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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 2009

Nuffield Scholarship for Gippsland dairy farmer

Gippsland dairy farmer Graeme Nicoll will tonight be awarded a scholarship in Australia's leading research program for primary producers, the Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarship Program.

Mr Nicoll 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 Nicoll will use his scholarship, sponsored by the Geoffrey Gardiner Dairy Foundation, to study resilience in dairy production systems. He and wife Gillian own and operate a dairy business based on 240ha at Fish Creek in Gippsland, Victoria. They milk between 250 and 300 crossbred cows and also run a small beef herd.

"Variations in the social, economic or climatic conditions in which modern dairies operates can have a dramatic impact on these businesses," Mr Nicoll says. "Like many modern farming systems, while productive and efficient, they are very vulnerable to change.

"I would like to develop my understanding of the science of resilience and what can be done to improve the resilience of dairy systems in southern Victoria, which produce almost half of Australia's milk. I think a greater understanding of the processes driving change can help us develop farm systems that can cope with variation and remain strong and productive businesses," he 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 Nicoll plans to visit Canada and Sweden during his individual study tour.

More information:

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A high-resolution photograph of Mr Nicoll can be downloaded from the link

www.coretext.com.au/communications_images.php