

the **ARCHIBULL** PRIZE

# CAREER SNAPSHOT

Deanna Johnston's day begins at 7am in the kitchen at Nogo Station near Longreach in Queensland, where she's baking up a storm for morning smoko for 70 tourists who are on their way to learn all about sheep.

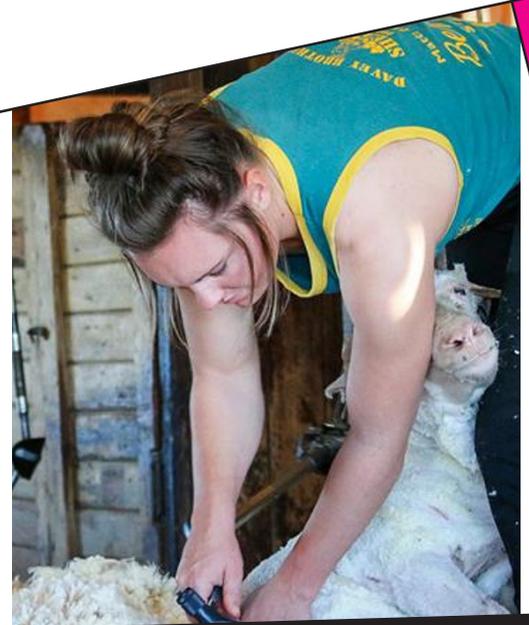
When the scones are in the oven Deanna is out into the paddock to bring the sheep into the shed – a task she has been doing on her family property near Naradhan in NSW since she was a kid. In fact Deanna was shearing the long-blow on the family's rams before she began primary school so she is the perfect person to run the shearing demonstration at Nogo, and she knows what she is talking about when it comes to answering the tourist's questions.

"What is a dual purpose sheep?" a father asks as his young son plays in the freshly shorn wool. "It is a sheep, like a Merino for example," Deanna tells him, "that provides both wool and meat." She then shows the crowd the wool and tells them how, as a wool classer, she grades it by looking at length, strength, colour and cleanliness. "Where does it go when it leaves the shed?" an older lady asks. "It is pressed into these bales," Deanna says showing them the large rectangular bales of wool, "and sent to a sales centre where it is auctioned to people from all over the world. You're probably wearing Australian wool right now."

When the tourists have finished their billy tea and smoko they do a water run on Nogo while Deanna cleans the shearing shed in readiness for tomorrow's show and feeds lucerne hay to the sheep.

In the evening she joins Outback Pioneers as a deckhand on their Thomson River cruise and is recognised by a man from the shearing show. "You do such a marvellous job," he says. "How do you get the confidence to get up there and talk to everyone?" Deanna then tells him about the Young Farming Champions program she is part of, which has given her media and communication skills and allows her to share her love of the Australian sheep industry.

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



## DEANNA JOHNSTON

DEANNA JOHNSTON  
WORKS WITH  
OUTBACK PIONEERS IN  
AGRICULTURAL TOURISM  
SHOWING VISITORS HOW  
THE AUSTRALIAN SHEEP  
INDUSTRY OPERATES.