

NUFFIELD AUSTRALIA FARMING SCHOLARS



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2011 Scholar Presentations and Dinner VICTORIA 22nd OCTOBER 2010 *60 Years of Australian Nuffield Farming Scholarships*



FRIDAY 22nd OCTOBER

6:30 pm Pre dinner drinks

7:05 pm Seated and entrée served

7:10 pm Formal Welcome, including apologies
David Brownhill, Chair of Nuffield Australia

7:30 pm Golden Jubilee Celebration

Cut the Cake

Robert Harrison, 1965 Scholar and Life Member

Toast to Absent Friends

Graeme Box, 1973 Scholar and Life Member

Toast to Nuffield

Jen Hawkins, 2009 Scholar

8:00 pm Main Course

8:30 pm George Wilson Oration - Doug Rathbone,
Managing Director and Chief Executive, Nufarm Ltd

8:45 pm Dessert

9:45 pm Presentation of 2011 Nuffield Scholarships
David Brownhill, Chair of Nuffield Australia

Lord Nuffield 1877-1963



Photograph: British Motor Industry Heritage Trust

*For 60 years the Nuffield Farming
Scholarships have promoted
leadership and the implementation of
innovative practice in
agriculture through worldwide study and
interpersonal contact*



In 1934 William Richard Morris created a peer recognition of his contribution to the motor industry and extensive charitable works. The name Morris was not available, so he settled for his second choice of Nuffield, after Oxfordshire Village where he had settled.

A Grant of Arms followed. Lord Nuffield decided that the Crest of his coat of Arms should be adopted by the Nuffield Foundation and later the Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust. The bull is taken from the Arms of the City of Oxford—and the wheel represents the motor industry, in which this remarkable man left his footprint in history and bestowed upon such legacy of philanthropy.

“The Nuffield fellowships and scholarship schemes which developed within the dual framework of aid to the Foundations’ main activities, plus encouragement of academic and scientific interchange between Britain and the Commonwealth quickly grew into an extraordinary embracing network which appeared to spread across most of the areas involving medicine, science and education.

Farmers from Aberdeen and Sussex, sociologists and civil servants, a silviculturist, the director of an important research centre, metallurgists and professors of mining, all figure in the list of awards made during the next decade. Postgraduate workers in entomology, biochemistry and bacteriology came to Britain from Australia, agriculturists from India, doctors from Canada and South Africa: in fact it soon became difficult to name any department of science or medicine which was not represented by at least one Nuffield fellow or scholar from overseas. In January 1948 the net was spread even wider when the first Dominion scholarships in the humanities were authorized for Canada, Australia and New Zealand.”

Clark, Ronald W. (1972). *A Biography of the Nuffield Foundation*, London: Longmans.

The First Australian Nuffield Scholars

Neil McNeil, (WA) along with Bert Kelly (SA), were awarded Nuffield Scholarships in 1950 and travelled in 1951 - the first year of Australia's participation in the program. Both went on to make extraordinary contributions to our country.

Hon. Neil McNeil 1921-2009

Neil was a man of “great integrity and decency who served his local community, the farming industry and the Commonwealth and state parliaments with dedication and distinction.” He studied agriculture at UWA, farmed, fully participated in local and agricultural organisations and served in the navy during WWII. Elected to the Federal Parliament in the 1961 election, he joining the Menzies Liberal government that held a one-seat majority.



At the 1963 election he increased his primary vote by five per cent, but lost on preferences. In the 1965 Western Australian election, he won a Legislative Council seat and served under Sir David Brand and later Sir Charles Court. He variously served in the Court government as Leader of the Government and Minister for Justice.

Serving on various national and international committees, he was made an honorary life member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association for his work in both the Australian Parliament and parliaments around the world.

Neil was married to Ronda and they had four daughters. Retiring from parliament in 1983, the headline at the time read “A gentleman retires” – a sentiment shared by all who knew him.



**Charles Robert (Bert)
Kelly CMG 1912 – 1997**

Bert spent his life on the family farm 'Merrindie' near Tarlee, north of Adelaide. He married Lorna in 1935 and they had three sons. Their second son Kim was a Nuffield Farming Scholar in 1977.

