

## Willunga Farmers Market Scholarship Announcement

### **Young farmers' dream grows into reality with help of seed funding**

Making a living from farming is a tough gig especially if you're a new farmer starting out. The two biggest obstacles for new farmers are start-up costs and access to land.

The Willunga Farmers Market together with the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board will help Chris & Bridgett Day overcome these barriers through the 2018/19 Willunga Farmers Market Farmers Scholarship.

The Willunga Farmers Market Scholarship is a \$15,000 scholarship given as \$12,000 start-up funds and \$3,000 in mentorship and business training.

**A record number of applications were received for the 5<sup>th</sup> Willunga Farmers Market Scholarship and Chris and Bridgett were successful with their application**, an emerging regenerative farm enterprise based in Yankalilla on the Fleurieu Peninsula. Regenerative Agriculture is a system of farming principles and practices that increases biodiversity, enriches soils, improves watersheds, and enhances ecosystem services.

**Chris and Bridgett's mission is to regenerate the land through their farming practices and management, to provide nutrient dense food to the community, and a resilient livelihood for themselves.**

"Going forward we aim to grow our farm enterprise to provide increased quantities of lamb to match demand, and expand into long storage garlic varieties, medicinal, culinary and indigenous herbs, potted fruit trees and fruit. We intend to provide associated value added products such as ready-to-go lamb packs comprising garlic, oil and herbs." Says Chris Day.

Chris and Bridgett believe a diversity of crops and incomes is especially important with an increasingly unpredictable climate. They will choose robust, appropriate species and animals that will produce in a wide variety of conditions. "Building personal and professional relationships with neighbours and the local community" is important to them says Bridgett.

After being announced as the successful scholarship recipients, Chris and Bridgett will focus on their key priorities in the first year, being Pasture Raised Lambs, rotated on a weekly basis to lush green mixed pastures, stress free stock handling, natural and regenerative farming methods, and free choice minerals.

In the future they plan to expand their farm to include Medicinal Herbs, for teas, and natural remedies as well as infused speciality olive oils including a traditional roast blend, spicy bbq and fresh salad blend along with potted heritage Fruit heritage tree varieties suited to the Fleurieu Peninsula. They will build a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) model, together with other local farmers to supply nutrient dense ethical foods to members and hope to offer Farm tours to customers to connect their

food with our farm and on-site training and education packages for adults and schools.

“Our farm enterprise plan is based on long-term development of the entire property with a diversity of incomes, however we will start small-scale and develop a strong base with achievable and manageable targets.”

“We are delighted to welcome Chris and Bridgett Day to the Willunga Farmers Market” says Pip Forrester, Chair of the Willunga Farmer Market.

“As the 5th recipients of this scholarship we know they will benefit from the opportunity this scholarship offers. It will enable them to build their farming enterprise and to grow from the commercial and mentoring environment offered by the market as have our previous recipients. We too will benefit from the contribution they will no doubt make to market community”.

More detailed information and history on the scholarship can be found on the Farmers Scholarship page on our website, [www.willungafarmersmarket.com.au](http://www.willungafarmersmarket.com.au)

Willunga Farmers Market is a not-for profit organisation. The Willunga Farmers Market is open every Saturday, 8am til 12.30pm, and provides fresh, locally grown produce direct from the farmer.

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