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Rural industry scholarship in agriculture : Final report of the Grains Research & Development Corporation for the Grain Research Committee of WA

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**Final Report of the Grains Research
& Development Corporation
for the
Grain Research Committee of WA**

'Rural industry scholarship in agriculture'

Project DAW 40W

John Allen

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August 1998

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GRDC Final Report Covering Page

A Final Report prepared for the Grains Research and Development Corporation

Enter the Project number.

Please refer to Section 2 of the GRDC *Research Prospectus* for details of Subprograms

Does this report contain Commercial-in-Confidence information 'Yes' or 'No'.

This covering page should be attached to the Final Report.

Please refer to the GRDC *Research Prospectus* to complete the remainder of this form.

Project No.	DAW 40W
Subprogram No.	
Commercial-in-Confidence	
Region Code	
Crop Code	

Project Title	Rural Industry Scholarships in Agriculture		
Organisation	:Agriculture Western Australia		
ACN No. or legal name	:		
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Position	:Manager, Scientific Services		
Time allotted to project (%)	:N/A		
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Location of research work	:Perth		
Commencement date	:1/7/87	Completion date: 30/6/97	No. of Years: 10

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF RESULTS

In 1986 the Western Australian Government established an undergraduate scholarship in agricultural science

The scholarship was introduced to attract high calibre students into agricultural science as an alternative to highly rewarded professions such as medicine, law and commerce

The State Wheat Industry Research Committee and Barley Industry Research Committee subsequently provided funding to support the scholarship. In 1992 the Grains Research and Development Corporation agreed to ongoing funding on behalf of the Grain Industries.

Undergraduate scholarships in agriculture were awarded to high calibre students in the years 1988, 1989, 1990, 1992, 1993 and 1994.

The scholarship scheme has been replaced by a Primary Industry Bursary offered as part of an integrated package for recruitment of secondary school students run jointly by The University of Western Australia and Muresk Institute of Agriculture

MILESTONE SUMMARY

Have contracted milestones been met?

Yes

Comments: The scholarship met the original aims however it has been replaced by a scheme which is better targeted at attracting secondary school students to agricultural science

Supervisor's signature:

 JOHN ALLEN

Date:

12/8/98

BACKGROUND

In 1986 the Western Australian Government introduced an undergraduate scholarship in agricultural science with emphasis on horticulture.

The rationale for the scholarship was described as follows:

‘Western Australian agricultural and horticultural industries are vitally important to our economy and to remain competitive in international markets it is essential to support them with competent research and information services. Currently most students with superior TAE aggregates are entering the highly rewarded professions such as medicine, law and commerce. The existence of this scholarship would encourage some excellent students to undertake courses in agriculture or horticulture. An additional attraction would be that successful scholarship holders could be guaranteed, but not bound to, positions in Agriculture Western Australia on graduation’.

The first scholarship was awarded in 1987 to a student in horticultural science.

The Director of Agriculture in consultation with industry and tertiary institutions confirmed that the scholarship would be awarded on a four year cycle; three years in agricultural science and the fourth year in horticultural science.

Students received an annual grant of \$6,000 indexed to CPI, subject to them performing satisfactorily in their studies. Agriculture Western Australia provided them with summer vacation work experience.

Grain industry support was subsequently provided by the State Wheat Industry Research Committee (SWIRC), the Western Australian Barley Industry Research Committee (WABIRC) and the Grain Research Committee of Western Australia (GRC), for the agricultural science scholarships.

The scholarship scheme was reviewed by the Western Australian Government in 1988 and agreed that it continue.

The Grains Research and Development Corporation supported the scholarship in the period 1992/93 to 1997/98.

Scholarships were awarded in agricultural science in 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1992, 1993 and 1994. In the latter three years the scholarship was awarded under a joint selection arrangement with the Soil Fertility Trust Fund Undergraduate Scholarship.

The scheme was reviewed by Agriculture Western Australia in 1995. It was terminated in that year and replaced by a Primary Industry Bursary.

The Primary Industry Bursary was offered as part of a joint University of Western Australia/Muresk Institute of Agriculture package. The integrated package placed greater emphasis on recruitment of secondary school students earlier to coincide with their selection of Year 11 and Year 12 subjects.

RESULTS

The Rural Industry Scholarship was awarded to the following high calibre students based on TEE results and interview:

1988	N. Murphy;
1989	R. Morgan;
1990	P. Barrett-Lennard;
1992	R. Smith;
1993	F. Shallcross;
1994	S. Gallagher.

Mr Noel Murphy attained high grades throughout his undergraduate studies.

He completed a PhD 'Characterising resistance to Septoria nodorum blotch in Triticum tauschii'.

Noel is currently employed on a GRDC supported project 'Accessing international germplasm for resistance to Septoria nodorum blotch'.

Mr Richard Morgan tragically died as the result of an accident in 1992.

Mr Philip Barrett-Lennard completed his undergraduate studies achieving second class honours in agricultural science. He is currently employed as a Development Officer with Agriculture Western Australia.

Ms Rachel Smith attained high grades throughout her undergraduate studies. She completed a fourth year project comparing the effect of lupins and canola meal on the development of immunity to gastro-intestinal worms in weaner sheep. Rachel is currently completing a PhD on carbohydrate metabolism of wool follicles.

Ms Fiona Shallcross attained high grades throughout her undergraduate studies.

Fiona is currently employed as a Development Officer with Agriculture Western Australia at Katanning. Fiona has responsibility for coordination of Crop Variety Testing in the Great Southern Region.

Mr Stuart Gallagher attained high grades throughout his undergraduate studies and has commenced work as a Development Officer with Agriculture Western Australia.

SUMMARY

The Rural Industry Scholarship was introduced to attract high calibre secondary school students to agricultural science. Students with TEE scores in excess of 400 were awarded Scholarships in the period 1988 to 1994. The students performed well in their tertiary studies and are now employed in various roles in support of agriculture in Western Australia.

The Scheme has been replaced by a Primary Industry Bursary funded by Agriculture Western Australia as part of a joint universities agricultural scientist recruitment package.

ATTACHMENT

Rural Industry Scholarship in Agriculture - Funding.

**RURAL INDUSTRY SCHOLARSHIP IN AGRICULTURE
FUNDING**

	Agriculture WA \$	SWIRC \$	BIRC \$	GRC \$	GRDC \$	TOTAL \$
1987/88	5,794					5,794
1988/89	9,113	1,500	1,500	3,000		15,113
1989/90	18,432	1,500	1,500	3,000		24,432
1990/91	18,957	3,000	3,000	3,000		27,957
1991/92	14,889	3,500	3,500	3,500		25,389
1992/93	14,625			3,500	7,000	25,125
1993/94	15,650			3,500	7,000	26,150
1994/95	18,150			3,500	7,000	28,650
1995/96	12,125			3,500	7,000	22,625
1996/97	2,575			3,500	7,000	13,075
1997/98	25				3,500	3,525
TOTAL	\$130,335	\$9,500	\$9,500	\$30,000	\$38,500	\$217,835