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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 Traralgon grain grower

Gippsland grain grower Rowan Paulet will tonight be awarded a scholarship in Australia's leading research program for primary producers, the Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarship Program.

Mr Paulet 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 Paulet will use his scholarship, supported by the Grains Research and Development Corporation, to study the integration of livestock and cropping in high rainfall zones. He co-manages a mixed family-farm enterprise on 1600ha near Traralgon with his parents and brother. They run a 3000-head ewe flock consisting of self-replacing fine wool Merinos and first-cross ewes for prime lamb production. In addition they also run a 300-head beef herd and have a summer and winter cropping program that includes 90ha of spray and flood irrigation.

Mr Paulet will study how other countries have overcome issues related to cropping in high rainfall areas, and strategies for managing cultural change in farming communities like those in Gippsland, which are increasingly diversifying from grazing into mixed cropping and livestock systems.

"High grain prices and low returns for livestock are driving the change in traditional grazing areas to cropping," he says. "And although this has brought some challenges it has also reinvigorated many rural communities in southern Australia.

"I believe that with improved agronomic packages and further research and development, the sky is the limit for cropping in high rainfall zones."

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 Paulet plans to visit the United Kingdom, US, Canada and New Zealand on his individual study tour.

**More information:**

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