

# MEDIA RELEASE

4 February 2008

## Tour showcases innovation, global perspectives

Sheep genetics for improved carcass quality, wool and agricultural production in the global market and farm business structures are among topics to be discussed by Nuffield Scholars at the Nuffield Australia Autumn Tour, held later this month in the Goulburn Valley and north-east Victoria.

Some of Victoria's best farms will also be showcased during the four-day tour which will run from February 28 to March 2, visiting enterprises including the Darley horse stud and Brown Brothers winery, as well as turf, tomato, dairy, beef and mixed farming operations.

The annual tour's presentation day at the Moama Bowling Club on Friday 29 February will give returning Nuffield Scholars an opportunity to present their research on the latest farm practices.

Nuffield Australia awards scholarships each year to young Australian farmers. The recipients have the opportunity to increase their practical farming knowledge, management skills and techniques by studying overseas farming practices covering a range of agricultural sectors, from grains, meat and fibres, to horticulture and aquaculture, as well as emerging industries such as biofuels.

After travelling on a Nuffield Scholarship in 2007 to investigate farm business structures, Goulburn Valley dairy farmer Jamie Snell will be one of seven Nuffield scholars presenting at the Autumn Tour.

"The tour will offer a very good overview of leading farm enterprises in Victoria," said Mr Snell, who is also on the event's organising committee. "I think anyone taking part will be inspired by the attitude and approach of the people we visit, and will be able to take away some ideas they can apply to their own farm businesses.

"It will showcase best industry practices as well as different business structures including joint ventures, equity partnerships and succession planning for family farms," Mr Snell said.

The keynote speaker on the tour's presentation day will be Australian Farm Institute Chief Executive Officer Mick Keogh, who will address the future challenges and opportunities for Australian agriculture.

Recently selected Nuffield Scholars from Australia, the United Kingdom, France, Ireland, Canada, New Zealand, Germany, the USA and Brazil who are attending the third international Nuffield Contemporary Scholars Conference will join the Autumn Tour for several days, adding to the global perspective.

The cost of participating in the four-day tour is \$440. Cost for the presentation day only is \$50 including morning and afternoon tea and lunch, and \$30 to attend the social bowls night and dinner following the presentations, also at the Moama Bowling Club.

For more information about the Nuffield Australia Autumn Tour and a registration form visit [www.nuffield.com.au](http://www.nuffield.com.au).

**Further information:**

**Jim Geltch**  
CEO, Nuffield Australia  
T +61 (0)3 5480 0755  
M 0412 696 076

**Jamie Snell**  
Nuffield Scholar and Autumn Tour committee member  
T 03 5855 2336,  
M 0427 652 3364