



Young people take their ideas to Parliament this week; 2019 Heywire Trailblazers announced

With the 21st annual Regional Youth Summit now in full swing, Heywire is excited to share the details of 2019's Trailblazers.

The group of fifteen regional-Australians are young people making a difference in regional Australia. They range from mental health advocates, event organisers, young community leaders and social entrepreneurs and have all made an indelible mark on their local communities with their ideas for social change. At this week's Summit they will spend time developing their ideas, before presenting them to Members of Parliament, Senators and community leaders at Parliament House this Wednesday 13 February.

Emma Moss, age 20, is from Southbrook, QLD and is looking forward to an empowering week in Canberra. She was selected as one of 2019's Trailblazers for her social media and photography project Life on a Station, that showcases life on remote cattle stations.

"There's a very large gap between city and rural communities at the moment and I think there's a lack of understanding on both sides. The gap is a hard cycle to break, but I think social media is a great platform that acts as a middle ground between us", says Emma.

Emma's project started as an Instagram account she plans to turn the project into a photographic exhibition in local airports to increase agricultural tourism. She hopes to take Life on a Station to the next level after Heywire's week of skills building workshops, networking opportunities and mentoring.

Heywire's Trailblazers will also have their stories told to a national audience across the ABC. Listen out for their stories across the ABC this week, including ABC News Breakfast, Radio National's Life Matters and triple j's Hack.

A series of videos showcasing their stories will be shown on ABC platforms in early 2019.

Find a full list of Heywire's 2019 Trailblazers below. Photos and interviews are available upon request.

For more information, please contact:

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2019 Trailblazers

- **JOE COLLINS: ENDANGERED SPECIES OF THE MALLEE** *Woomelang, Vic*
By creating large-scale murals of local endangered species, Woomelang hopes to become a fixture in the Victorian Silo Art Trail, increasing local tourism and raising awareness of

environmental issues. Woomelang is a struggling small town and this project aims to stimulate the local economy through tourism.

- **SALLY DOWNIE: GRASSROOTS BLUEPRINT** *Jemalong, NSW*
Grassroots Blueprint aims to improve the networks and wellbeing of farmers in rural NSW, by linking them with local businesses and health services at informal events. The project brings together disparate parts of the local economy to encourage collaboration through personal and professional connection.
- **EMMA MOSS: LIFE ON A STATION** *Southbrook, Qld*
Life on a Station began as social media project to showcase life on remote cattle stations. The project has grown to include photographic exhibitions in local airports to increase agricultural tourism. Money raised from the sale of artwork is donated to local agricultural causes, stimulating the local economy.
- **LOUISE BLESSINGTON & TASH BARLOW: DEATH OF A PARENT SUPPORT GROUP** *Canberra, ACT*
Founded and run by young people, the Death of a Parent Support Group provides professional and peer support to young people in the ACT who have lost a parent but aren't eligible for other support services. Through informal meetings, the group aims to increase the general wellbeing of participants navigating grief.
- **ASHLEY EADON, JESSE MUNZEL & SARAH BARBER: DEAR CRIS** *Bendigo, Vic*
Dear Cris connects primary school students with students from different cultural backgrounds, to increase tolerance. The letter writing program is facilitated by a curriculum written and delivered by young people, building employment opportunities for young people in regional education.
- **DANIEL FARMER & ADRIANNA IRVINE: KMAC YOUTH COUNCIL** *Karratha, WA*
Established by local young people, the Kuruma Marthudunera Aboriginal Corporation's Youth Council aims to equip young people to be leaders in their community, by delivering youth-focused cultural projects. Through training and professional development, the youth-led project aims to also increase employment opportunities for young Kuruma Marthudunera people.
- **NATHAN DOYLE: WHICH WAY, THIS WAY AGAIN** *Rockhampton, North QLD*
Nathan's vision is to help young men in his community to get back on track through a program incorporating indigenous dance and culture. Drawing on his own experiences, Nathan is helping young men find a path to the lives they want to live.
- **ZLEMA BROADFOOT: THE POSTNATAL PROJECT** *Port Lincoln, SA*
Through education, awareness and events, The Postnatal Project hopes to reduce the stigma surrounding Postnatal Depression and encourage help seeking among women in regional communities. Zelma has turned the project into a thriving small business, offering consultations and resources within the local community.
- **OM PRAKASH KARKI, BURTUKAN MELKAMU & BHIM DANGI: STUDENTS AGAINST RACISM** *Hobart, Tas*
Students Against Racism provides mentoring and training for students from refugee and migrant backgrounds to deliver anti-racism training across Tasmania including with schools, local government and the Police. The project increases employment opportunities for young people from diverse backgrounds.