Dear Michael

Please find attached my submission to the special edition of the *Australian and International Journal of Rural Education*.

The title of my submission is: ‘No one cares in the city’: How young people’s perceptions of the country and the city shape their educational decision making.

The key findings/contributions of this paper include:

* A sense of ambiguity in relation to both the city and the country underpinned the participants’ educational choices.
* Negotiating this ambiguity increased the sense of risk in the young people’s lives and led to some individuals choosing ‘not to make a choice’ to minimise risks to the self.
* In combination with a fear of the city, a rural habitus characterized by close-knit social relations, deeply embedded experiences in the local environment and an emphasis on a physical form of masculinity was a key factor shaping the participants’ choices.
* Whilst a sense of ambivalence permeated the lives of all the participants, the decision to leave school early was especially associated with local networks and knowledges as well as a physical form of masculinity.
* These findings contribute to the emerging literature on young rural people’s educational choices in rural areas.

Below I suggest four potential reviewers for the paper. I propose four because there may be a conflict of interest in relation to Professor Michael Corbett, the editor of this special edition of *Australian and International Journal of Rural Education*:

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Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any enquiries in relation to this submission.

Yours sincerely,

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