

2011 SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS

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Friday 22nd October, 2010

NEW NUFFIELD SCHOLAR AIMS TO BOOST SUMMER VEGETABLE PRODUCTION USING SHELTER CROPS

Andrew Dewar, from Clifton in Queensland, will tonight be awarded a prestigious Nuffield Scholarship supported by Woolworths.

Andrew is going to study summer vegetable production, including using shelter crops to manipulate the amount of daylight hours and heat units a crop receives, water management, labour savings through automation and nursery seedling production.

The Dewar family produces fresh vegetables for both the fresh market and for processing 12 months of the year on their farm south of Toowoomba. The vegetable business is in its infancy as they are only third year growers, having moved away from lucerne production to horticulture to ensure the long-term water and financial viability of the farm. The farm is 1000 acres, which is being developed in stages, and they produce approximately 200-250 acres of vegetables per annum.

He says "I am hoping to travel to the Salinas Valley in the US to look at the effects of day length and heat units on lettuce production, Israel to study water management, as well as Europe and China."

Nuffield Australia is an organisation which provides an opportunity to Australian farmers to travel overseas on an agricultural research scholarship. It is a 16-week program which consists of both group and individual travel. The next group will be travelling through New Zealand, North America, Brazil, Mexico and France in February-March 2011.

Andrew is available for interviews to talk about his planned study.

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A high-resolution photo of Andrew is available for download from nuffield.com.au/gallery.html