

PO Box 586 Moama 2731  
T +61 (0)3 5480 0755 F +61 (0)3 5480 0233  
E [enquiries@nuffield.com.au](mailto:enquiries@nuffield.com.au) W [www.nuffield.com.au](http://www.nuffield.com.au)  
A.B.N. 33 092 327 396

**2010 SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS**

Australian Dairy Conference	Horticulture Australia Limited
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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 Narrabri grain grower

NSW grain and cotton grower Alan Redfern will tonight be awarded a scholarship in Australia's leading research program for primary producers, the Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarship Program.

Mr Redfern 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 Redfern will use his scholarship, supported by the Grain Growers Association, to research groundcover strategies to preserve moisture for cropping. Mr Redfern is a partner in a mixed farming business on 1600ha near Narrabri, in northwest NSW. He produces a range of irrigated summer and winter crops including cotton, cereals, oilseeds, legumes and forage crops and run a small self-replenishing beef herd.

"Soil moisture management will come to the fore like never before as we try to sustain agricultural production in a changing climate," Mr Redfern says. "I believe we need to amend our farming practices to be more aligned with the climatic conditions and water resource availability that we are currently experiencing – it's not just a case of waiting for the irrigation dams to fill again.

"I want to research how we can optimise the use of rainfall by better understanding the role crop stubbles play, particularly cereal stubbles, in helping to maintain moisture within the soil profile. I also plan to investigate different tillage techniques and the use of rotational crop sequences to reduce the need for applied fertilisers."

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 Redfern plans to visit Mexico, Sri Lanka, the US, Canada, Argentina, Brazil, China, United Kingdom, France, Germany and New Zealand on his study tour.

**More information:**

Alan Redfern M 0428 860 292, E [alawee8310@hotmail.com](mailto:alawee8310@hotmail.com)

Nuffield CEO Jim Geltch T 03 5480 0755 M 0412 696 076, E [jimgeltch@nuffield.com.au](mailto:jimgeltch@nuffield.com.au)

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