



MEDIA RELEASE

22 June 2017

Dunedin veterinary student closer to career in animal care

While some students might spend a cash windfall on a holiday or a new car, a Dunedin veterinary science student has a far more practical use for his recently-won \$2,500 scholarship from Agcarm.

Paul Blondell, 20, a third year veterinary science student at Massey University, plans to use the money to help fund his studies – replacing his laptop and travelling to placements at vet clinics around the country.

Blondell looks forward to finishing his studies so he can “get out there and make a difference”. Being a vet is more than just curing animals, he says, it’s about being an advocate for animal welfare as it “bridges the gap between humans and their animals”.

When Paul is not studying he can be found mountain biking, tramping, running or playing sports such as volleyball, basketball; or in his indoor pursuits of guitar, cooking and sketching. He also finds the time to mentor a 10-year-old boy as he volunteers for Big Brother Big Sister Manawatu – an organisation that pairs a ‘big brother or sister’ to support vulnerable children and young adults. As a role model, he’s engaged children in baking and playing sports. Brimming with good-will, he’s also volunteered at the Dunedin 2012 Special Olympics, helped produce a film to raise funds for the SPCA and Otago Hospice as well as collecting for Red Cross and Search and Rescue. Yet he remains down-to-earth calling himself “just a regular guy”.

He’s also a class rep for his year.

Agcarm chief executive Mark Ross said that the association is pleased to contribute towards the future of such a hard-working, mature student who is so committed to animal health, and who is willing to give up his time for others.

“We were extremely impressed with the dedication Paul showed for animal welfare and his contributions to the community,” Ross said.

Agcarm has two scholarships to support education and raise awareness about careers in Agcarm-related industries. The winner of the horticultural scholarship is Hannah Gibb.

Industry initiatives led by Agcarm include providing safe and sustainable animal health and crop protection technology for the future of New Zealand, and educating the community about the industry's contribution.

About Agcarm

Agcarm is an industry association of companies which manufacture, distribute and sell products that keep animals healthy and crops thriving. Industry initiatives led by Agcarm include providing safe and sustainable animal health and crop protection technology for the future of New Zealand, and educating the community about the industry's contribution.

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Paul at Massey University's sheep farm