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Nuffield scholar hosts Chinese Vice President

20th July, 2010

Nuffield Australia has again proven its worth on the world stage, with a scholar recently hosting the Vice President of the People's Republic of China.

In late June Nuffield scholar and Victorian dairy farmer Max Jelbart hosted Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping at his Caldermeade property near Kooweerup.

Mr Jelbart says the Vice President had a particular interest in the Australian dairy industry, and wanted to see cows being milked in a rotary dairy.

“He was particularly interested in the technology we are using here in Australia – China has been buying a lot of dairy cattle from Australia in the last few years and they have a strong focus on improving the productivity and management of their dairy programs”.

Mr Jelbart says he learnt that China has a policy of significantly increasing the dairy component of the population's diet as the government sees huge benefit in increased access to dairy products.

Vice President Xi Jinping, who made Time Magazine's list of the 100 most influential people in the world in 2009, visited the RMIT University Bundoora campus in the morning and then stopped at the Jelbart's Caldermeade Farm and Cafe for lunch.

The Vice President made a real impact on Mr Jelbart.

“He was a very pleasant gentleman who is very interested in dairy and agriculture generally. After leaving us he was due in Canberra for dinner at the Lodge!”

“Being asked to host such an important visitor to our shores again highlights the esteem with which Nuffield is held both here and overseas”.

The visit was particularly timely with a group of Australian Nuffield scholars having just toured China. The country is a regular stop on Nuffield Global Focus Tours.

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