



the **ARCHIBULL** PRIZE

CAREER SNAPSHOT

Spend some time with Guy Coleman and you will quickly realise he has a passion for machinery. He will tell you all you need to know about the vintage Sunshine harvester, developed in Australia by H V McKay at the beginning of the 1900s, which revolutionised agriculture as the first commercially viable combine harvester. The irony of this conversation will become apparent as Guy relates his story as he works on Gordon. Gordon is an autonomous robot that will be used to target weeds in crops and Guy is developing the technology as part of his job as a precision weed control scientist with the I.A. Watson International Grains Research Centre just outside Narrabri in northern New South Wales.

"My job is an amazing confluence of my passion for agriculture, interest in research and hobbies in coding and technology where I get to work with robots, lasers, automating weed control and testing alternative methods," he says. "The goal of my research is to develop engineering opportunities for weed control that complement current herbicide options and manage the impact of herbicide resistance."

Guy divided his childhood between the city streets of Perth and a broad-acre cropping property near Esperance in Western Australia, and it was on the property his love of machinery was ignited; carting hay, operating the header and driving trucks. Even so, he had dreams of a career as a doctor. But at university he felt compelled to study agriculture alongside his medical studies, and throughout the years it was agriculture that won the race for his attention. To help others understand his decisions he started AgriEducate to show tertiary students the range of undergraduate degrees available that relate, in some way, to agriculture.

Today Guy may start work on a research farm with plant breeders, assessing the results of a recent trial into laser weed control. He may then move to the office to work on computer-coding or to write another chapter of his scientific paper. In the evenings he will manage the social media for AgriEducate, and prepare minutes for a meeting of the Ag Institute Australia where he holds the position of Vice-Chair. And, of course, he will step into a garage to tinker with a robot named Gordon.

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



GUY COLEMAN

FROM A LOVE OF VINTAGE MACHINERY TO THE DESIGN OF FUTURISTIC ROBOTS, GUY COLEMAN TURNED FROM STUDYING MEDICINE TO PURSUING HIS CAREER IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH.

