

Pat Keill Award recipient

Kirbie graduated from the University of Wollongong with a BSc in Biology and a BA with Distinction in Science/Technology and Sociology.

She then completed her Graduate entry MD at the University of Notre Dame School of Medicine, Sydney with a Distinction average in her course.

Her undergraduate course was also marked by evidence of her intellectual prowess with many distinctions.

Kirbie spent the 4th year of her degree at Lithgow where she undertook her research in "Telepsychiatry" in the rural setting.

Mental Health in rural areas has been an area of passion for her since realising how sparse the services are available in rural areas, despite the high and ever growing demand. Having lived rurally for most of her life, and returning to work in a rural/regional health hub for the next two years, she has seen first hand the need not only for adequate mental health care in under-resourced areas but also for care that matched community needs.

In 2019 she completed her MD research project which examined the use of Telehealth usage in the greater western LHD. Enjoying research, as well as clinical work in medicine, she aims to pursue both in the hope that her contribution to an area she is passionate about - rural and remote health - will be effective in some small part to creating innovative ways to deliver healthcare to Australians in the bush where it is needed.

Besides all this she has worked for the last nine years as a farm hand, with stock handling and care, vehicle use and maintenance, fencing and general farm duties.