

## 2011 SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS

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Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2010

## **NEW NUFFIELD SCHOLAR SAYS FARMERS SHOULD CONNECT WITH THE PUBLIC THROUGH MORE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL INPUTS**

Michael Inwood, from Bathurst in NSW, will tonight be awarded a prestigious Nuffield Scholarship supported by the Sidney Myer Fund.

He believes agricultural inputs dictate sustainability, public perceptions of the industry and the potential for agriculture to meet the ever-increasing demands of world population growth, saying "I would like to investigate inputs that are in harmony with natural systems and, where possible, are inexpensive, low tech, abundant and replicable or self-replicating."

Michael is actively involved in managing 'Toulon', an 800 ha family farm at Glanmire, near Bathurst NSW. It is an environmentally sustainable superfine merino wool growing operation with some diversification into first cross lambs and cropping. They are also heavily involved in an on-farm natural resource management project called 'Toulon - Engaging Nature' which focuses on sustainable agriculture including the use of solar and renewable power.

He hopes to visit Europe, Brazil, China, India and the USA to gain a much broader perspective and world-view of sustainable agricultural production.

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.

Michael's sponsor, the Sidney Myer Fund is 76 years old and was established in 1934 on the death of Sidney Myer. The Fund makes grants across a wide range of interests reflecting Sidney Myer's own interests in his lifetime.

CEO of the Sidney Myer Fund, Christine Edwards, says "the Nuffield scholarships give us a very real opportunity to get behind great ideas and great people - these two together have always been, and continue to be, the backbone of innovation and development."

She added "the scholarships are relevant to many pressing environmental and agricultural issues in Australia. We believe that the investment of our grant money provides a great return and enormous potential for leveraged impact."

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

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A high-resolution photo of Michael is available for download from [nuffield.com.au/gallery.html](http://nuffield.com.au/gallery.html)