In 1958 Bert was elected to the House of Representatives in Canberra. He was Minister for Works in 1967 - about this time he was fond of saying "I feel a dam coming on, there must be an election soon." In 1968 and 1969 he was Minister for the Navy - obviously a logical appointment for a farmer! In 1969 another Nuffield Scholar, Geoff Giles, succeeded him in the seat of Wakefield.



Throughout his adult life he regularly wrote articles for a number of papers and magazines, including the Financial Review, where over many years columns by 'The Modest Member' and later 'The Modest Farmer' were required reading for a large number of people. In these one of his most consistent themes was for lower tariffs and freer trade, which made him quite unpopular in many quarters at the time. He also wrote books including "Merrindie, A Family's Farm" and "One More Nail".

As a result of his Nuffield experience, he most notably moved into the production and use of silage in a big way. He maintained his interest in and support for Nuffield into his eighties and actually celebrated his eightieth birthday on a Nuffield tour! He also kept in contact with many English Nuffield friends throughout his life.

Bert was truly a modest man who made an enormous contribution to farming practice and economic debate in Australia, often using humour and understatement to great effect.

George Wilson

George Wilson was the Australian Nuffield Farming Scholars Association founding chairman when the organization was formed in 1976. He served in the role for 16 years, creating a lasting legacy for agriculture in Australia.

After serving in the A.I.F. from 1942 to 1945, Mr Wilson returned home to the family property in Berwick, Victoria. In 1951 he was awarded a Nuffield Scholarship to study beef and general farming and with fellow Nuffield recipient Pat Meredith, he travelled by boat to England in 1952. On arriving in England, the two Australian scholars were given



bicycles so they could travel the countryside on their study tour. Australia continued to send two scholars per year, rotating around the six states, for the next twenty-plus years, funded from the United Kingdom by the Nuffield Foundation.

When Robert Beggs returned from his scholarship in 1970, he spoke with George Wilson and Carl Foster about forming some sort of Nuffield organisation in Australia to look after visiting scholars from other countries. The Australian Nuffield Farming Scholar Association was subsequently formed, with Australian scholars each contributing \$150 to set it up. This forward thinking meant that in 1976 when representatives from the UK Nuffield Foundation came out to Australia to inform the Australian Nuffield alumni there would be no further recurrent funding from the foundation to support the scholarship, Australia was well placed to continue the program. The foundation generously gifted £7,000 to the Australian Nuffield Farming Scholars Association as a start up fund for a locally administered organization.

From this George started the Nuffield Australian Fund, and during his time as chair there were a number of major benchmarks including:

- The first international conference in Victoria in 1980
- The fostering of the talents of another Nuffield lion, Harry Perkins AO,

As with most Nuffield Scholars, George recognised that Nuffield changed his life and he wanted other Australian farmers to share the same experience. He had terrific business and agricultural connections and used them for the everlasting benefit of Nuffield. It included those contacts George made during his own scholarship, such as Peter Jones and Emrys Jones. Peter became the head of the British equivalent of the Department of Primary Industry and Emrys [later Sir Emrys] headed the highly regarded Welsh Plant Breeding University at Aberystwyth. George had a loyal group of essentially Victorian Nuffield scholars, who helped him “run the show”.

His wife, Faye Wilson, supported George and Nuffield all the way, helping scholars and their partners in day-to-day problems as well as supporting George in his endeavours on behalf of Nuffield, even while he ducked off to the UK, twice at his own expense, chasing his dream of the Australian Nuffield Farming Scholars Association. George loved a good time - in 1988 when NSW organised the annual meeting of the association, they asked George what he wanted to see. He answered “I want to see good agriculture and I want a drink in our hands at 5.30.”

