

DOORS

Supporting our youth

The DOORS program commenced in 2003 as a result of Murrumbidgee Irrigation recognising that investing in the region's future, means investing in our young people. To date, the DOORS program has assisted 32 local youth in a diverse range of pursuits.

The MIA has been fortunate over the years to experience prosperity and growth but this is not necessarily the case for all families, particularly in the last ten years where drought has taken its toll on traditional agribusiness activities. The DOORS program provides financial support for young people as they pursue their personal potential through educational, vocational, social and cultural endeavours. Not only do we want to see them achieve their own personal goals, but in doing so, also contribute to the future social and economic development of the MIA.

DOORS participants are selected because of their personal drive and determination to succeed in their chosen endeavour. The selection committee which includes our Chief Executive, seeks out young people who have the attributes and drive to achieve their goals but would be denied the opportunity to strive for them simply due to financial limitations.

Murrumbidgee Irrigation provides \$30,000 annually for the program in addition to donations from shareholders and Murrumbidgee Irrigation employees. The DOORS program receives many requests for assistance but is unfortunately limited to the number of new candidates we can assist each year due to ongoing commitments with existing candidates.

The program offers assistance for a variety of pursuits that may include one off requests for support as well as continued assistance for a number of years. In 2006, DOORS is assisting 13 young people, four of which are ongoing from 2004. Some of our participants are pursuing undergraduate university studies in the fields of nursing, musical theatre, contemporary art, teaching, business and social work. The DOORS financial support goes towards university fees, accommodation, travel costs to attend courses, textbooks and computer equipment.

Ben Yates joined the DOORS program in 2004 and is studying primary school teaching at Southern Cross University whilst regularly competing on the national and overseas triathlon circuits. His personal goals include becoming a world champion triathlete, olympic medallist and world cup winner as well as to coach and teach the next generation in sports and fitness. In an email from Ben whilst he was recently competing in Europe, he says "With your support it has made it possible for me to continue my dream towards becoming a world class athlete. Not only am I now a much more confident and experienced athlete, but I have also gained exposure across the globe which has helped me gain the interest of product sponsors."

Charles Christian is a talented young musician who has already released a CD. His long term goal is to open his own recording studio in the MIA and to inspire other young people that it is possible to achieve your dreams. He is an active member in the Koori community in Griffith and serves as a role model to many local youth. Funds raised from performances with his rap group FSG have been donated to the Griffith Suicide Prevention and Support Group. DOORS has assisted Charles with sound recording equipment to pursue his goals of producing his own music and developing a music production business.

Murrumbidgee Irrigation is extremely proud of each of the DOORS participants and their drive to pursue goals, despite sometimes challenging circumstances. These participants are our future leaders and adults in our community and so it is important to support them now so they in turn can support the next up and coming generation.

Tax deductible donations can be made to the DOORS program through Murrumbidgee Irrigation. Your money goes directly to helping the youth of the MIA as they pursue their goals and become the future adults and leaders of our community.