

# Proudly supporting OUR students with Scholarships.

Four students from the Huon Valley have been successful in receiving the Huon Valley Community Bank Branches Scholarship to go towards their studies at the University of Tasmania.

The scholarships are organised using Huon Valley Community Bank funding from the Community Enterprise Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Group.

Alarna Page from Wattle Grove, Isaac Banister from Cygnet and Courtney Cooper from Lucaston all received their scholarships for their first year of studies, while Frances Velnaar received her second year of funding from the Huon Valley Community Bank Branches Scholarship program.

Alarna attended St James Catholic College, then went on to Guilford Young College. She was a school captain in Year 10 at St James Catholic College, was an Aboriginal student leader, a St Vincent de Paul member and represented Tasmania at Murrup Barak Experience Camp at Melbourne University as part of NAIDOC week last year.

She has been awarded for her outstanding effort for the Mathematics Foundation TQA2, for Child Studies and even outside of the classroom, Alarna has been presented the Coaches Award by the Huon Netball Club. Alarna is now pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Tasmania and plans to later carry into a Masters of Education.

"Through having a strong personal passion to inspire, guide and wholeheartedly make a difference to others (especially children), my future University course options are based around this" said Alarna. "I am interested in discovering, enquiring and understanding how children learn, interact and behave. I have a strong ambition to improve the educational outcomes and life aspirations of students, especially Indigenous Australians".

Isaac spent many years involved with the Cygnet Scouts, was involved in many community activities in the Huon Valley. He attended Huonville High School where he was awarded Dux of the school in 2013, and he then went on to Hobart College at Mount Nelson. At college, Isaac received straight A's for many courses including Math's Methods, Physical Sciences, Computer Science, Physics and Chemistry, all of which helped lead him into his Engineering Degree at the University of Tasmania. Isaac also hopes to take his qualification past a bachelor degree. "I plan to specialise in mechatronic engineer-



All the presentation of the Huon Valley Community Bank Branches Scholarships were, back row. Huon Valley Community Bank Area Manager Tony Coulson, scholarship recipient Isaac Banister, scholarship recipient Courtney Cooper, Huon Valley Community Bank Cygnet Branch Manager Jordan Lovell, and front row, scholarship recipient Alarna Page, Huon Valley Community Bank Huonville Branch Manager Colleen Shield and scholarship recipient Frances Velnaar.

ing (a combination of electronic, mechanical, computer and control system engineering), as I have always had an interest in engineering, and mechatronics will allow me to work just about anywhere in the field of engineering, and will give me the broadest knowledge and understanding, allowing me to comprehend all aspects of a project," said Isaac.

Courtney Cooper has been involved with the Huon Valley PCYC, Huon Valley Relay for Life and A Taste of the Huon. She attended St Mary's College where she was very involved as well, and was awarded the Santa Maria Award, Nano Nagle Certificate, Sisters Leadership Award and a Bronze Medallion.

Courtney is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Tasmania with a focus on writing. "I want to become the best author that I can be, so that my books can make a difference," said Courtney. "Living in a rural community has severely opened my eyes to the prominence of mental illness in our communities and the stigma surrounding it. There aren't a lot of things that I'm very sure of, but I do know this, I'm going to help as many people as I can, in the best way I can." Courtney also has aspirations to start her own organisation to assist people suffering from mental illness in rural communities.

Alarna, Isaac and Courtney all have the opportunity to receive the Huon Valley Community Bank Branches

Scholarship next year for a second year of funding based on their first year achievements as Frances has done. During her first year, Frances volunteered with St John and Ambulance Tasmania in the Huonville and Sorell area. "I will continue this volunteer work into 2016 as it has proved so valuable in reinforcing the practical aspects of serving as a paramedic," said Frances.

She has also gained the respect of her peers, being elected as Secretary of the UTas Society of Student Paramedics Australasia (USSPA). Frances Velnaar received her second year \$5000 grant towards her Bachelor of Paramedic Practice at the University of Tasmania.

This scholarship made it possible to cover some portion of my accommodation costs in Kingston, allowing me to live much closer to Hobart," said Frances. "This in turn allowed me significant additional time to concentrate on my studies. Living closer to Hobart also made it possible for me to safely participate in the orientation and necessary training to fulfill my volunteering ambitions, which supported the academic and practical components of my paramedic studies at UTAS". Frances also said the scholarship helped her purchase the necessary textbooks for her courses.

Tony Coulson, Area Manager of the Huon Valley Community Bank said they are proud to support young people from the Huon Valley and hope to continue their relationship throughout their studies and into the future.