



ARTHUR RICKARDS

YOUNG BREED LEADERS

SCHOLARSHIP

APPLICATION FORM



ADVANCED BREEDING FOR A MODERN BEEF INDUSTRY

The Australian Registered Cattle Breeders Association (ARCBA) is the peak industry association for the registered cattle breeding sector.

ARCBA invites young beef breeders to apply for funding for a 2026–27 study tour exploring the latest international cattle breeding trends. Applicants must be aged 21–35 at the date of departure.

APPLICATIONS

Written applications should be emailed to:

Mrs Amy Walker

Executive Officer

Email: office@arcba.org.au

Applications should address the selection criteria below.

Please direct any queries on the scholarship to office@arcba.org.au in the first instance or call ARCBA Vice Presidents
Robert Walker: 0427 661 192
Colin Rex: 0408 661 255

The applications should include the name, address, date of birth and contact details of the applicant and should answer the following:

- i) Your current role in the registered cattle sector,
- ii) Any previous noteworthy achievements,
- iii) Any short course or tertiary training,
- iv) Any participation in breed society youth activities,
- v) Your aspirations for your future in the registered cattle sector
- vi) How this scholarship would help you.



THE PROGRAM

The Youth Scholarship Program will be tailored to the successful applicant and the breed they represent. As part of the application, candidates should outline their proposed study objectives and an indicative program of activities. This may include visiting breed offices, spending time with leading breeders, and studying successful supply chain management programs. The final itinerary will be refined in consultation with ARCBA and the relevant breed society, who will assist with introductions and industry connections. Participation in an international beef conference is strongly encouraged.

VALUE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship has a maximum value of \$15,000 with the final amount determined by the approved itinerary. The successful applicant may choose to extend the time/activities at their own expense. The Scholarship funding may be used for domestic travel to point of international point of departure, international flights, car hire and hotels, conference registration fees and a per diem for 30 days.

REFERENCES

Your application should be accompanied by two referees' reports and a letter of introduction from your breed organisation.

OBLIGATIONS OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT

The successful applicant will be required to submit a written report of 800-1000 words within 30 days of completing the tour. The report should outline key observations and insights that could contribute to the advancement of the Australian registered cattle breeding industry. It will be shared with breed societies for circulation to youth groups and inclusion in society communications. The applicant will also be expected to maintain an agreed social media presence throughout the scholarship period, providing updates on their activities. In addition, the recipient will be required to present on their scholarship experience at the 2027 ARCBA AGM or an ARCBA workshop event. As a condition of the scholarship, the successful applicant must sign and adhere to the ARCBA Code of Conduct.

CLOSING DATE & ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT

Closing date: 30th June 2026

Initial interviews will be conducted online. Candidates identified for a final interview, may be required to be in Brisbane on the 22nd July 2026

Announcement of successful candidate: 22nd July 2026

Dr Arthur Rickards O.A.M.

Arthur Rickards was a remarkable man whose vision, determination, resilience and tireless work left an enduring mark on Australian agriculture. Over four decades, he led the establishment and growth of the Agricultural Business Research Institute in Armidale, NSW, shaping it into a nationally significant organisation. From the beef industry's perspective, his most defining achievement was the development and implementation of BREEDPLAN—now a world-class, objective performance recording system widely adopted across Australia and internationally.

Born Philip Arthur Rickards, he grew up in rural Queensland near Maryborough. After completing a degree in Agricultural Science at the University of Queensland, he moved to Armidale, where he furthered his studies with a Diploma of Agriculture at the University of New England. In July 1970, Dr Rickards established the Agricultural Business Research Institute (ABRI) with just two staff and a bold vision to accelerate the adoption of University of New England technologies across rural industries. ABRI's original home was a modest gardener's cottage on the UNE campus. Over the following four decades, under his leadership, ABRI developed and implemented a range of innovative technologies that made significant contributions to Australian agriculture, particularly within the livestock sector.

Dr Arthur Rickards was involved with ARCBA at a senior level for more than two decades, including periods as Executive Director and President. He passed away in 2019 after a long illness.

Scholarship Recipients

2017: Brad Cavanagh

2019: Hayden Green

2023: Jake Phillips



Dr. Rickards (bottom right) with the inaugural cohort of Young Breed Leaders in 2017. Image courtesy QCL.