



MEDIA RELEASE
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Hawera student grows closer to career in horticulture

Watching grass grow is not everyone's idea of a good time. But tell that to Hawera student, Matthew Nicholas, who has just won a \$2,500 scholarship courtesy of industry association Agcarm to help with his university studies.

Matthew (21) is studying towards a Bachelor of Agriscience majoring in horticulture at Massey University. He won the scholarship last month after submitting an application in the hope it would help fund his living and study costs.

"This will really help...I'm very grateful to Agcarm," He said.

The Hawera local credits his scholarship success to his love for vegetables and has even convinced his flatmates to get involved.

"My flat used to have a small two metre square vegetable garden, where we'd plant and harvest herbs and silverbeet for flat dinners. However, study soon took over and left the vege garden in second place," he said.

From early on in his childhood, Matthew was fascinated with plants and how they grew.

"I remember as a child asking dad how grass grew. The answer I received - however brilliant it was - thanks dad! - did not satisfy my curiosity with plant growth."

Matthew plans to use the Agcarm Undergraduate Horticulture Scholarship towards the cost of continuing his studies.

Graeme Peters, chief executive of Agcarm said the association is pleased to contribute toward the future of such a high calibre student.

"Matthew had an outstanding application. We were very impressed with the passion he showed for his area of study," Mr Peters said.

Agcarm is an industry association of companies which manufacture, distribute and sell products that keep animals healthy and crops thriving.

Initiatives of the organisation include providing safe and sustainable animal health and crop protection technology for the future of New Zealand, and educating the community about the industry's contribution.

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For more information please contact:

Matthew Nicholas
Tel: 06 358 9133

Graeme Peters
Tel: 04 499 4225
Mobile: 027 667 7400