



HEYWIRE

Media release

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## **The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual ABC Heywire Regional Youth Summit hits Canberra Regional Australia's inspiring young minds, tell it like it is!**

Fifty four bright-eyed regional Australians, will set forth to Canberra for a week of empowering life experiences and invaluable networking opportunities. The emerging leaders are attending the 20<sup>th</sup> ABC Heywire Regional Youth Summit, where they have been given the unique opportunity to develop project proposals and receive first hand leadership training, with the objective to improve lives in regional Australia.

From Dubbo in NSW, to Titjikala in NT, from Gin Gin in QLD, to King Island in TAS and Manjimup in WA, participants will share their experiences from every corner of the country.

The Summit, in it's 20<sup>th</sup> year, will provide these young people with a platform to share their views and stories with Members of Parliament, Senators, community leaders and on the ABC. Issues raised this year include, changing mindsets in aboriginal communities in Casino, NSW; confronting eating disorders in Arcadia, VIC; growing up LGBT in Albany, WA; recognising the importance of farming in Karoonda, SA; and access to medical services in the Torres Strait.

A key part of the Summit this year is the Heywire Trailblazer program. This five day intensive accelerator program is designed to champion young regional leaders whose projects drive social and economic change in regional areas.

*The Director of ABC Regional, Fiona Reynolds, says "The future for regional Australia is bright with these passionate and inspiring young Australians at the helm. In it's 20<sup>th</sup> year, Heywire continues to offer these storytellers invaluable life-experiences and the chance to be heard nationally and to develop as leaders and visionaries in their regions."*

*Minister for Regional Development, Territories and Local Government, Dr John McVeigh, says "The Heywire Youth Summit and Trailblazer program showcases the best of regional Australia. The Trailblazer program will give participants the professional skills they need to transform their exciting ideas into viable and successful projects."*

**Find a full list of winners below. Photos and interviews with winners are available upon request.**

### **About Heywire**

For 20 years Heywire has given young people across regional Australia a platform to tell their story, their way. Each year people aged 16-22 submit stories in text, pictures, film or audio, and share their experience of life in a regional community.

Heywire is supported by the Australian Government through: the Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities; the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources; the Department of Health and AgriFutures Australia.

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For more information, please contact:

**Dan Hirst** | Heywire Executive Producer

**Laila Ferrier** | ABC Publicist | m: 0419 233 741 | ferrier.laila@abc.net.au



## 2018 Heywire Winners

Name	Town	Story
Helen Odoemena	Canberra, ACT	I loved my childhood in Nigeria, but Australia is where I grew up
Michael James	Huskisson, NSW	White skin and red hair doesn't mean I'm not a proud Aboriginal
Brianna Martin	Bunyah, NSW	I didn't find out I was Aboriginal until I was ten years old
Emma Murray	Armidale, NSW	I moved to Armidale to become a dressage rider
Athol Williams	Casino, NSW	Step up man, you're a representative of an ancient culture
Lucy Scott	Temora, NSW	My family gather together for their annual salami day
Amelia Judson	Bogan Gate, NSW	You learn a lot about people working as a regional dentist
Jessica McWilliam	Dubbo, NSW	I lost my brother and my dad to suicide
Carlie Stolzenhein	Lochiel, NSW	Moving out to the farm saved me
Jarrold Sansom	Medowie, NSW	My grandfather and three of his siblings all died of cancer
Muriel Hunter	Broken Hill, NSW	Becoming a nurse to help my community after a tough start
Noah Hayes	Darwin, NT	Army cadets taught me that to lead you need to follow
Tiara Douglas	Titjikala, NT	Leaving my remote community for boarding school
Leshae Beck	Biloela, QLD	Shattering misconceptions in the workplace
Latresha Maka	Dauan Island, QLD	I want to be the nurse that wasn't there for my cousin
Meghan Venter	Mackay, QLD	I've learnt that every challenge in life holds a lesson
Angela Elliott	Gin Gin, QLD	Going on the hay run to Yaraka
Zurack Dempsey	Cloncurry	Finding a passion for hairdressing got me back on track
Claire Jackson	Quilpie	Finding home on a remote station in outback Qld
Chaneline Kakule	Mount Gambier, SA	Mount Gambier allows us to stop running from the war
Cheyenne McKay	Karoonda, SA	My Dad works hard so you can have food
Taylah Smith	Mintaro, SA	Rebuilding the Dingo fence in outback Australia
Mitchell Barnes	Cummins, SA	After Dad's death the community came together to support us
Mohammad Nazari	Hobart, TAS	I was born a refugee but my dream is to be an architect
Kobi Bell	King Island, TAS	Skateboarding down Hospital Hill on King Island
Zanna Palmer	Geelong, VIC	Boarding school made me question my indigenous identity



