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Media Release

5 February 2009

Heywire winners relate real issues

The ABC Heywire “Competition” winners have gathered in Canberra this week as part of their reward for “winning” their area’s top story.

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor caught up with his regional winner Jemima Buckman from Narrabri and also Angie Lee Olm from Brigalow in Queensland.

Jemima’s story looks at the emotional highs and lows of working on a farm whilst Angie’s story is about farming land being sold to a mining company.

“I was delighted to meet with Jemima Buckman winner of the New England North West Regional Heywire competition and Angie Lee Olm from South East Queensland.

These two young ladies showed their passion and commitment to regional and rural issues that are very real not only to them but to their families and to the communities they come from.

Jemima’s story covered a dog attack on their sheep on the family farm near Narrabri and the devastating effect it had on the sheep and her family.

Angie’s story about the proposal to mine highly productive farm land on the Haystack Plain on the Darling Downs has close similarity to the situation being experienced on the Liverpool Plains near Quirindi.

Jemima also related the issue of country tertiary students’ additional costs when attending university away from home and will forward me a document with her thoughts.

I congratulate both Jemima and Angie and the other regional winners on their efforts and being part of Heywire and encourage more young Australians to tell their stories through the Heywire competition,” Mr Windsor said.

All the winning Heywire entries can be viewed at

http://blogs.abc.net.au/heywire/heywire_winners_2008/index.html

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