

Gaethan heads off to Canberra course

THE Nationals Federal Member for Murrumbidgee has congratulated Swan Hill local, Gaethan Cutri, on winning a place in the Australian Government's Pathways to Rural Leadership Course in Canberra.

Mr Cutri is one of 20 young men and women aged 18-30 whose names were announced recently by Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Russan Ley.

"I understand that applications were of a very high standard, which highlights Gaethan's success and shows that our region can claim some of rural Australia's great talent as its own," Mr Forrest said.

"Gaethan has already shown his leadership potential and will complete the course with the skills and ability to make a difference within his industry and our community."

Mr Cutri is manager of his family's strawberry business in Swan Hill.

He has had involvement with the Swan Hill Summer Fruit Council and Summer Fruits Australia and is a member of the Victorian Farmers Federation and the Law Institute of Australia.

He has previously worked as a litigation lawyer and a university tutor and holds Bachelor degrees in Law and Commerce.

"Over five intensive



RURAL LEADER: Gaethan Cutri has won a place in a rural leadership course.

days, from August 6-10, Mr Cutri, along with the other participants, will learn to network, develop communication skills, think strategically and gain an understanding of government structures and processes.

Participants will also meet with industry leaders and other prominent individuals who are leading their sectors.

"When asked why he applied for a place in the course, Mr Cutri said: "After attending an entrepreneurial skills course I was

made aware of other business philosophies and believed that attending the Pathways to Rural Leadership Course would be exceptionally beneficial."

"The program is about giving young people the skills to develop their ability to respond to and influence policy, and from this I then hope to represent horticulture in decision-making forums," Mr Cutri said.

The participants will refine communication skills to influence change within their industry and look at

ways to lead, manage and attain industry goals and personal development goals.

"I hope to gain a better understanding of industry and government frameworks and will hopefully be able to change the industry by having input into issues such as market access," Mr Cutri said.

Mr Forrest concluded by saying: "Knowledge and skills gained by completing this course will equip Gaethan to make a significant contribution to Australia's rural industries in the coming years."