Jock Finlay	Bendigo, VIC	Dad gave me his kidney
Kudamba Abaas	Morwell, VIC	Fleeing Sudan and finding a home, friends and AFL in Gippsland
Teagan Menhenett	Arcadia, VIC	Inside my mind as I confront my eating disorder
Julia Payne	Colignan, VIC	Droughts and floods have prepared my generation to be farmers
Nia Harrison	Horsham, VIC	I'm not deaf but I might be soon and I'm not worried at all
Dillon Louvel	Broome, WA	A trek through the mangroves on a turtle hunt
Darliah Killer	Looma, WA	What the Kimberly AFL women's league means to me
Liam Graham	Moora, WA	One month and fifty tones of stone later
Cohen Augustson	Albany, WA	Growing up LGBT+ in the country
Hamish Austin	Manjimup, WA	Anxiety: the challenge I've kept hidden for my whole life
Brady Collett	Christmas Island, WA	Spearfishing on Christmas Island
Jarrold Darlow	Condingup, WA	Finding confidence through sport

## 2018 Trailblazers

Name	Town	Issues
Aimee Snowden: Little Brick Farmers	Tocumwal, NSW	Little Brick Farmers highlights the diverse opportunities in agriculture, fishing and forestry. Aimee's blog, Little BRICK Pastoral, uses her Lego 'farmers' to share fun stories about life on the farm.
Alana Black: Fledging Farmers	Rydal, NSW	Fledgling Farmers, aims to start positive conversations about succession in family farming. Alana hopes to inspire young people to start conversations and be more open about this difficult topic.
Chantelle Van Der Brugge and Jye Walker: Great Southern Aboriginal Health Service	Albany, WA	Chantelle and Jye aim to provide young people with better information about sexual health, to build resilience and to increase school participation rates throughout the Great Southern region of WA.
Lucy and Kelli Williams: Teenage Trifecta	Penola, SA	Lucy and Kelli Williams they lost their Dad to suicide. Passionate about reducing stigma around mental illness, they organised Teenage Trifecta – an event for young people and parents.
Prikita Desai and Dawyte Clancy: ShoutOut!	Lyons, NT	The ShoutOut! Project aims to destigmatize mental health and advocate for mental health services, by presenting at events, using social media, mentoring young people and liaising with government.
Prudence melon, Habiba Charles Gwonya and apat arok: E-Raced	Toowoomba, Qld	E-raced tackles racism through story telling. The school based program sees refugees and migrants sharing their stories with high school students, to challenge perceptions of refugees and migrants.



Rona Glynn-McDonald: Common Ground	Alice Springs, NT	As a proud Kaytetye woman, Rona created Common Ground, a website to help address gaps in knowledge about Indigenous and Torres Straight Island culture and language.
Talitha Devadass: Entrepreneurship Facilitators	Launceston, Tas	Talitha works with Entrepreneurship Facilitators, helping unemployed people to realise their business ideas. This program hopes to increase awareness of self-employment as a career pathway.
William Egan and Tessa Wynne: Type Fun Diabetes	Launceston, Tas	William Egan has fundraised and raised awareness for Type 1 diabetes for many years and founded Type Fun with partner Tessa Wynne. He aims to build a community of informed young people.
William Sharples: Eden Game Development Centre	Merimbula, NSW	The Eden Game Development Centre was designed for regional students, especially those at risk and disengaged, to engage with technology and learn practical coding skills by creating apps and games.

For more information, please contact:

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