

TOM CLEARY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

\$1,000 Scholarship for careers in agriculture and horticulture



If you are interested in a career in the agriculture or horticulture sector, and you are aged between 16 and 25, live in the Geelong Region* and an Australian resident, then you should explore this opportunity.

The Tom Cleary Memorial Scholarship will provide \$1,000 to support you in your education goals. It may be an apprenticeship or studying in a Diploma/Degree program or supporting you to attend a workshop connected with your career.

Mr James (Tom) Cleary

Born in Melbourne on the 6th December 1921 Tom was the son of a farmer and the eldest of 6 surviving children brought up on a farm at Blighty, a little town just out of Finley NSW. Tom came to Geelong as a teenager and attended St Mary's Technical School. Whilst attending St Mary's, young Tom boarded with his Uncle Jack and Auntie Gert Scott. Uncle Jack more commonly referred to as JB had set up his own machinery business – J. B. Scott which was operated from 72 Moorabool Street. After completing his schooling at St Mary's, Tom returned to the family farm at Blighty. At 18 after doing various jobs around the district Tom sought a career in the RAAF.

When the war ended and whilst working at Dunlop Rubber, Tom studied motor mechanics before he joined the RAAF. This consolidated much of what he had learnt about engines in the Air Force. Later Tom joined TAA as an aircraft mechanic working at various airports around Australia.

In 1950 Tom and his wife Irene moved to Geelong and joined J. B. Scott. JB died in 1961 and Tom inherited the J. B. Scott business. Business was not easy in the ensuing years. Making a home for Irene and bringing up a family of three and running a business (7 days a week in the Harvest Season) with lots of afterhours calls certainly had its challenges. However, with the help of Irene and hard work, the business survived and J. B. Scott Pty Ltd is now a successful business with branches at Lismore and Colac and has the John Deere franchise for the Geelong and Western District. Today the business remains in the family and is managed by Tom's son Andrew.

Tom was always involved in the Geelong community, supporting his three children's school activities. Other community involvements included membership of the Rotary Club of Geelong and the Knights of the Southern Cross, Treasurer of the Barwon Rowing Club and membership of the Machinery Dealers Division of the Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce. Tom was also a very keen Geelong Football Club supporter. Tom also supported local youth by offering apprenticeships to many keen on Diesel Mechanics. This interest in young people is perpetuated by the family providing the corpus of funds to provide The Tom Cleary Memorial Scholarship.

About J. B. Scott Pty Ltd

J.B. Scott Pty. Ltd. was founded by Mr Jack Bernard Scott in 1925 and supplies quality farm machinery and other merchandise to the farms around the Geelong area. The company has become a multi franchise company with the main dealership in North Geelong as well as operating in Lismore and Colac.

J. B. Scott Pty Ltd became a John Deere dealership in 1981. J. B. Scott Pty Ltd under Tom Cleary's leadership focused on providing products and services for the man on the land with high importance given to the quality of service for all their products. This philosophy continues today under Tom's son Andrew's management.

The company has strong links to the local farming community and are respected and known for:

- First class service backup for the farm machinery that is sold
- Fast and reliable spare parts service
- High quality second hand machinery

J B Scott is located at;
166 Victoria Street, North Geelong
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