

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SCHOLAR WINS "Great Arts Award"

John Gladigau, 2007 Nuffield Scholar from Loxton, was awarded the SA Great Arts Award in 2006. Like all our farmers, John hides his light under a bushel and report of the award has only just come to our notice. When asked about the Award John modestly responded with the following:

"The SA Great Award is a bit of a long story, and has no link to my Nuffield. I have always been very actively involved with the Lutheran Church of Australia, and also have a bit of a creative flair for writing and drama. In 1999 I wrote a Christmas Production which we held in our local Lutheran church in Loxton called "Little Town", which has exploded into a major community event and tourist icon for our town. The productions now involve over 120 people and have a lot of humour and incorporate local current events and issues to keep it fresh. The 2007 version was performed 14 times in Loxton to about 4000 people, and Little Town has now been seen by over 25 000 people since its humble beginnings in 1999. We have had up to 20 coaches a year from as far away as Adelaide, Barossa Valley, Mildura and Horsham come to Loxton to see it. It has also spawned a novel (which I wrote in 2002), several DVD's and other opportunities leading forward. In January this year, as a result of Little Town, I was (totally out of the blue) invited to the USA to write some plays for a US church organisation, and meet people involved in large scale productions, animation and even movies. I have to say that after clocking up about 80 000 air miles with Nuffield travel, a third flight to the USA in 9 months didn't greatly excite me but the opportunity was too great to pass up. We are not quite sure what it all means yet – but who knows!

I received the SA Great Arts Award totally unexpectedly in December 2006 (about 2 months after receiving my Nuffield in Melbourne) for my involvement in Little Town and the spin off effects locally on tourism and the local community. The irony of winning it when I did was that we had made the decision to have a 12 month break from the production to allow me to fully concentrate on my Nuffield, and as such never really capitalised on the mountain of free publicity and goodwill the award provided! However – it's not a bad thing to have on the resume, and has certainly given us a higher profile within the state which has been great. It also meant that over the past 18 months I have been saturated in the local media due to Nuffield, Little Town and the SA Great Award, which has meant a lot of cross promotion opportunities for Nuffield, which I guess is good.

I presume the Border Times article was about a speaking engagement in Lameroo. ABB are taking me around for a series of meetings, and I expect that these will be the last of my obligation to them. As you know, they have been very supportive of me and hopefully have had good value from their sponsorship. I think all up I have done about 20 -30 speaking engagements on my Nuffield, with about another 8 over the next 2-3 months. It's been a part of Nuffield I have really enjoyed, though I am certainly looking forward to it slowing down a bit.

I probably should have told you also that I received a request for my Nuffield report to be made available on the UK website of the English Food and Farming Partnerships (EFFP). The website is as follows: <http://www.effp.com/x2226.xml> . I hope that is okay. As you will see they have certainly referenced Nuffield Australia on the site. Apparently other UK ag websites are also providing links to the report on the EFFP page.

Despite the ridiculously busy life of a returned scholar, we are also starting to make significant progress towards setting up our first collaborative farming cell locally, and hope to have it operational for the next cropping year. I am also working with a number of key people to set up a consultative / service company to facilitate the replication of the model once we have the structures successfully in place. So it's an exciting time, and there's certainly plenty to think about!"

11th July 2008