

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 2009

Nuffield Scholarship for Innisfail barramundi farmer

Innisfail barramundi producer Marty Phillips will tonight be awarded a scholarship in Australia's leading research program for primary producers, the Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarship Program.

Mr Phillips 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 Phillips will use his scholarship, supported by Nuffield Australia's Queensland branch, to research aquaculture production and marketing strategies. He operates his own aquaculture business at Innisfail farming barramundi, after diversifying the family farm business from sugarcane, banana and pawpaw production during the past decade. He now focuses solely on aquaculture, producing 200 tonnes of fish a year, with plans to expand.

He intends to study the fresh water trout industry in the US and quality salmon program in Scotland as part of his research into marketing and aquaculture production techniques. He will also look at water quality and flavour issues.

"Water quality is a very important factor in any aquaculture operation," Mr Phillips says. "But farming adjacent the Great Barrier Reef presents our industry with an even greater challenge because of the stringent environmental regulations in place to protect the reef. I plan to investigate farming systems developed overseas that use a bacterial floc instead of traditional algae systems to treat water, which reduces the need to exchange water in aquaculture ponds, and delivers a better outcome for the environment.

"I would also like to research how other aquaculture industries have overcome issues associated with muddy or off-flavours in fish. It is common to purge fish in fresh water, but this is logistically challenging in an extensive pond production system like the one we use, so I am hoping to find some alternatives."

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 Phillips plans to visit the US, United Kingdom, Europe, North America and New Zealand on his individual study tour.

More information:

Marty Phillips, T 07 4063 2344, M 0408 835 447, E marlinka@bigpond.com

Nuffield CEO Jim Geltch T 03 5480 0755 M 0412 696 076, E jimgeltch@nuffield.com.au

A high-resolution photograph of Mr Phillips can be downloaded from the link www.coretext.com.au/communications_images.php