George had many achievements in his lifetime:

- Chairman of the Victorian Inland Meat Authority
- President of Victorian Royal Agricultural Society
- Council member of Monash University
- Member of the Victorian Economic Development Corporation
- Honoured as a Commander of St Michael and St George

Ian Macintosh took over the Nuffield chairman's role from George for six years and was followed by Harry Perkins – who had been encouraged into the job by George and Ron Baillieu. Harry realised that Nuffield needed to change to be relevant to the times and he initiated the Miller & Inall External Review of Nuffield. This review became the catalyst for Nuffield as we know it today and although George was not initially comfortable with the direction the review suggested, he had made peace with the changes before his death in 2003 at the age of 85.

In the past six years there has been a considerable expansion of the Australian Nuffield program, and this could not have happened without the foundations laid by George Wilson. The Australian program has far outgrown those of other Nuffield countries around the world, having been given the opportunity to establish our own programs by the Nuffield Foundation in the 1970s.

George led the way in serving this association at no cost to the group; an ethic that many Nuffield Scholars have followed. The Board of (the now) Nuffield Australia have implemented the perpetual George Wilson Oration to mark George's contribution to all our lives and it is fitting that his two sons David and Jamie and daughter Anne are with us tonight to hear the second George Wilson Oration delivered by Doug Rathbone, Managing Director of Nufarm.

Doug Rathbone

Managing Director and Chief Executive, Nufarm Ltd.

Doug Rathbone is the managing director and chief executive of the Melbourne based and publicly listed crop protection company, Nufarm Limited. A chemical engineer and commerce graduate, Doug joined Nufarm in 1973 as a contract engineer, became general manager in 1977 and was appointed managing director in 1982. At that time, the business generated an annual turnover of \$20m. The group now employs more than 3,000 people with sales of approximately of A\$2.7 billion worldwide.

Doug was named the Rabobank Agribusiness Leader of the Year in 1999 and was awarded a Centenary Medal in 2003 for outstanding service to science and technology. In 2005 he was named Ernst & Young's Champion of Entrepreneurship (southern region), an award which recognises an individual who has a long term record of outstanding achievement and has driven growth of an Australian company over a sustained period of time. In the 2006 Queen's Birthday honours, Doug was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia for service to the community, chemical engineering and viticulture. He is also a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering and received the Chemeca Medal from the Australian Federation of Chemical Engineers.

Doug is a past Board member of the CSIRO and is past president and now Board member of the Children's Cancer Centre Foundation at the Royal Children's Hospital, of which Nufarm is a key supporter.

He has interests in the family wine business which includes Victorian wineries Yering Station in the Yarra Valley and Mount Langi Ghiran in the Grampians region, Parker Coonawarra Estates in South Australia and Xanadu Winery in Western Australia.

Scholarships to be Awarded

A **grain grower** in Northern NSW or QLD, supported by
Grains Research and Development Corporation

A **grain grower** in Southern NSW, Vic, SA or Tas, supported by
Grains Research and Development Corporation

A **grain grower** in WA, supported by
Grains Research and Development Corporation

A **grain grower** anywhere in Australia, supported by
Grain Growers Association

A **woolgrower** anywhere in Australia, supported by **Australian Wool Innovation**

A **livestock producer** anywhere in Australian, supported by
Meat & Livestock Australia

A **vegetable producer** anywhere in Australia, supported by
Horticulture Australia Ltd. from the **Vegetable Levy** and matched funds from the
Federal Government.

A **dairy farmer** supported by
Dairy Australia and the **Australian Dairy Conference**

An **aquaculture and/or fish producer** anywhere in Australia, supported by
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation

A **chicken producer** anywhere in Australia, supported by
**Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation Chicken Meat Research
and Development Program**

A **mixed grain and livestock producer** anywhere in Australia, supported by
Landmark

A **primary producer** anywhere in Australia, supported by **Rabobank**

A **primary producer** anywhere in Australia, supported by
Macquarie Agricultural Funds Management Ltd.

A **primary producer** anywhere in Australia, supported by
Macquarie Agricultural Funds Management Ltd.

A **primary producer** anywhere in Australia, supported by **Sidney Myer Fund**

A **primary producer** anywhere in Australia, supported by **Woolworths**

A **primary producer** in the Northern Territory supported by **NT Department of
Resources and ANZ**

A **primary producer** in South Australia supported by **Nufarm**

Aaron Sanderson

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Aaron Sanderson, from Ayr in Queensland, receives the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the Grains Research and Development Corporation for a graingrower in northern NSW or Queensland.

