



# Wellard

MEDIA RELEASE  
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## Top student swaps text books to Wellard Agri spray rigs

One of WA's top students in 2009 begins work at Wellard Agri next month.

Cunderdin Agricultural College student Andrew Reynolds was named as Western Australia's top Vocational Student in early January, an accolade which earned him the Beazley Medal and attracted considerable state-wide media interest in the York farmer.

In addition to the Beazley Medal, he was also awarded course exhibitions and certificates of distinction for animal production and marketing, plant production and marketing and won a certificate of excellence.

It was the skills and passion Andrew displayed to win the award which prompted Wellard to offer Andrew a position as a Farm Assistant at Watheroo in October last year. After noting Wellard's progression from a leading livestock exporter into broadacre farming, Andrew had focussed on Wellard Agri for a school project. Discussions progressed, and Wellard offered him employment at the completion of his studies.

After finishing harvesting the 2009 crop, Andrew will begin work with Wellard Agri on February 1.

At Wellard, Andrew will be able to develop his broadacre cropping and livestock skills as well as providing added youth and enthusiasm to the Wellard Agri team.

Wellard Agri Managing Director Tim Macnamara said Andrew had completed a school project on Wellard in his final year, and the attention to detail and desire to succeed he displayed throughout that process had prompted Wellard to offer him to join the Wellard Agri team

"Andrew will be a tremendous resource for Wellard at Watheroo but will also be able to develop his own agronomy and operations skills by learning from both our skilled farm managers at Watheroo and the technology Wellard Agri is employing to improve its yields and returns from its broadacre farming operations," he said.

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### **Background – Wellard Rural and Trading**

Wellard Rural and Trading is the Wellard Group's agriculture and international trade division.

Its two largest subsidiaries are, Wellard Rural Exports, Australia's largest livestock exporter and ship owner, and Wellard Agri, a mixed farming land owner and operator specialising in the production of grains, legumes and livestock.

Wellard Rural Exports has supplied quality Australian dairy and beef cattle and sheep and goats to the world for 30 years, and its investment in the live export industry is without peer. Based in Fremantle, the company's operations cover every aspect of the export chain, including feed milling, road transport, feedlot facilities throughout Australia and modern shipping.

The company's flagship carrier, the MV Ocean Drover (formerly the MV Becrux), is a purpose-built livestock carrier capable of carrying 75,000 sheep or 18,000 cattle from Australia to major markets around the globe. She was commissioned in 2002.

Its other vessel, the MV Ocean Shearer (former the MV Stella Deneb) can carry 125,000 sheep or 23,000 cattle, or a combination of both.

Two new vessels, the MV Ocean Swagman and the MV Ocean Outback, are due for launch in 2010. In August 2008 Wellard and Siba Ships announced a US\$250 million contract to build an additional two new livestock vessels which will be able to carry 17,000 cattle or 70,000 sheep or a combination of the two.

Wellard Agri owns and operates seven farms across two agri-hubs, one located at Watheroo in Western Australia's central midlands and one located at Kojonup in the Great Southern region of WA.

Its total landholding is more than 18,000 hectares, of which 14,000 hectares is cropped to a variety of grains and legumes. The remaining land is devoted to sheep production, including the famous Hyfield Poll Merino stud at Kojonup.

In November 2009, Wellard Agri announced it was entering the farm machinery sector, when it commenced management of the CLAAS Harvest Centre at Katanning for the Landpower range of farm machinery.

For more information visit: [www.wellard.com.au](http://www.wellard.com.au)