



MEDIA RELEASE

10 May 2021

COVID delayed St Mark's College C.A.S. Hawker Scholarship presentation

The Governor of South Australia **His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC** and the National Farmers' Federation President **Ms. Fiona Simson** presented six new Charles Hawker Scholars with their scholarship certificates at separate ceremonies held at Government House in Adelaide and Burgmann College in Canberra this week.

The six new scholars are studying Philosophy, Science, Arts, Law, Medicine, Surgery, Politics and Economics. The three 2020 scholars and three 2021 Scholars have studied in the Sutherland Shire NSW, Belair SA, Perth WA and Burwood VIC.

Family and friends, college representatives, current scholars, members of the Alumni and Trustees of the C.A.S. Hawker Scholarship attended both functions.

The two Adelaide based 2020 & 2021 Charles Hawker Scholars in residence at St Mark's College and studying at the University of Adelaide were presented with their certificates today by **His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC** at a function at Government House in Adelaide. Both students are graduates of St John's Grammar School in the Adelaide Hills and were School Captains in 2018 and 2019.

2020 C.A.S. Hawker Scholar **Mr. Oliver DOUGLAS** is from Coromandel Valley. Oliver is in residence at St Mark's College and he commenced his Bachelor of Arts and Law degrees at the University of Adelaide last year.

2021 C.A.S. Hawker Scholar **Mr. Benjamin RANSOM** is from Mitcham. Benjamin is also in residence at St Mark's College and he commenced his Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery degrees at the University of Adelaide in 2021.

"I congratulate all the Charles Hawker scholarship winners. Through their studies and community involvement, they have already demonstrated a strong commitment to following in the footsteps of C.A.S. Hawker," **His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC** said.

Both awardees are outstanding students and achieved great heights academically as well as in their community, sporting and extra curricula activities. Oliver completed his secondary education in 2018 at St John's Grammar School with an ATAR of 98.85. Benjamin's final year was 2019 and his ATAR was 99.75.

OLIVER DOUGLAS: 2020 C.A.S. Hawker Scholar

During his time at St John's, Oliver Douglas achieved much in various leadership roles. As well as School Captain, Tennis Captain and Middle School House Captain, his academic and extra curricula awards are numerous and impressive.

His final academic results included Merits in Psychology and Modern History. Oliver was awarded numerous subject and service awards including the prestigious Irvine Family Perpetual Award for outstanding achievement in Year 12.

He is a talented tennis player who was ranked #1 South Australian u/18 player in 2019. His Australian ranking was #55. He has won numerous club, state and national singles and doubles titles. He was presented the Don Turnbull Memorial Trophy in 2019 for the best SA Male u/18 player, an award previously won by Lleyton Hewitt.

His extra curricula activities included participating in a Global Thinker's Forum, a Reconciliation Action Plan Group, an International Student Support Group, various debating teams, a Mock Law Trial and the school magazine editorial team.

Oliver is a member of the Australian Army Reserve and a thinker. He is exercised by the big ideas of politics, civic life, history and philosophy - including economic and political globalisation forces, environmental issues, demographic changes and the role of automation and AI on future work and lifestyles.

Oliver is in his 2nd year at the University of Adelaide.

BENJAMIN RANSOM: 2021 C.A.S. Hawker Scholar

Ben Ransom is driven by a strong desire to help his community. A book he designed to allow dementia patients to connect with past memories through pictures and music resulted in him being a finalist in the young achievers' category in the Australian Innovation Challenge.

As School Captain, Ben led St John's Grammar School with integrity and distinction. He was a strong role model for his peers, pursuing excellence in his academic studies, on the sporting field and through his co-curricular commitments including music, public speaking and debating.

Ben is a natural leader who conducted himself with dignity and maturity. He is a student who excelled academically as well as through his extra-curricular involvement. He is a talented musician. He was the lead trombone in the Superband, as part of the National Competition of Generations in Jazz.

