

Christine and Michelle – Championing Rangeland students in NSW

By Renee Golding



RANGELANDS
AUSTRALIA

Christine Ferguson and Michelle Maunder are two very passionate and motivated women who have recently become Rangeland Champions. The Champions make the challenge of tertiary education a little easier, helping with many aspects of tertiary education such as looking at options for tertiary study, study tips, clarifying University expectations, and providing motivation and encouragement. The Rangeland Champions program is funded by the national Landcare program.



Christine grew up on the land and now co-manages Myrnong Station, a goat and sheep property located in far north western New South Wales, with her husband Duncan, son

Will and daughter Matilda. A passion for ecology and the desire to do what she was doing better motivated Christine to begin study. Two years down the track she has completed her Graduate Certificate in Rangeland Management.

‘I left school and went out to the shearing sheds when I was 16. Alongside my

husband, we worked to eventually achieve our dream of buying our own place. Now I can use my mind to put a bit of polish on our business and our land’ explains Christine. ‘I hope that I can help other people to realise the benefits of tertiary education and support them through the journey in my position as a Rangeland Champion.’



Michelle also grew up on the land and after travelling throughout many parts of Australia and overseas she has returned to central west New South Wales and now calls Orange

home. Michelle completed a Bachelor of Applied Science in 1994 and worked throughout central and far western NSW. After enrolling in a Masters in Adult Education, Michelle experienced the mix of emotions that seem to come when juggling study with ‘life’, which for Michelle included fulltime work, marriage, two changes of address and the birth of a baby boy. One of the benefits of this experience is that she now has a ‘bag of tricks’ and hopes she can share this with other people who are undertaking tertiary education.

Michelle believes that further education is one of the ways to keep people, the communities they live in, and the rangelands themselves flourishing. Michelle is proud to be involved with Rangelands Australia and enthusiastic about supporting people through this phase of their life-long learning journey.

Michelle and Christine join existing NSW Champion Dee Wilkes-Bowes. For more information contact Christine on (02) 6874 7863, Michelle on (02) 6362 0342 or Dee on (02) 6227 4181.



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Interested?

Contact Rangelands Australia by phone 07 5460 1660, email rangelands@uqg.uq.edu.au
www.rangelands-australia.com.au

Applications for enrolment in Semester 1 close 31st January 2009

