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**2010 SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS**

Australian Dairy Conference	Horticulture Australia Limited
Australian Processing Tomato Growers	Landmark
Dairy Australia	Meat & Livestock Australia
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	Nuffield Australia Queensland Branch
Geoffrey Gardiner Dairy Foundation	Rabobank
Grain Growers Association	Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation
Grains Research and Development Corporation	Sidney Myer Fund

Friday 23 October 2009

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 10AM, FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER 2008**

## Nuffield Scholarship for shellfish producer

Tasmanian shellfish producer Ian Duthie will tonight be awarded a scholarship in Australia's leading research program for primary producers, the Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarship Program.

Mr Duthie is one of only 18 Australians to receive a 2010 Nuffield Scholarship. He will be presented with his scholarship tonight at the Innovation in Australian Farming Awards dinner at the Hawkesbury Race Club, which is part of the four-day Nuffield Australia Spring Tour being held in the NSW Hawkesbury region.

Nuffield Farming Scholarships, each worth \$27,000, give young Australian primary producers the opportunity to travel internationally and explore agricultural issues and opportunities in a global context. There are about 1400 Nuffield scholars worldwide.

Mr Duthie will use his scholarship, sponsored by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, to study shellfish cultivation techniques. He is currently hatchery manager for Spring Bay Seafoods Pty Ltd, an aquaculture company with 3000ha of marine leases off the east coast of Tasmania growing mussels and scallops. The company also processes and packages farmed abalone and oysters.

Mr Duthie believes that in addition to well-established farmed-oyster industry, there is significant potential for the farming of mussels, clams and scallops in Australia if technical issues related to hatchery cultivation and grow-out can be overcome.

"The maturity of the oyster industry, the emergence of mussel production and the untapped potential of clams and scallops offer a significant opportunity for the future of the Australian shellfish industry," Mr Duthie says. "There is strong market for clams already, although production is currently limited by the available fishery. But clam aquaculture is well-established across the US, Canada, Spain, Italy and the United Kingdom, and we could tap into that knowledge."

"I think the opportunity to look at what is happening internationally in the cultivation and marketing of shellfish will provide a fresh approach to traditional Australian industry perspectives," Mr Duthie says.

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," he says.

The 2010 Australian Nuffield Scholars will leave Australia in February, June or September 2010 for a compulsory Global Focus Program. This will involve travel to China, North America, South America, Middle East, India 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 Duthie plans to visit aquaculture operations and research facilities in the US, Canada, Spain, Italy, France, Netherlands and United Kingdom.

**More information:**

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