

AHCCHM304A Transport, Handle And Store Chemicals

AHCINF303A Plan And Construct Conventional Fencing

AHCIRG305A Operate Pressurised Irrigation Systems

AHCLSK301A Administer Medication To Livestock

AHCLSK308A Identify And Draft Livestock

AHCLSK309A Implement Animal Health Control Programs

AHCLSK311A Implement Feeding Plans For Livestock

AHCLSK320A Coordinate And Monitor Livestock Transport

Criterion 2: Communication, team and leadership skills

To function in the Agriculture industry, I need to be literate and hold effective written and oral communication skills. My traineeship is developing many communication, teamwork and leadership skills. As part of my traineeship I am required to complete administration tasks. Tasks including, face-to-face, and phone conversations with suppliers to book cattle in to be slaughtered and advising producers of current prices so they know what they would be paid for their animal. In my role it is crucial to be able to understand the farmer and correctly interpret what he requires. An example of how I have proved to effectively communicate over the phone would be when I had to work out how many head were to be trucked out of the feedlot, I also had to calculate how many trucks would be required to haul the cattle to their new destination. This involved conversing with Martins Stock Haulage an Oakey Beef logistics contractor to book the correct amount of trucks needed and direct them to where they had to go.

Recently we held a producer day to thank our producers for the cattle they supply to our operation. We all worked together as a team to organise the catering, the schedule, we also had to negotiate with our major suppliers what day would suit them. I feel like a valuable team member at Oakey Beef Exports, and this was reinforced when I was given with my own personal business cards. I have been able to hand these out to producers so they can directly get in to contact with me if required.

The my passions for agriculture, the communications skills I use and the relationships I have built with customers, suppliers, fellow workers and management at Oakey Beef means that I believe that I am already an effective ambassador for the cattle industry.

My leadership skills are constantly developing and as a result of these skills I achieved the position of School Captain at Oakey State High School in 2018. My leadership skills have been further acknowledged through being recognised as Australia Day Oakey Young Citizen of the Year in 2018. This resulted from my efforts at representing the Darling Downs at the Brisbane Exhibition, my passion for rural industries and my ambassadorship of the Oakey wider community.

Criterion 3: Ability to represent the national training system at a broader level

I believe I would be an effective and enthusiastic ambassador for Queensland Training. My involvement in the Oakey State High School Agriculture Department and Cattle Showing Team provides me with multiple opportunities to promote to my peers the benefits of my traineeship and the opportunities its provides. I believe that a traineeship is a great opportunity to tick competency boxes in their chosen career while completing their studies at school. Speaking from my experiences at school I believe many students don't understand the significance of the opportunity they are given when offered the chance to undertake a school based apprenticeship or traineeship. I like to share my knowledge and understanding of how far the career path or certificate course can take you. I also realise the importance of the requirements of completing units of competency to gain certification and encourage others to focus on their training modules as well as their on the job training. I also devote many out of school hours to mentoring other your cattle handlers and judges. My own experience competing at state level in the open category of cattle handling and judging has given me confidence in my own abilities to represent not only rural interests but also the Training Awards and what they stand for.

I believe I am a confident speaker in public and present myself with pride. These are evidenced by my selection as School Captain, where I am required to represent the school with pride and excellence and speak at a range of significant events. I take a proactive approach to encourage others who are interested in entering a training pathway. I have been interviewed for the local Oakey Champion and the Toowoomba Chronicle Rural Weekly Newspapers and I was able to explain my role in my traineeship. I believe these qualities and abilities are essential to being able to represent the national training system. The nomination for the 2018 Queensland training awards is a stepping stone to becoming an ambassador for Queensland Training and showing my commitment to my formal studies at school and in the workplace.

Criterion 4: Other pursuits

So far in my studies at school and in my school based traineeship I have learnt a lot more about my career profession and opportunities available to me. This is evident in my many achievements and community involvement within Agriculture which are listed below:

- o Voted 2018 Oakey School Captain
- o Awarded 2018 Australia Day Oakey Young Citizen of the Year
- o Awarded the 2016 TASTE Scholarship with Queensland Agriculture Training Colleges (QATC) at Longreach
- o Completed a Certificate I in Work Place Health and Safety as part of the TASTE program
- o Awarded school service and community award for Agriculture and Horticulture
- o Platinum Award Winner, for excellent behaviour, attendance and effort in all subject areas.
- o Year 11 Agricultural Science Academic Subject Award
- o Year 11 Agricultural Key to Success Award
- o Member of Oakey State High School Cattle Show Team:
- o Reserve Champion Parader at Pittsworth Show
- o Winner of the Open Young Judges Competition at Pittsworth Show
- o Winner of the Brisbane Royal Show Young Judges Competition
- o Winner of Champion Parader Farm Fest 2018
- o Darling Downs Sub-Chamber 2017 Young Judges Winner – Prime Beef and Stud Beef
- o Represented Oakey State High School at the Anzac Day Service

Log in to qta.awardsplatform.com to see complete nomination attachments.




Headshot


[Lachlan PHOTO.j...](#) 128 KiB




Attachment type
Headshot

 PDF	
Lachlan- Referenc...	278 KiB

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Attachment type Newspaper articles	
Newspaper Articl...	353 KiB

	
Attachment type Photocopy of award or certificate	
Australia Day .jpg	83 KiB

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