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Friday 10 October 2008

EMBARGOED UNTIL 10AM, FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER

Nuffield Australia announces 2009 Scholarship winners

Sixteen outstanding primary producers from across Australia will tonight be named winners of Australia's most prestigious agricultural scholarship at a presentation ceremony in Hobart, Tasmania.

Nuffield Australia Chairman Mr David Brownhill will present the scholarships, worth \$416,000, at the Innovation in Australia Farming Conference, part of the Nuffield Spring Tour.

The 2009 Nuffield Farming Scholarship winners join an elite group of about 1300 scholars worldwide. The scholarships are valued at \$26,000 each and are supported by leading Australian primary producer and agribusiness organisations.

Mr Brownhill said the scholarships gave young Australian farmers the opportunity to travel internationally and explore agricultural issues and opportunities in a global context.

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

"A Nuffield scholarship can open doors, and provide opportunities, for life-long learning and self improvement. 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, and are awarded on the strength of the applicants' vision, ability and determination to pursue their farming goals."

Nuffield Australia CEO Mr Jim Geltch said many Nuffield Scholars had gone on to become active leaders in agriculture and the community.

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

The 16 Australian Nuffield Scholars 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.

They will meet with scholars from other countries including the UK, New Zealand, Ireland, Canada 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 program, the scholars will go their individual ways to pursue specific study programs in the country or countries of their choice.

A summary of the 2009 Nuffield Scholarship winners follows. High-resolution photographs of the 2009 Nuffield Scholars can be downloaded from www.coretext.com.au/communications_images.php

For more information:

Nuffield Chairman, David Brownhill, (02) 6747 3830, mobile 02 6747 3830, or gowrieoffice@bigpond.com

Nuffield CEO Jim Geltch (03) 5480 0755, mobile 0412 696 076, or jimgeltch@nuffield.com.au



The 2009 winners, their scholarships and proposed study programs are:



Stuart Barden, from Gilgandra, NSW, receives the 2009 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the Grains Research and Development Corporation for growers in the southern grains region.

He will study grain growing in marginal and low rainfall areas with the aim of producing better, and more consistent yields as well as improving water-use efficiency through micro water harvesting.

Stuart can be contacted on (02) 6847 9267, mobile 0428 473 776 or email stuartbarden@bigpond.com



Robert Bradley, from Longford, Tasmania, receives the 2009 Nuffield Scholarship sponsored by Rabobank.

He will study how to better manage crop, pasture and livestock rotations to improve farm profitability and sustainability.

Robert can be contacted on (03) 6391 2404, mobile 0418 276 634 or email robnjo4@bigpond.com.au



Julie Brien, from Greenethorpe, NSW, receives the 2009 Nuffield Scholarship supported by Meat & Livestock Australia.

She will study how sheep genetics and management strategies can increase lamb production from an existing ewe base.

Julie can be contacted on (02) 6343 6274, mobile 0428 436 274 or email juliebrien@activ8.net.au



Adam Butterworth, from Port Lincoln, South Australia, receives the 2009 scholarship sponsored by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.

He will study the integration of seaweed with commercial mollusc production to provide an on-site food source, complementing artificial feeds.

Adam can be contacted on (08) 8683 4662, mobile 0428 825 858 or email adam@saoysterhatchery.com.au



David Cussons, from Kojonup, Western Australia, receives the 2009 scholarship supported by Australian Wool Innovation.

He will study how agricultural industries can develop modern communication strategies to improve public perceptions of farming and agriculture in the media.

David can be contacted on (08) 9832 8194, mobile 0404 853 827, or email dcussons@hotmail.com



David Drage

David Drage from Warracknabeal, Victoria, receives the 2009 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the Estates of the late RC & EC Cappur Webb.

He will study the opportunities and challenges that emissions trading presents to broadacre farmers.

David can be contacted on (03) 5399 1247, mobile 0427 991 247, or email dndrage@bigpond.com



Thomas Frankcomb

Thomas Frankcomb from Ranelagh, Tasmania, receives the 2009 Nuffield Scholarship supported by Impact Fertilisers.

He will study opportunities to minimise chemical use in the production of hops, and potential markets among boutique brewers.

Thomas can be contacted on (03) 6264 1020, mobile 0413 542 052 or email thomas.taf@bigpond.com



James Hassall, from Gilgandra, NSW, receives the 2009 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the Grains Research and Development Corporation for growers in the northern grains region.

He will study the role of precision agriculture (PA) in the future of farming and the new technologies being developed to enhance PA.

James can be contacted on (02) 6848 8214, mobile 0428 488 214 or email j.hassall@bigpond.com



Jennifer Hawkins, from Finley, NSW, receives the 2009 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the Lady Southey Scholarship program for natural resource management, through the Sidney Myer Fund.

She will study emissions trading and methods for calculating greenhouse gas emissions and storage on-farm.

Jennifer can be contacted on (03) 5883 9423, mobile 0409 839 423 or email woolamia@bigpond.com



Ben Morris from Toongabbie, Victoria, receives the 2009 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the Rural Finance Corporation.

He will study methods for improving soils to produce higher yielding crops.

Ben can be contacted on (03) 5148 9077, mobile 0421 987 486 or email oakbank@wideband.net.au



Paul Mumford from Yarram, Victoria, receives the 2009 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the Geoffrey Gardiner Dairy Foundation.

Paul will study the costs and benefits of different dairy farming systems.

Paul can be contacted on (03) 5189 1391, mobile 0438 890 222 or email plmumford@bigpond.com.au



Evan Ryan from Yarrawonga, Victoria, receives the 2009 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the Grain Growers Association.

He will study the role of soil micronutrients in improving yields from broadacre cereal and oilseed production.

Evan can be contacted on (03) 5744 3661, mobile 0428 298 031 or email ev_ryan@hotmail.com



Leon Ryan, from York, Western Australia, receives the 2009 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the Grains Research and Development Corporation for growers in the western grain region.

He will study factors driving demand for grains and potential product substitutions.

Leon can be contacted on mobile 0407 185 004 or email ryanfarming@bigpond.com



Brendon Tierney from Walebing, Western Australia, will receive the 2009 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the Kondinin Group.

He will study the way capital is employed in farm businesses and whether there is a more efficient way to use this capital.

Brendon can be contacted on (08) 9651 1222, mobile 0427 681 574 or email Brendon@planfarm.com.au



Cameron Tubby from Morawa, Western Australia, will receive the 2009 Nuffield Scholarship supported by Landmark.

He will study innovative, sustainable and profitable alternative farming systems suited to Mediterranean and semi-arid climatic zones.

Cameron can be contacted on (08) 9972 2102, mobile 0428 722 102 or email ct.tubby@bigpond.com.au



Bruce Watson from Parkes, NSW, receives the 2009 Nuffield Scholarship supported by Macquarie Capital Products.

He will study the factors influencing grain prices and long-term price trends as well as reviewing risk management options for growers to better manage price volatility.

Bruce can be contacted on (02) 6853 8141, mobile 0408 464 776 or email watsonbk@westnet.com.au