



MEDIA RELEASE

2006 Nuffield Scholarship Applications Open

Fourteen outstanding primary producers from across Australia have the opportunity this year to be the recipients of Australia's most prestigious agricultural award - the Australian Nuffield Farming Scholarships, worth \$350,000.

The 2006 Nuffield Scholarship winners will join an elite group of over 1200 Scholars from around the world. Each scholarship is valued at \$25,000 and supported by leading Australian commodity and agribusiness organisations. The scholars also receive additional support through the pre tour briefings where they gain an appreciation of Australia's agri-political global agenda.

"The Australian Nuffield Farming Scholars Association provides a group of innovative young Australian farmers with scholarships to travel internationally to expand their personal horizons while exploring agricultural issues and opportunities in a global context," said Association Chairman, Peter Nixon.

"We are focussed on developing the practical, managerial and commercial capacities of each scholar to enable them to be better farmers and business managers and to make a significant contribution to the future of Australian agriculture," Mr Nixon said.

"The scholarships are awarded to men and women who are judged to have the greatest potential to create value for themselves, their industries and their communities through the doors which will be opened and the opportunities provided for life-long learning and improvement. The scholarships are awarded on the strength of the applicants' vision, enthusiasm and determination to pursue their farming goals."

"This year we are particularly keen to see applicants from the wool industry to fill the two positions made available through the support of Australian Wool Innovation."

Mr Nixon said many Nuffield Scholars had gone on to become active leaders in agriculture, industry and in the community, making valuable and significant contributions.

"For many, their scholarship experience has changed their lives by opening their eyes to the wider world and giving them the confidence to pursue their goals," he said.

The Nuffield Scholars will depart Australia in either February or June 2007 to join other scholars from around the world on the Global Focus Programme. This will involve six weeks in Australia and New Zealand, North America, China and Europe investigating agricultural marketing and trade issues, environmental issues and experiencing the different social and cultural aspects of each region.

They will meet with scholars from other countries including the UK, Ireland, Canada, Zimbabwe, New Zealand and France to exchange ideas and experiences, and join a network of people who are at the cutting edge of primary industry.

Following the initial six-week Global Focus Programme, the scholars will go their individual ways to pursue specific study programs in the country or countries of their choice.

In 2006 the following Scholarships will be awarded.

- A **grain grower** in northern New South Wales or Queensland, supported by GRDC
- A **grain grower** in southern New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia or Tasmania, supported by GRDC
- A **grain grower** in Western Australia, supported by GRDC
- A **grain grower** anywhere in Australia supported by ABB Grain Ltd
- A **rice grower** supported by the Rice Research Committee and the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation*
- Two **woolgrower scholarships** supported by Australian Wool Innovation
- A **livestock producer** supported by Meat and Livestock Australia
- A **primary producer** supported by Rabobank
- A **primary producer** supported by Landmark
- The Lady Southey Scholarship for a **primary producer** to study natural resource management supported by the Sidney Myer Fund
- A **primary producer** in Queensland supported by the Sylvia & Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation
- A **primary producer** in NSW supported by Incitec Pivot Limited
- A **dairy farmer** in Victoria supported by the Geoffrey Gardiner Dairy Foundation.

Applications must be received by June 30, 2006. Application forms are available from the Nuffield office on 02 6964 6600, email: enquiries@nuffield.com.au or website www.nuffield.com.au

The 2006 new scholars will be announced at the Australian Innovative Farming Conference in Melbourne, October 6 & 7, 2006. For further information on the Conference visit aifc.nuffield.com.au

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For more information on scholarship application and to arrange interviews contact:

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- **Peter Nixon, Association Chairman, phone 08 96516027 or 0419 047335**