



FELICITY PRITCHARD
Oilseed Industry Development Officer –
Victoria and southern New South Wales
Irrigated Cropping Forum
110 Natimuk Road, Horsham, Vic 3401
Ph: (03) 5382 4396 or 0427 600 228

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OILSEEDS NEWS

GROWER GOES GLOBAL TO LEARN ABOUT CANOLA

A Central Victorian canola grower will travel to the other side of the globe this week to learn more about best management practices for canola production and the pros and cons of genetically modified (GM) canola.

Andrew Broad and his wife Rachel, farmers from Newbridge near Bendigo, are setting off later this week to Canada, the USA and Europe to rub shoulders with scientists, growers, marketers and lobbyists as part of Mr Broad's Nuffield Scholarship.



Sharing knowledge: Nuffield scholar Andrew Broad on his last trip to Canada, at the Monsanto canola research laboratory in Winnipeg.

Whilst in Canada he will meet with plant breeders who are undertaking innovative research into developing drought tolerant canola. Mr Broad said he will also meet with Monsanto canola breeder Greg Buzza, who has bred canola that has half the nitrogen requirement of

current canola varieties, without suffering yield loss.

Mr Broad will also meet with anti-GM lobbyist, Percy Schmeiser to hear his viewpoint, as well as other canola growers to learn from their experiences with GM canola.

“I would like to find out if Canadian growers and researchers would turn back the clock on GM canola if they had the chance,” said Mr Broad.

Mr Broad is keeping an open-mind and is keen to pass on his new-found knowledge to grower groups upon his return, and said he is keen to create more informed debate on the topic of GM canola.

A meeting with the Canadian Wheat Board is on the agenda, to discuss the co-existence of canola and marketing implications of canola in wheat shipments.

They will then head to Cambridge to meet with more growers to see how they successfully manage the co-existence of canola and industrial rapeseed.

Mr Broad will present his learnings in October to the Australian Innovative Farming Conference in Melbourne. His trip is funded by Nuffield and the Grains Research and Development Corporation.

Attached photo: P4280705.JPG. Caption: Sharing knowledge: Nuffield scholar Andrew Broad on his last trip to Canada, at Monsanto canola research laboratory in Winnipeg.

For more information, contact Andrew Broad on 0428 373 136 before Friday 29 July.
