

MEDIA RELEASE

13 August 2020

Be inspired, explore the world AND have a career with impact!

ACT National Science Week

National Science Week in the ACT has something new this year, and it's not that it's all online. You can hear from passionate young Australians about how their work is impacting food and nutrition security in developing countries and in Australia, and making a personal, professional and global difference.

“We want high school and university students and the general public to know about the impact of science in global food and nutrition security, and the broad range of study, career and volunteering pathways to get them on their way - whatever their age,” said Cathy Reade, Director of Outreach for the Crawford Fund and manager of their NextGen program. The Fund is an Australian NGO, based in Canberra, that engages Australians in training scientists in developing countries to improve food and nutrition security.

“Our NextGen program has been providing young and not-so-young Australians with scholarships, awards, volunteering and mentoring opportunities in developing countries to encourage their interest in related studies, careers and placements. We want more of them to know about the enormous impact they can have. It’s great to be able to spread the message during National Science Week,” she said.

The Fund is working with the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (**ACIAR**) and Researchers in Agriculture for International Development (**RAID**) Network for this free online event on Wednesday, 19 August from 11am-12pm.

The event is timed to provide the best opportunity for high school teachers to have their students attend as a group from the class room, but it will also interest university students working out where they want to take their science and members of the general public who want to be inspired, possibly volunteer overseas or with an interest in science related to food and nutrition security.

The Crawford Fund is developing free cross-curricular teaching materials focused on food and nutrition security. By signing up for the event, the schools will automatically be provided with access to the materials.

The speakers have all been using their science skills for a global impact in a variety of countries. They have landed in their careers through different journeys and have all benefited from awards and scholarships to help get them to where they are. They are:

Sam Coggins is working on digital tools for developing country farmers in a large Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation project and doing an interdisciplinary PhD aiming to help alleviate climate risks for farmers abroad and at home.

Laura Macfarlane-Berry is a vet with the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment in Canberra. She works in the Epidemiology and One Health Section as a “disease detective”.

Bec Cotton is the President of the RAID Network, which brings together young Australians with an interest in agriculture and international development. She is using her degree in sustainability and improving agricultural extension.

Find more information [here](#) and register [here](#) to attend – either as an individual or as a group. This initiative has been supported by Inspiring Australia as part of National Science Week.

