

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 Barooga tomato grower

Barooga tomato producer Brad Stillard will tonight be awarded a scholarship in Australia's leading research program for primary producers, the Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarship Program.

Mr Stillard 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 Stillard will use his scholarship, supported by Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL) using a voluntary contribution from the Australian Processing Tomato Growers and matched funds from the Australian Government, to research techniques used to overcome irrigating with saline water.

Mr Stillard is self-employed, managing an 800ha family farm in partnership with his father near Barooga, NSW, on the NSW-Victorian border. The business produces 3500 tonnes of processing tomatoes annually using drip irrigation, runs 100 to 150 head of beef cattle, and crops 400ha of winter cereals and oilseeds.

"We currently use bore water to irrigate tomatoes, but during the past five years sodium and chloride levels have increased. This has affected not only the tomatoes, but the rest of our rotation, including dryland wheat, barley and canola," Mr Stillard says.

"I have used nutrients and manures to overcome some of the complications of using salty bore water and I am looking forward to investigating how other parts of the world manage agricultural crops under adverse conditions, particularly irrigating with saline water and maintaining soil health. It is essential we find practical solutions to poor water quality while maintaining productivity and sustainability, in order to respond to the problem of diminishing water supplies."

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 Stillard plans to visit the US, Israel, Saudi Arabia, India, Italy, Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Spain and Turkey on his study tour.

More information:

Brad Stillard T 03 5873 4052, M 0427 733 052, E aingarth04@yahoo.com.au

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

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

www.coretext.com.au/communications_images.php