



COMMONWEALTH REGIONAL  
Scholarship Program

# BOARDING SCHOOL OPENS DOORS FOR TOM

Tom's love for learning and dreams of studying agriculture took him from the wide-open paddocks of his family's farm to the halls of Canberra Grammar boarding school. The move was a big step, giving him the chance to study agriculture while spending weekends balancing schoolwork and the school's rugby and cricket teams.

Tom's mother, Michelle, shared the impact of the opportunity: "Receiving the scholarship has enabled us to afford a superior education for our children, which would have otherwise caused significant financial strain. Full-time boarding has been helpful for Tom in completing the HSC as boarding creates a great environment to study with extra facilities and resources available for them after school hours and on weekends. Tom was able to commit to both summer and winter sports while he was living on campus, the added convenience of attending training and gym sessions on campus, which created a supportive network that extended beyond the field. Living in a boarding school and playing sport with housemates – it's a space where friendships grow, values like sportsmanship and dedication take root and memories are made that last long after the final whistle."

Tom looks back on his time at Canberra Grammar with fondness. "At boarding school I was surrounded by supportive tutors, teachers and fellow students. We would often work together on projects, motivating each other to do our best," he said. The sense of teamwork and support made a real difference in his studies.

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Boarding school provided me with independence and confidence in all aspects of life. Living in boarding is a very structured and organised routine. This has allowed me to be a more organised person.

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Tom's leadership shone through during his time at the school. In Year 12, he was chosen as Boarding Captain, a role where he set a strong example, built community spirit, and kept the boarding house buzzing with positivity. On the sports field, he was a force, playing rugby and cricket for three years and earning the title of Rugby Captain in his final year. His commitment won him medals for team spirit and the sportsmanship that defines Canberra Grammar's rugby program.

The Commonwealth Scholarship gave Tom the freedom to focus on his studies, and his hard work paid off with an ATAR score high enough to get into Agribusiness at Charles Sturt University (CSU).

Since finishing school, he's been getting real-world experience. "Since finishing school, I have been doing work for a Livestock Agency in Wagga, drafting cattle and sheep in preparation for weekly livestock sales. I've been working as part of a team and getting valuable experience in the career I wish to eventually pursue. Thankfully I will be able to continue to manage working with the Livestock agency along with my studies at CSU," he said.

Tom's deeply grateful for the support he received. "I would really like to really like to thank the Commonwealth Scholarship Program for the financial support you provided my family. It has provided me with a great opportunity to board full-time at a great school and ultimately set me up to get into university and pursue a career in Agriculture. This Commonwealth Regional Scholarship has helped my rural family, and I am now on a career path to support agriculture and farming families."

Tom's story is proof of how the Commonwealth Regional Scholarship can open doors. From a young farmer with big dreams to a university student on his way to a career in agriculture, Tom's time at Canberra Grammar has set him up for a bright future.

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