



*Anika Molesworth
on Rupee Station,
Broken Hill, NSW.*

LINDY MOLESWORTH

Young farmer of the year takes on the world

The 2015 Australian Young Farmer of the Year Anika Molesworth took her talents to the international stage in December, speaking at events and attending workshops in conjunction with the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP21) in Paris.

With the timing mere weeks after the terrorist attacks that killed 130 people, Anika would have been forgiven for cancelling her plans, but her passion for farming and the environment overrode concerns for personal safety. "It is horrific what happened in Paris, and in other parts of the world, however this conference is a meeting of the future – to make the world a better place, for all of humanity and all living species," Anika said prior to her departure. "I am determined and as committed as ever to make the most of COP21 and to make sure agriculture is at the discussion table."

As project coordinator for the International National Trusts Organisation's (INTO) Sustainable Farms Project, 28-year-old Anika spoke about the role of cultural and natural heritage in the sphere of climate change in agricultural systems. Her involvement in INTO stems from her experiences on her family's Rupee Station, near Broken Hill, NSW. "The Sustainable Farming Project encourages and supports the conservation and preservation of natural resources, heritage breeds and heirloom species, heritage farming structures, traditional rural landscapes and the use of traditional and cultural practices," she says. "For example, at Rupee we have been able to protect a wooden railway bridge, Chinese market gardens and mine shafts. We also take great effort to protect the native biodiversity to ensure rare species are not lost from this ecosystem forever."

The farmer's role in climate change is an issue close to Anika's heart, and at COP21 she and fellow climate campaigner Josh Gilbert represented Australian farmers. "Farmers are at the coalface of changing climatic conditions and it is their adaptation and mitigation strategies that will secure food and fibre production in this country and others," she says.

In association with COP21, the pair attended the Conference of Youth, where 5000 young people from across the globe put their fears aside to discuss changes they can make. "The take-home message for me was that we cannot sit and wait for our governments to take action," Anika says. "Individual choices and actions will make the difference, and there is no time to sit and wait for someone else to lead on this issue. Each and every one of us has to stand up and be that change we want in the world."

Mandy McKeesick

Winners' circle

Every issue **OUTBACK** gives away a host of brilliant prizes, many of which are worth more than the price of a subscription! Last issue's winners of our *Outback pets* children's book were: John Gamble, Edgeworth, NSW; Clive Lancaster, Allanson, WA; Jenny Magner, Behana Station, via Tenterfield, NSW; Robin and Carol Munro, Salisbury, SA; and Peter Sinclair, Nambucca Heads, NSW.

The winners of the popular Wundies in our 'Outback Gear' section were: Russell Bellingham, Bogong, Vic; Mark Bunge, Coleraine, Vic; Dorothy Harris, Glenelg, SA; Caitlin Heppner, Nuriootpa, SA; Brad Lester, Inverloch, Vic; Shania McAuley, Tyrone, Yelarbon, Qld; Mark Miller, Shoalhaven Heads, NSW; Philip Pearce, New Farm, Qld; Sue Schloss, Bramston, Tara, Qld; and Monica Stewart, Berrimah, NT.