

PO Box 586 Moama 2731
T +61 (0)3 5480 0755 F +61 (0)3 5480 0233
E enquiries@nuffield.com.au W www.nuffield.com.au
A.B.N. 33 092 327 396

2009 SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS

Australian Wool Innovation	Impact Fertilisers
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	Landmark
Estates of the late RC and EC Cappur Webb	Macquarie Agricultural Services
Geoffrey Gardiner Dairy Foundation	Meat & Livestock Australia
Grain Growers Association	Rabobank
Grains Research and Development Corporation	Rural Finance Corporation
Kondinin Group	Sidney Myer Fund

Friday 10 October 2008

EMBARGOED UNTIL 10AM, FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER 2008

Nuffield scholarship for Gilgandra's Stuart Barden

Grain grower Stuart Barden from Gilgandra, NSW, will be awarded Australia's leading farming scholarship, a Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarship.

Mr Barden is one of only 16 Australians to receive a 2009 Nuffield Scholarship. He will be presented with his award tonight at the Innovation in Australian Farming awards dinner in Hobart, part of the six-day Nuffield Australia Spring Tour being held in Tasmania.

Nuffield Farming Scholarships, each worth \$26,000, 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 Barden will use his scholarship, sponsored by the Grains Research and Development Corporation, to investigate grain growing in marginal and low rainfall areas and identify new or alternative methods or technologies to measure and improve water use.

Mr Barden and his wife, Annie, farm four properties in central-west NSW, growing 12,000 hectares of winter crops including wheat and chickpeas. All cropping is dryland, predominantly using no-till and controlled traffic systems.

"We need new ways of thinking about water use efficiency, and better ways of measuring it to identify practices that will improve grain growing in marginal areas," Mr Barden says. "The answers are out there, we just have to find them."

Mr Barden's aim is to produce better and more consistent yields, as well as improving water-use efficiency, through what he calls micro water harvesting.

"Using this approach I consider that no more than 50 per cent of my paddocks are actually planted and fertilised," Mr Barden says. "With wider rows we can capture rainfall from the remaining 50 per cent of the paddock to water the area planted, which can increase the effectiveness of 400mm of actual rainfall.

"We are adopting new practices and technologies, but I believe there is still room to improve."

Nuffield Australia CEO Mr Jim Geltch says many Nuffield Scholars go on to become active leaders in agriculture and the community, and sharing their research findings is an important part of the scholarship program.

"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 2009 Australian Nuffield Scholars will leave Australia in either February or June 2009 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 Barden hopes to travel to Israel, Africa, Mexico, India and Kazakhstan on his individual tour.

More information:

Stuart Barden, T 02 6847 9267, M 0428 473 776, E stuartbarden@bigpond.com
Nuffield CEO Jim Geltch T 03 5480 0755 M 0412 696 076, E jimgeltch@nuffield.com.au

A high-resolution photograph of Mr Barden can be downloaded from the link www.coretext.com.au/communications_images.php