Aaron will study food production in the wet tropical areas of the world and how those production systems relate to northern Australia.

With his wife Tonia, Aaron moved to north Queensland just over five years ago, making a transition from broadacre dryland grain growing in central Queensland to a more intensive fully irrigated farming operation. He says whilst his grain crops haven't been too different, the farming system that they have had to learn is far removed from what they did before. He says there is a severe lack of information and support in the form of agronomists, consultants and Department of Primary Industry staff, meaning northern newcomers have to do much of their own research on things like crop rotations, varieties, planting dates, nutrition and herbicides.

Aaron would like to travel to other tropical regions such as Brazil, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia and India to study on-farm practices and systems from others farming in similar environments. In addition he would like to investigate whether more country can be developed in northern Australia while still satisfying government and environmental concerns.



Craig Duffield

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Craig Duffield from Ramco in South Australia, receives the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship, supported by the Grains Research and Development Corporation, for a grain grower in South Australia. Craig is planning on studying the future of the family farm in marginal areas. His farm is approximately 2200 hectares in total, of which 1400 hectares is continuously cropped cereals under a no-till system.

He says the inspiration for the topic has come from experiencing drought in six of the last seven years, raising questions such as ‘are the seasons changing with climate change?’ and ‘can we survive farming in a low rainfall area?’ Craig says farmers are increasingly battling high input costs and low commodity prices while the deregulation of the grain industry has led to greater confusion and more problems for farmers in selling/marketing their products. Other issues that interest Craig include the limits to crop varieties, lack of early feed for livestock and the aging population of farmers.

Craig believes there are opportunities for family farms to improve their situation by joining forces such as in collaborative machinery-share arrangements. He says farmers could also consider things like break crops, zero-till systems for better water use efficiency and soil biota, and grain marketing opportunities. He is planning on visiting Canada, USA, Brazil and the UK during his scholarship year.



Michael Foss

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Michael Foss, from Bruce Rock in Western Australia, receives the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the Grains Research and Development Corporation for a grain grower in Western Australia.

Michael will study corporate farming structures in agriculture worldwide and the comparison with family farm business structures. Specifically he wants to look at the impact these farming models have on issues such as productivity, profitability, environment and in particular research and development. Michael says some overseas corporate farming businesses have established internal R&D divisions, which he sees as a significant opportunity to be developed further within Australian corporate farms.

With his wife Judith, Michael manages the cropping enterprise on the family property, comprising 5000 ha wheat, barley, canola and lupins and 3000 ha of pasture. He is also employed as a part-time research agronomist for Living Farm, which conducts a range of trials on behalf of agribusiness clients in the WA wheatbelt and the Ord Valley.

Michael hopes to visit the USA, UK, New Zealand and South America to study a range of corporate and family farm structures.



Robert Blatchford

“Innesfail”

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Robert Blatchford, from Gurley in New South Wales, receives the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship supported by Grain Growers Association.

Rob aims to investigate cover crop options for cotton to reduce evaporation from the soil surface and store moisture for future crops – in fact he believes dryland farmers need to see their paddocks as water storages below the ground. In addition he would like to study management of herbicide resistance in cotton cropping systems as well as on-farm technology, in particular how farmers are striving for the highest yields possible with reduced compaction techniques, on-farm machinery modifications and new technologies.

He plans on travelling to North America, including Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Ontario to study cover crops and cotton-producing states including Texas and Georgia as well as the Carolinas, Mississippi and Tennessee, where roundup resistance weeds have become a problem in cotton production systems.

Rob, with his wife Penny, runs a no-till dryland cropping and opportunity cattle enterprise of 6700 ha. Crops include dryland cotton, durum wheat, chickpeas, faba beans and millet.



James Robertson

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James Robertson, from Renmark in South Australia, receives the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship supported by Australian Wool Innovation.

