

Student Spotlight: Amellia Lindsay Sowing the Seedlings

It's no secret that teachers hold the often daunting responsibility of educating the next generation. Whatever level of education that may be whether it's secondary, tertiary or even post-grad, the stage in life we often overlook are those early developmental years where one hasn't quite figured out what they want to do with their lives but have every concern about whether or not mum has packed cookies in their lunchbox for morning tea. This crucial time is called childhood. And while a five year old has not yet decided on what their future holds, significant milestones will be made in their primary years which may contribute to how they view certain career pathways.

Well-accustomed to the education system and ready to pass on her wisdom to budding Kiwis, is 21 year old Amellia Lindsay who is studying Education and History, minoring in Agricultural Innovation with aspirations to complete her Masters in teaching and learning at Otago University. As well as being a diligent student, Amellia is also a driving force for the Rotaract Club of Dunedin, as well as holding part-time work at Fonterra as a packing operator. Such accolades make for a great educator and Amellia wants to be just that.

Amellia grew up rurally, while also taking Agriculture and Horticulture in high school, though she wasn't entirely sure whether there was a career she could pursue in the field, that also fulfilled her aspiration to become a Primary School Teacher.

"I had a great teacher when I was younger, he encouraged me to go that extra mile... And I know that not all kids enjoy school so it's important to do things with them that make at least school time enjoyable. I think bringing Agriculture into their routines in small ways might do that for them."



Conclusively, Amellia simply decided to 'give it a go' and minor in Agricultural Innovation. She talks about how the course re-ignited her passion for Agricultural Science and is always finding new ways to incorporate her learnings into her future career as an educator.

"Integrating agriculture into primary education looks like teaching them a simplified version of it while they're young. At the end of the day, they're going to do what they want when they're older but who's to say that it might not be a career in Agriculture?"

Amellia places emphasis on the importance of breaking down stigmas surrounding what qualifies one to pursue an Agricultural or Horticultural career. It's not common for agri-futures to be on display within classrooms, media spaces or communities. It's even less common to see Primary Sector opportunities marketed to to the same extent that other career pathways are. This is why it's important for those as young as primary school children to know that it is a vital part of our economy and how teachers can take small steps with them now to ensure a higher quantity of the next generation want to have a Primary Sector role.

"You can do anything you want to do...as long as you have the drive to do it. But if you do have an interest in agriculture, don't limit yourself if you don't come from a rural background. It's for everyone."