



**Team Member:** Helen Smith  
**Age:** 26  
**Profession:** Agricultural Scientist  
**Employment:** Natural Resource Management Officer  
Granite Borders Landcare  
Tenterfield, New South Wales  
Sponsored by Rotary Club of Tenterfield, New South Wales

### **Personal Profile**

Helen is 26 years old and lives in Tenterfield on the Northern Tablelands of New South Wales. She grew up in the World Heritage Listed Blue Mountains, on the outskirts of Sydney, and has also lived in Camden, the 'birth place' of Australian agriculture.

Helen, the daughter of two dentists, is the third of eleven children and describes herself as 'middle-management'. Although not growing up with a rural background, she is passionate about her career, having completed a Bachelor of Animal Science and a PhD in dairy science researching the declining fertility in modern high production Holsteins. She has worked on dairy farms in NSW, Victoria, New Zealand and Uganda, witnessing a range of production systems from hand milked, pasture fed cows to intensive feed-lot production.

Helen has a keen interest in Landcare, a community-driven natural resource management movement. As the Granite Borders Landcare Coordinator, she works directly with farmers raising awareness and improving skills and capacity to deal with a number of important environmental issues, including soil health, biodiversity and climate change.

Helen is involved in a number of community groups, including the local book club and community radio and is a steward for the Tenterfield Agricultural Society. She enjoys a range of social sports including yoga, tennis, kick boxing and soccer. Her passion is broomball, a social version of ice hockey, where players run on ice rather than skate. Helen has competed at the Australian National Championships, and has been vice captain of NSW Women's 2 for the last three years.

Whilst in North Carolina, Helen hopes to meet farmers and visit a typical US dairy farm, as well as university facilities at North Carolina A&T to meet other livestock researchers. Helen would love to get the opportunity to play a social game of broomball, and is dreaming of GSE 9640 v. Rotary 7690 at Greensboro Ice House!