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2006 SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS
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5 October 2007

Nuffield Scholarship for Narrogin grain grower

Grain grower Mark Graham from Narrogin, Western Australia, will tonight be awarded Australia's leading farming scholarship, a Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarship.

Mr Graham 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 Graham will use his scholarship, sponsored by the Grains Research and Development Corporation, to investigate the changing dynamics of the global energy market and its impact on Australian agriculture.

The fifth-generation farmer, who runs a 6000-hectare oat, hay, wheat, barley and canola enterprise and a meat and wool sheep flock, will explore how Europe, the US and Brazil have adopted alternative fuels such as biodiesel and ethanol and how this has affected the grain market in each country.

He will also study biomass energy production from crop residues, and how these industries could be established in Australia.

"By studying the changing energy market and how it relates to Australian farmers who are experiencing 'the revolution' occurring, I aim to outline risks and potential opportunities," he says.

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 Graham will travel to the UK, North America, South America, and Europe.

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