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2006 SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS
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Landmark-sponsored Nuffield scholarship for Brewarrina grazier

Organic sheep and cattle grazier Graham Finlayson from Brewarrina, near Bourke, NSW, will tonight be awarded Australia's leading farming scholarship, a Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarship.

Mr Finlayson is one of only 16 Australians to receive a 2007 Nuffield Scholarship. He will be presented with his award tonight at the Innovative Farming Australia awards dinner, part of the Nuffield Australia Spring Tour being held in Fremantle, WA.

Nuffield Farming Scholarships, each worth \$25,000, give young Australian farmers the opportunity to travel internationally and explore agricultural issues and opportunities in a global context. There are about 1300 Nuffield scholars worldwide.

Mr Finlayson will use his scholarship, sponsored by Landmark, to investigate the use of livestock in improving the diversity, health and regeneration of semi-arid rangelands.

He will study the practices of land managers in similar climates who have been successful over an extended period of time. "My intention is to gain knowledge and skills in intensive grazing management that will allow us to move forward," he says.

Mr Finlayson, whose 7000 hectare grazing enterprise 'Bokhara Plains' is also home to a tourism and accommodation business, says he wants to study the success of systems that promote profitability across all facets of a rural business. "Not only economic and production goals, but also ecological outcomes and social factors affecting family and community needs.

"The ability for us to halt and then reverse our massive environmental problems is not only highly desirable but quite attainable and achievable if we can learn to adjust and utilise a much better framework for decision making," he says. "My passion is regenerative low input agriculture utilising natural systems, as I believe it will be the future."

Nuffield Australia CEO Mr Jim Geltch says many Nuffield Scholars go on to become active leaders in agriculture and the community. "For many, the scholarship experience changes their lives by opening their eyes to the wider world and giving them the confidence to pursue their goals," Mr Geltch says.

The 16 2007 Australian Nuffield Scholars will leave Australia in either February or June 2008 for a compulsory Global Focus Program. This will involve travel to China, North America, South America and Europe investigating agricultural marketing and trade issues, environmental issues and experiencing the different social and cultural aspects of each region.

Following the initial six-week program, the scholars will go their individual ways to pursue specific study programs in the country or countries of their choice. Mr Finlayson hopes to travel to South Africa, Zimbabwe, the US and New Zealand.

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