

Little Forest Farm, Middleton

Hailey Lane & Rohan Cleeves

Little Forest Farm is the project of Rohan Cleeves and Hailey Lane. Their vision is to grow quality native Australian food in a healthy, productive ecosystem, in a way that is beneficial to people, local ecology, local economies and the global environment.

It is the culmination of their vision to own and manage a piece of land to restore its natural ecological values, while deriving an income from the land that allows them to spend our days there. The farm will grow and sell native Australian foods including dried and processed herbs, teas and spice products. Eventually this range will expand to include a range of other products.

The native food movement is on the rise with top chefs across the country using a range of local native ingredients. This is filtering down to home cooking enthusiasts. Herbs and spices are an accessible entry into this category as they can be incorporated into foods that people are already familiar with and fit within most dietary restrictions (gluten free, vegan etc.).

This project has grown out of a passion for native flora, an interest in new flavours and the local food movement, and a central belief that food can be produced in a way that benefits the environment.

We look forward to welcoming Rohan and Hailey to the Market in early 2021



2020 Scholarship Winner—Little Forest Farm, Middleton, South Australia
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The Willunga Farmers Market Farmers Scholarship, in partnership with Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board assists people to enter and create viable, long term careers in the agricultural industry.

The scholarship will be paid to the eligible scholarship recipient over a 12-month period to allow for the set up of a business growing primary produce on the Fleurieu Peninsula.

The scholarship recipient will receive:

Start up capital to grow primary produce on the Fleurieu Peninsula.

Mentorship in small business management and farming practice.

A guaranteed licence to trade at Willunga Farmers Market (WFM) to supply primary produce and a weekly stall site for up to two years, with the first six months free of charge.

Funding

There is an initial 3 to 6-month preplanning period, after which WFM will provide \$12,000 start up capital to the successful applicant. This capital can be used for items such as seeds, tools, land rental, insurance etc.

These funds will be made available to recipients in the first year of the program, with the scholarship recipient aiming to be self-sufficient by the end of the scholarship period.

Another \$3,000 managed by WFM will be dedicated to the mentorship of the scholarship recipient in small business management and farming practices. WFM will provide appropriate mentors, with sessions allocated to small business management and industry specific farming practices.

Scholarship Application Requirements:

Individuals or groups of not more than 6 people are eligible for the WFM Farmers Scholarship.

All applicants must fulfil the requirements of the application package and recipients will be bound by a contract issued by WFM.

All recipients must be available to work in the proposed business and attend small business and farming practice mentorship sessions in the first 12 months after commencing the scholarship.

Recipients will be responsible for all costs associated with developing, growing and selling fresh produce for WFM, including but not restricted to rent of land and insurance.

Recipients must prioritise selling their produce at WFM. Recipients are not restricted from selling their produce elsewhere, however they must as a priority have produce to fill a weekly stall at WFM.

Willunga Farmers Market reserves the right to undertake a financial audit of any operation using WFM scholarship funds and to issue directives based on the outcome of that audit where necessary.

Recipients must remain in the program (growing primary produce and selling this produce at Willunga Farmers Market) for a minimum period of 12 months. If a recipient leaves the program before the 12-month anniversary of receiving the initial scholarship payment, the recipient may be required to reimburse all or some of the funds awarded under the scholarship.

Full details and application for can be found on the WFM website.