His final academic results included three Merits in Chemistry, Physics and Research Project. Ben was awarded numerous subject and service awards including the prestigious Irvine Family Perpetual Award for outstanding achievement in Year 12.

He is a volunteer at his local aged AnglicareSA facility. He is an ongoing Cancer Council Ambassador, helping to contribute to raising awareness and funds for cancer research and treatment.

Whilst reading his biography and tributes around his life efforts, Ben was inspired by Charles Hawker's resilience, determination and passion while facing physical, economical and wartime challenges. Hawker never gave up.

Ben's personal belief is that "greatness spawns from never giving up. This means believing in yourself. It means having a willingness to accept failure so you can learn the critical skill of adaptation. It means having integrity and not compromising your most important values."

COVID restrictions delayed the presentation of the 2020 C.A.S. Hawker Scholarship certificates by National Farmer's Federation President **Ms. Fiona Simson**. The delayed ceremony is being held on Wednesday in Canberra. The four ACT based C.A.S. Hawker Scholars are enrolled at the ANU in Canberra and residing at Burgmann College.

Mrs. Liliias Needham established the Charles Hawker Scholarship in memory of her brother **Charles Allan Seymour Hawker**. These residential scholarships are valued at up to \$60,000 over three years. It is one of the most generous privately funded scholarships available to undergraduate and postgraduate students in Australia.

Since 1990, the Trustees have awarded more than six million dollars to 132 young Australians, including a significant number from regional areas. The three successful 2020 and the three 2021 applicants were awarded Hawker Scholarships from an Australia wide field of 223 applicants.

Each year the C.A.S. Hawker Scholarship Trustees offer a number of scholarships to capable students of principle and character who are committed to Australia's future. The scholarship perpetuates the memory and commemorates the achievements of one of Australia's most respected pastoral pioneers and politicians.

"Charles Hawker had a lasting impact on Australian politics and all members of the federal house had an enormous respect for him during his time as Australia's first Minister for Commerce in the Lyons Government in the 1930s. He was a great Australian who offered his best through his commitment to his country and democracy. These are values I hope the 2020 and 2021 scholarship winners take with them into their studies," Trustee and C.A.S. Hawker Scholar **Mr. Dan Cregan MP** said during the presentation at Government House.

Born on May 16th 1894 at Bungaree homestead near Clare in South Australia, Charles Hawker was educated at Geelong Church of England Grammar School and Trinity College, Cambridge. Student, soldier, pastoralist and statesman Charles Allan Seymour Hawker died in the Kyeema air disaster on October 25th, 1938.

Undergraduate and postgraduate Hawker Scholars are able to attend a range of educational institutions including the Australian National, Adelaide, Flinders, South Australia and New England Universities and Marcus Oldham College. Postgraduate Charles Hawker Scholars are also able to follow in Charles Hawker's footsteps by studying at the University of Cambridge UK.

"C.A.S. Hawker was a truly remarkable man and a great Australian. This scholarship is a fitting tribute to his memory and each of these scholars is a much-deserved recipient," Hawker family member and Trustee **Mr. Andrew Hawker** said.

Selection is based on personal qualities as well as academic ability.

Applications for the 2022 Charles Hawker Scholarships open on **6 December 2021** and close on **7 January 2022**.

An application form and further information are available from the scholarship website **www.hawkerscholarship.org** or by contacting the secretary to the Trustees on 08 8127 1654.

More Information:

Cesare Silvestri
Secretary to the Trustees
C.A.S. Hawker Scholarship
08 8127 1654
cesare.silvestri@aetlimited.com.au

Ian Doyle
Media Coordinator
C.A.S. Hawker Scholarship
0417 819 189
dms@iinet.net.au

*To request photographs of the presentation at Government House in Adelaide,
please contact Media Coordinator Ian Doyle
dms@iinet.net.au or 0417 819 189*