

MEDIA RELEASE

OCTOBER 3, 2003

Nuffield Scholarship winners announced

A record number of eleven outstanding primary producers from across Australia were today named winners of Australia's most prestigious agricultural award, at a presentation ceremony in Melbourne, Victoria.

The Australian Nuffield Farmers Scholars Association presented scholarships worth a total of more than \$230,000, following a rigorous selection process.

The 2003 Nuffield Scholarship winners join an elite group of about 1100 scholars from around the world. Each scholarship is valued at \$21,000 and supported by leading Australian primary producer and agribusiness organisations.

"The Australian Nuffield Farming Scholars Association provides a select group of young Australian farmers with scholarships to travel internationally to expand their personal horizons while exploring agricultural issues and opportunities in a global context," said Association chairman Brendon Smart.

"We are focussed on developing the practical, managerial and commercial capacities of each scholar to enable them to be better farmers and to make a significant contribution to the future of Australian agriculture," Mr Smart said.

"The scholarships are awarded to men and women who are judged to have the greatest potential to create value for themselves, their industries and their communities through the doors which will be opened and the opportunities provided for life-long learning and improvement. The scholarships are awarded on the strength of the applicants' vision, enthusiasm and determination to pursue their farming goals."

Mr Smart said many Nuffield Scholars had gone on to become active leaders in agriculture and in the community, making valuable and significant contributions.

"For many, their scholarship experience has changed their lives by opening their eyes to the wider world and giving them the confidence to pursue their goals," he said.

The Nuffield Scholars will depart Australia in either February or June 2004 to join other scholars from around the world in a compulsory group study program. This will involve two weeks in Australasia, two weeks in North America and two weeks in Europe investigating agricultural marketing and trade issues, environmental issues and experiencing the different social and cultural aspects of each region.

They will meet with scholars from other countries including the UK, Ireland, Canada, Zimbabwe and France to exchange ideas and experiences, and join a network of people who are at the cutting edge of primary industry.

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.

The 2003 winners, their scholarships and proposed study programs are:

Brent Alexander, Lockhart, NSW - awarded the scholarship for a grain grower in NSW or QLD, sponsored by GRDC, to study balancing soil nutrients and the subsequent fertiliser management associated with it.

Peter Draper, Leeton, NSW - awarded the scholarship for an established industry, sponsored by RIRDC, to study optimising winter pulse crops under irrigation.

Jim Friend, Walgett, NSW - awarded the scholarship for a primary producer anywhere in Australia, sponsored by Landmark, to study the science of Feed-lotting for the Domestic, Export and Specialty trade markets.

Anthony Hamilton, Forbes, NSW - awarded the scholarship for a primary producer in NSW, sponsored by Gresham Partners and Incitec (NSW Scholarship), to study embracing change via diversification and switching to high value crops, namely dry bean crops, jojobas and irrigation technology.

Sandra Kirk, Farnsfield Via Childers, QLD - awarded the scholarship for a fruit or vegetable grower, sponsored by Horticulture Australia, to study profitable sugar cane and small crops - specifically biological tomatoes and passionfruit.

Michael McKellar, Via Morven, QLD - awarded the scholarship for a primary producer in QLD, sponsored by Sylvia & Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation (QLD Scholarship), to study water medication and water quality and how it can influence animal performance.

Charlie Hilton, Bordertown, SA - awarded the scholarship for a grain grower in Vic, SA or Tas, sponsored by GRDC, to study sustainable agriculture with a balanced living soil.

Steven Jaeschke, Keith, SA - awarded the scholarship for a livestock producer, sponsored by MLA, to study sandy soil rehabilitation with particular emphasis on claying and the likely potential of this process.

Paul Bethune, Lake Boga, VIC - awarded the scholarship for a primary producer anywhere in Australia, sponsored by RABOBANK, to study soil nutrient management in saline and sodic soils, maintaining high margins over feed costs and communication within and around the dairy industry.

Steven Hobbs, Kaniva, VIC - awarded the scholarship for a new & emerging enterprise, sponsored by RIRDC, to study biofuels in particular pure plant oil, biodiesel and ethanol, and the how to develop a transportable model for decentralised energy production that could be used anywhere and established at a reasonable cost.

Phil Longmire, Esperence, WA - awarded the scholarship for a grain grower in Western Australia, sponsored by GRDC, to study specific site management through integration and implementation of precision technology.

ENDS

For more information and to arrange interviews contact:

- Bryan Clark, Australian Nuffield Farming Scholars Association chief executive officer, phone 02 6963 0815 or 0428 645 232;
- Brendon Smart, Association Chairman, phone 08 85525521 or 0417 820 301;

Or the individual scholarship winners:

Name	Surname	Sponsor	Email/Fax	Phone	Town		Study
Brent	Alexander	GRDC	annesley1@bigpond.com	02 69206215	Lockhart	NSW	balancing soil nutrients and the subsequent fertiliser management associated with it.
Peter	Draper	RIRDC	willowpark@bigpond.com	02 6955 6436	LEETON	NSW	optimising winter pulse crops under irrigation.
Jim	Friend	Landmark	j_friend_talbarear@bigpond.com	02 6828 1920	Walgett	NSW	the science of Feed-lotting for the Domestic, Export and Specialty trade markets.
Anthony	Hamilton	Gresham Partners/Incitec (NSW Scholarship)	warili@westserv.net.au	02 6856 3173	Forbes	NSW	embracing change via diversification and switching to high value crops, namely dry bean crops, jojobas and irrigation technology.
Sandra	Kirk	Horticulture Australia	skkirk@hotmail.com	07 4126 9142	Farnsfield Via Childers	QLD	profitable sugar cane and small crops - specifically organic tomatoes and passionfruit.
Michael	McKellar	Sylvia & Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation (QLD Scholarship)	bookastn@bigpond.com	07 4654 9142	Via Morven	QLD	water medication and water quality and how it can influence animal performance.
Charlie	Hilton	GRDC	carousel@lm.net.au	08 8754 6012	Bordertown	SA	sustainable agriculture with a balanced living soil.
Steven	Jaeschke	MLA	jetskis@lm.net.au	08 8756 4256	Keith	SA	sandy soil rehabilitation with particular emphasis on claying and the likely potential of this process.
Paul	Bethune	RABOBANK	bethune@swanhill.net.au	03 5037 2898	Lake Boga	VIC	soil nutrient management in saline and sodic soils, maintaining high margins over feed costs and communication within and around the dairy industry.
Steven	Hobbs	RIRDC	shobbs@wimmera.com.au	03 5392 2823	Kaniva	VIC	biofuels in particular pure plant oil, biodiesel and ethanol, and the how to develop a transportable model for decentralised energy production that could be used anywhere and established at a reasonable cost.
Phil	Longmire	GRDC	PBLong@bigpond.com	08 9078 7054	Esperence	WA	specific site management through integration and implementation of precision technology.