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**2009 SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS**

Australian Wool Innovation	Impact Fertilisers
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Estates of the late RC and EC Cappur Webb	Macquarie Agricultural Services
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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 York grain grower

Grain grower Leon Ryan from York, Western Australia, will tonight be awarded Australia's leading farming scholarship, a Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarship.

Mr Ryan is one of only 16 Australians to receive a 2009 Nuffield Scholarship. He will be presented with his award tonight at the Innovative Farming Australia 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 Ryan will use his scholarship, sponsored by the Grains Research and Development Corporation, to investigate ways farmers can manage the increasing costs of production, study the factors driving demand for grains internationally and the potential for product substitution.

He will study future demand for staples such as cereals, oilseeds and pulses, the social impact of higher food prices, particularly in developing countries, and the price sensitivity of 'preferred' products, such as durum wheat for pasta.

Leon is manager of the family's 3000 hectare farming operation, in York, Western Australia, producing winter cereals, canola and pulses, and running a 1000 ewe breeding flock. The Ryans are also registered clover seed producers. Cropping is based on minimum till techniques, and the business is a member of the Greenhouse Challenge Plus Program to better manage on-farm energy use and emissions.

"Because we operate in a global environment my scholarship will allow me to take a first-hand analysis of factors influencing our business," he says.

"I want to investigate how price-elastic supply and demand is, and at what point one food becomes too expensive to either produce or consume, and is then substituted with another. There is increasing competition for farm inputs, and for productive land, and I hope to return with a better understanding of the long term drivers of this competition, and some new scenarios to help our business manage future production."

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 Ryan hopes to travel to China and India, the US, Canada and Argentina on his individual tour.

**More information:**

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A high-resolution photograph of Mr Ryan can be downloaded from the link [www.coretext.com.au/communications\\_images.php](http://www.coretext.com.au/communications_images.php)