

## Irrigation Company Scholarship Attracts Passionate Candidates

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Isabelle Keeling has been named the winner of the annual North Otago Irrigation Company (NOIC) tertiary scholarship. Isabelle, a year 13 student, was presented with the award by NOIC Chair Matt Ross. Isabelle was selected as the worthiest from a number of exceptional applications. The award includes a \$1000 prize as a kickstart to her future in agricultural studies. The scholarship was established in 2012 to promote environmental management and stewardship among young people and as a way for NOIC to support local environmentally-minded students.

In this sixth year of existence, NOIC chief executive officer Robyn Wells says it was a difficult but satisfying decision to award Isabelle whose essay on her history of involvement in farming and environmental protection, alongside her future goals shone out due to its honesty and understanding of the subject. This years candidates each showed their passion for various fields which tied together agriculture and environmental studies. This highlights how intertwined these two subjects are in the real world. It is great to see the next generation passionately furthering their education and training which will aid the agricultural industry in New Zealand.

Isabelle plans to move onto Lincoln University having just completed her secondary education at Columba College in Dunedin. She is looking forward to the big step away from school and is focussed on creating higher-value agricultural products which can benefit both the consumer and the producer alike.

The NOIC tertiary scholarship is open to high school pupils around North Otago or pupils with family from North Otago but boarding elsewhere. The scholarship is presented annually towards the end of the year.



*Isabelle Keeling outside the NOIC Office in Oamaru with Matt Ross (NOIC Chairperson)*