



MerinoLink Annual Conference “Hour of Power”

The purpose of the MerinoLink Annual Conference and Field Day is to provide an opportunity for sheep producers and service providers to network and learn about research outcomes and management programs. It is also an opportunity to have a positive influence on the future direction of the sheep industry in Australia. MerinoLink embraces ideas and technology from past, present and future research and trials to assist in moving the Sheep and Wool industry forward in a profitable and practical way.

The 2018 MerinoLink Annual Conference will be held on **Wednesday 20th June** at the Mercure Hotel, Goulburn, NSW. The Field Day will be held on **Thursday 21st June** at “Ravenswood”, Cavan Station, Yass, NSW. As part of the Conference, to further exemplify MerinoLink’s strategy to encourage the involvement of young people in the Sheep and Wool Industry, one session of the Conference program will be dedicated to **showcasing young people in the industry**.

The “**Hour of Power**” will be a fast-paced, informative session presented by a range of young researchers, scholars and innovators from across Australia. University students will have the opportunity to present their research projects and findings directly to members of the industry that their research could benefit. Previous Peter Westblade Scholarship scholars will be invited to highlight the experiences they gained through the scholarship and how it has helped them in pursuing their career. Lastly, the “**Hour of Power**” will also include other young innovators who are having an impact in the industry, to share their experiences and highlight how they are making a difference.

Each presenter will be allotted a 3 to 5 minute time slot in which they have to communicate their message in a succinct yet comprehensive manner. This will be followed by opportunities to network and create potential mentoring partnerships with conference attendees. Each “**Hour of Power**” speaker will be partnered with a mentor who will assist in making network connections during the conference.

Purpose:

- To provide an opportunity for young researchers to present their research outcomes directly to industry members
- To provide young scholars and innovators the opportunity to showcase what they are doing within the industry
- To provide an opportunity for young people interested in the sheep and wool industry to network with members from varying levels of the industry.
- To promote MerinoLink as a facilitator of education and networking opportunities for its members

Objectives:

- To provide education and networking opportunities for young industry members
- To provide conference attendees with an insight into current research that could benefit the industry
- To promote the Sheep and Wool Industry as a desirable career path and to promote enthusiasm and encouragement for young persons to learn and grow in the industry
- To provide two-way communication opportunities between young people and producers and service providers

Outcomes:

- To provide networking opportunities for future mentoring partnerships for young people in the industry or wanting to enter the industry.
- To highlight to young people the potential career paths and avenues that exist within the industry
- To identify research areas that are relevant to the industry and our conference delegates, and to provide dialogue opportunities to progress these ideas.

Application Criteria

- Aged 18 to 30 years
- Honours, Masters or PhD students undertaking research topics relevant to the Sheep and Wool Industry and/or
- Someone who has made an impact within the Sheep and Wool Industry, is passionate about the industry and sees a career within the industry

How to apply

If you would like to apply, or would like to nominate someone, please fill out the attached application form and send it back to Rachael Gawne merinolinklimited@gmail.com by **Friday 16th February 2018**.

Should you like to provide any supporting documentation or media with your application please attach it in the email with your application. Suitable supporting media may include research abstracts, a short video explaining a bit about yourself and why you fit the application criteria and/or any other documents that support your application. Please keep supporting documentation to a maximum of 500 words or 3 minutes.

Applicants will be shortlisted and contacted by **Thursday 8th March 2018** with further information.

For questions or further information on the “Hour of Power” Session, or the 2018 MerinoLink Conference and Field Day, contact Rachael Gawne on 0428 212 801 or using the above listed email.



MerinoLink Annual Conference “Hour of Power” Application Form

Presenter Details

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Tertiary Institution (if applicable): _____

Nominator Details (if applicable)

Name _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Relationship to nominee: _____

Reason for nominating: _____

Topics/areas of interest within the Sheep and Wool Industry

(for use in pairing presenters with an appropriate mentor)

Presentation Details

Research/Presentation Topic: _____

Brief description of how the research would be presented and how it relates to the Sheep and Wool Industry and/or Why you are passionate about the industry and the impacts you have made within the industry:

Professional Referee

Name: _____

Relationship to Nominee: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please send the completed application form to Rachael Gawne merinolinklimited@gmail.com by Friday 16th February 2018.

