

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

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 Tintinara apiarist

South Australian apiarist Ben Hooper will tonight be awarded a scholarship in Australia's leading research program for primary producers, the Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarship Program.

Mr Hooper 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 Hooper will use his scholarship, sponsored by the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) Honeybee Research and Development Program, to study new apiculture techniques for hive and disease management.

Mr Hooper is self-employed, working in conjunction with his family's beekeeping business at Tintinara, in South Australia, which has 1200 hives managed for bulk honey production and, increasingly, for commercial pollination services.

"Bees become dormant in cold temperatures and I'm interested in chilling techniques to put hives into hibernation, a practice not currently used in Australia," Mr Hooper says. "It would let us put hives in storage and maintain bee numbers, which otherwise drop as bees compete with each other for scarce feed resources in winter – and even during drought.

"The technique also has the potential to help in the control of Varroa mite, which has decimated bee populations around the world. It is a major threat to all agricultural industries that rely on pollination for production. Australia is the only country free of the mite, and it is a matter of 'when', not 'if' it arrives. Gaining hands-on experiences with techniques that can help combat this mite will be invaluable," Mr Hooper 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 Hooper plans to visit the world's major honey production and research centres, in New Zealand, the US, Canada, Argentina and China.

More information:

Ben Hooper, T 08 8757 2477, M 0407 820 474, E hoopsbee@hotmail.com
Nuffield CEO Jim Geltch T 03 5480 0755 M 0412 696 076, E jimgeltch@nuffield.com.au
A high-resolution photograph of Mr Hooper can be downloaded from the link
www.coretext.com.au/communications_images.php