



the **ARCHIBULL** PRIZE

CAREER SNAPSHOT

It's 5.30am, it's dark and there is a frost, but this doesn't cool Chloe Dutschke's enthusiasm for her work as a contract musterer. She and her partner Joe easily make it in time for a tool box meeting with staff on a property near Hay in NSW where the day's tasks are divided up. Chloe, Joe and Jim will be mustering ewes and lambs, the backpacker Alex and Bob will be feeding the young sheep and Tom, Anne and manager Andrew will be in the yards drafting.

Chloe and Joe drive to the first set of yards, unload their motorbikes and suit up with helmets, boots and jackets. Then they must wait for the sun to come up so they can see where they are going! This paddock is nearly 9000 acres but Chloe and Joe have the sheep mustered without any dramas and are onto the second paddock before smoko. They give the ewes and lambs a drink at a dam before heading back to the ute for lunch.

After a quick bite they are off again. This time they have to muster an 8000 acre paddock and the sheep are spread out over every bit of it. The sheep are also watering at the lake, which is the furthest point from the yards. This job takes Chloe and Joe the rest of the day and it is late when they finally yard the mob and double check the gates are closed. They don't want to re-muster this paddock!

It is now 12 hours since Chloe's alarm went off but her day isn't over yet. She re-loads the bikes and takes them to the homestead where they are re-fuelled for tomorrow's work. Then she joins the boss for a couple of beers before heading home to let her dogs off for a run and to cook dinner.

Tomorrow she will be in the yards marking lambs. There are 10,000 lambs to mark on this station so Chloe has some busy days in front of her but she loves her job and will be springing out of bed again when the alarm goes again in the morning.

This is Chloe's career in agriculture. What will yours be?



CHLOE DUTSCHKE

HOME FOR CHLOE DUTSCHKE IS PORT AUGUSTA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA BUT HER JOB AS A CONTRACT MUSTERER TAKES HER THROUGH THE GAWLER AND FLINDERS RANGES AND INTO OUTBACK NEW SOUTH WALES.