

A GRDC funded grower driven project that focuses on facilitating professional development activities for farming businesses.

2.09

Grains Industry Scholarship

NSW Partners in Grain congratulate Philip Davis, a third year Bachelor of Agriculture student at the University of New England, on being awarded our 2009 Grains Industry Scholarship. Philip's family have a wheat and cattle property at Narrabri. We welcome Philip also as a member of our reference group and thank him for the valuable contribution he is making to our group.

Nuffield Scholarship Travels Continue

NSW PinG wishes our former Chairman, Bruce Watson, well as he leaves this week on the second stage of his Nuffield Scholarship study.

In February this year, Bruce departed Australia on a six week compulsory Global Focus Program which included travel with both Australian and international scholars to New Zealand, UK, France, Belgium, Mexico, Brazil, Canada, and the United States of America. During this time the scholars visited various international industry bodies, politicians, bureaucrats, and diverse agricultural businesses (including dairy, broad acre cropping, horticulture and poultry).

During the second portion of his study program he will travel individually from other scholars to pursue areas specific to his nominated topic. Bruce, accompanied by his wife Karina will travel for up to 13 weeks through China, the United States of America, Canada, UK, Wales, France and Singapore. Bruce will return home in September to present his findings at the Nuffield Spring Tour in Sydney in October.

Bruce's project is divided into two components.

Firstly he is researching and seeking to understand the reasons behind the recent significant increases in global grain prices. The aim is to ascertain if this increase will be a short, one-off spike with prices reverting to previous levels, or alternatively, whether they will be "stronger for longer", something that has been witnessed in the hard commodities. In particular, I would like to examine the fundamental supply and demand issues behind the grain market in addition to the impact of biofuels and the role of speculation in commodity futures markets.

The second component is an examination of current risk management options for grain growers to market their crop both pre and post harvest. In particular, given the significant volatility in both production and grain prices that has been experienced by many grain growers in Australia over the 2006 and 2007 harvest, he would like to identify low risk forward selling alternatives.

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", Mr Geltch says.

Applications for the 2010 Nuffield Scholarships are now open. More information about the scholarship program and application forms may be found on the Nuffield Australia website (www.nuffield.com.au) or can be obtained by contacting Bruce directly (watson.woodbine@gmail.com). Applications close 30th June 2009.

For those who may be interested in following Bruce's travels and research, updates can be found at <http://www.watsonbk.blogspot.com>.

Office Meltdown

Our Office Meltdown workshops were a huge hit. Thanks to all of those who participated.

We travelled for six days to present the office workshops at Forbes, Temora, Lockhart, Griffith, Holbrook and Corowa and had 128 people attend.

Some of the comments received from participants included:

"Relevant workshops for today's farming business" *"Very interesting and most enjoyable, learnt lots"*

"Full of take home messages – practical" *"Informative day with lots of tips and ideas"*

Office Meltdown is now approved under Farm Ready. We plan to hold more workshops in early 2010. Please let us know if you would like one of these workshops in your area.

AusScan Forum

New NIR calibration technology developed through the Premium Grains for Livestock Program has the potential to provide great benefits for grain growers. It enables them to meet the market's demand for grain for livestock and also opens the door to the possibility of payment based on energy value.

NSW Partners in Grain were invited by the Premium Grains for Livestock Program to contribute a grower perspective to the AusScan forum, "NIR technology for valuing and trading feed grains". The new technology, which evaluates the nutritional value of grains, has been developed by the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) and Pork CRC.

The forum was held in Melbourne on March 24, 2009 and included representatives from the livestock and feed industries as well as researchers and providers of NIR technology and feed testing services.

The forum was opened by Peter Reading (GRDC) and Roger Campbell (Pork CRC) and included speakers from Ingham Enterprises, CHM Group (pig industry), Dairy Australia, Australian Crop Forecasters (Ron Storey), Feed Central, Better Blend Stockfeeds and Longreach Plant Breeders. Pam Krieg, Coordinator of NSW Partners in Grain made a presentation on behalf of grain growers.

Licenses have already been provided to several grain handlers, stockfeed manufacturers, livestock integrators and feed testing laboratories to use the new NIR calibrations which provide a basis for the rational trading of feed grains. Rather than trading grains on the basis of protein content, test weight and screenings content the new calibrations for trading grains for livestock are based on measures of the energy value of the grain for each animal type. The commercialisation of these NIR calibrations and their adoption by the feed industry have the capacity to offer a win/win for grain growers and livestock producers.

Further information about the current availability and use of the NIR feed calibrations can be obtained from John Spragg, AusScan project manager at jspragg1@optusnet.com.au.

Credit Card Payments

We are now set up to take credit card payments for all of our events. Credit card details will need to be entered onto your registration form. Website payments will not be available.

Plans for 2009

- **August - On Farm Grain Testing** – a practical workshop offering training in grain sampling and testing for grain you wish to store on farm
These workshops will be held from August 10 -14 at the following venues – Coonamble, Trangie, Parkes, Temora and Lockhart.
Further details and registration forms will be available on our website soon.
- **September - Grain Marketing Forums** - a comprehensive preharvest planning forum
Malcolm Bartholomaeus will again be presenting our grain marketing forums.
Some venues are still being finalized. We will be in northern NSW in the week beginning September 7 and in southern NSW the week beginning September 14
Further details and registration forms will be available on our website soon

Contact us if you would like any of these events held in your area.

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