

2011 SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS

ANZ • Australian Wool Innovation • Dairy Australia and Australian Dairy Conference • Fisheries Research and Development Corporation • Grain Growers Association • Grains Research and Development Corporation • Horticulture Australia Ltd. from the Vegetable Levy and matched funds from the Federal Government • Landmark • Macquarie Agricultural Services • Meat & Livestock Australia • NT Department of Resources • Nufarm • Rabobank • RIRDC Chicken Meat Program • Sidney Myer Fund • Woolworths

Wednesday 10th November 2010

Nuffield Scholars win big on national stage

Nuffield scholars have featured prominently at the recent NAB Agribusiness Awards for Excellence, with two alumni winning awards.

John Foss, from the Chia Company, took out the Innovation in New & Emerging Industries Award.

Following his Nuffield Scholarship in 2000, sponsored by Landmark, John founded the Chia Company, which is now the world's largest producer of the chia seed.

In doing so, John has created a new industry in Australian agriculture, with the crop grown in the Kimberley and now used domestically by companies like Bakers Delight.

John says Nuffield played an important role in leading to him founding the Chia Company.

“Through my scholarship I recognised that consumer health and wellbeing was the number one opportunity, and responsibility, for the food industry and I was on the lookout for natural products that could be grown to satisfy demands for healthier products.”

“Nuffield really opened my eyes to the unlimited opportunities for us in producing and marketing food for global consumers.”

Ben Bootle, who also did his scholarship in 2000, sponsored by GRDC, won the Technology & Innovation Award.

His company, AgTechnix, has created seed identification technology called IntelliSeed™, which is like a passport for each individual seed grain. IntelliSeed protects the identity and intellectual property of seed breeders and seed company's seed down to individual batch numbers.

Ben says the recognition is “accepted jointly with our technology partners and staff of AgTechnix, DataDot and Ipeco Pty Ltd. We have now demonstrated this anti-theft anti counterfeit technology in four international seed industry conferences and are working with major seed companies as well as private seed breeders from around the world.”

Ben said “we were particularly excited by the signing of our first major blue-chip international customer – Glaxo Smith Kline, who uses IntelliSeed to track and trace their medical poppy seeds in Australia”.

The awards, which were held in Melbourne, are run by Monash University and National Australia Bank (NAB) Agribusiness, and recognise Australia's top companies and individuals in the agriculture, food, fibre and beverage sectors.



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Nuffield Australia is an organisation which provides an opportunity to Australian farmers to travel overseas on an agricultural research scholarship. It is a 16 week program which consists of both group and individual travel. The next group will be travelling through New Zealand, North America, Brazil, Mexico and France.

For more information or interviews, please contact:

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