



NEWS FROM THE TASMANIAN INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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TIA team member wins prestigious scholarship

The Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture's (TIA) Thomas Snare has been awarded the \$30,000 2015 Nuffield Australia Dairy Producer Farming Scholarship.

Mr Snare formally accepted the award at a ceremony held last night at the Nuffield Australia National Conference in Launceston.

TIA is a joint venture of the University of Tasmania and the State Government. TIA's Director, Professor Holger Meinke, said the institute was delighted to have the hard work and dedication of one of its team recognised through the prestigious scholarship award.

"We offer our warmest congratulations to Thomas for this fantastic achievement. His innovative approach to farm management will make the difference in Tasmanian agriculture into the future," Professor Meinke said.

Mr Snare manages the farm at TIA's Dairy Research Facility and is involved in his own family farming business.

The scholarship recognises work within the dairy industry and is supported by Dairy Australia.

Mr Snare will use the scholarship to combine his two passions – value adding in the dairy beef industry and researching how lean management systems can be applied in agriculture.

He said the scholarship came at the perfect time and it would allow him to capitalise on the massive potential for the dairy beef industry in Tasmania.

"The dairy industry is one of the shining lights in Tasmanian agriculture and there is a lot of potential to value add to this growing industry," he said.

Mr Snare said the scholarship would expose him to different people from a range of backgrounds and he was particularly interested in lean management systems, such as that developed by the Toyota Motor Corporation, which sought best practice and continuous improvement.

"I see this as a great opportunity to learn from best practice operators around the world now and into the future, then have a go at this with the aim of reducing the number of mistakes we make," Mr Snare said.

Mr Snare said he recognised the opportunities he had been given and that he had also created opportunities for himself, such as researching and preparing his Nuffield Scholarship application.

"I want to learn and learn fast, and this is a really good opportunity for me to make a difference, or make a change for the good in Tasmania," he said.

"I am very thankful for being selected by Nuffield to receive this scholarship and to Dairy Australia for the investment that they have made in me."

Mr Snare was raised on a farm on the North West coast, which is where his love of farming developed. It was while studying at the University of Tasmania that he became interested in dairy beef and its potential as a growth industry.

"I was in second year at university and we visited Woolnorth, where I was introduced to TechnoGrazing and that was that, it was the only thing I was interested in from then on," he said.

After graduating from the University of Tasmania, he moved to New Zealand, where he worked for Kiwitech International before returning to Tasmania in 2011.

Nuffield Australia scholarships are awarded to men and women in agriculture who demonstrate drive in their chosen field and a capacity to learn and integrate new ideas and methodologies into their farming practices.

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