James will study animal nutrition, focussing on weaning and feedlotting. He also plans to examine how methane emissions can be reduced by rumen development and diet as he sees an industry opportunity under any future carbon trading/offset scheme. James will also examine marketing with a particular reference to sustainability and rangeland monitoring.

He is currently the manager of a family-owned operation near Renmark consisting of four adjoining properties operating as one entity. Chowilla is a wool-growing enterprise, producing 400 bales per year and selling 6,000 sheep. An average of 15,000 sheep is run on the property at any one time. The family also owns a property near Salt Creek in the south-east of SA which is primarily a prime lamb and beef property supplying local markets.

James hopes to look at intensive animal management in the UK, large-scale feedlotting in the US, rangeland management in South Africa and models for marketing sustainable-use agriculture in Germany.



James Male

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James Male, from Yerong Creek in NSW, receives the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship supported by Meat and Livestock Australia.

James will study the export lamb industry, focussing on a range of issues including breed selection, the sustainability of market prices, the ability of the Australian market to cover a fall in prices, lamb feedlot structure, market competitors and threats and ways to improve feed conversion efficiency through both breeding and nutrition.

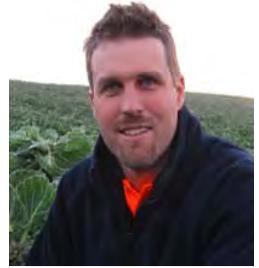
In partnership with his brother Greg, James is a director of a mixed farming enterprise in southern NSW, specialising in cereals, oilseeds and pulse crops and sheep for prime lamb production. Greg manages the cropping operation whilst James oversees the livestock operation. Currently they have 4400 hectares in crop (share farmed and owned), and are turning over up to 8000 lambs per year in both their feedlot and on grazing cereals.

James would like to visit major importers of Australian lamb, including North America, the Middle East, Asia (Greater China and Japan) and the UK. He also hopes to visit the JBS Swifts headquarters in Brazil, one of the world's largest meat companies. In addition, James would like to visit Australia's main lamb export competitor in New Zealand.



Scott Samwell

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Scott Samwell, from Mount Barker in South Australia, receives the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship supported by Horticulture Australia Ltd. from the Vegetable Levy and matched funds from the Federal Government.

Scott will study soil and plant interaction by researching the concept of 'fusion farming'. He would like to look at intensive and viable agriculture systems that have implemented either biological, organic or biodynamic principles into their practices to see if these methods produce better plants and hence a food that has greater nutrient density than food grown using conventional methods. Scott would like to look at the level of inputs required in the different systems and examine the benefits, if any, in reductions of inputs.

With urbanisation an issue in his district, Scott says a horticultural system that promotes healthy soils and a healthy environment should hopefully promote a positive rural lifestyle that allows housing and horticulture to harmoniously co-exist.

Scott is managing director of the family business which comprises around 340 ha spread over four properties in the Adelaide Hills, growing mainly brussels sprouts but also producing cabbage, summer caulis, hay, chaff and beef cattle.



Know-how for Horticulture™

Paul Lambert

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Paul Lambert, from Merseylea in Tasmania, receives the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship supported by Dairy Australia and the Australian Dairy Conference.

Paul's research topic will centre around various dairy technologies. He would like to study the latest in robotic dairies and milking systems around the world, specifically for large herds, as he believes this technology will greatly help with employment, efficiencies and ease of running dairy farms in Australia. Paul would also like to study converting dairy waste to energy using biodigesters, methods of converting plantation back to farmland, and also other forms of on-farm energy production, water efficiency and methods of reducing methane and nitrous oxide production from dairy cows to help reduce global warming.

Paul hopes to travel to the USA to examine on-farm energy production and water efficiency, New Zealand to look at forestry to farm developments and Europe for the latest in dairy technology.

With his wife Nadine, Paul owns and manages 4 farms totalling 1200 hectares. They have mostly dairy and young stock, with some beef, forestry and occasional cropping. They milk 2300 cows in three rotary dairies in northern Tasmania.



Clint Scharfe

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Clint Scharfe, from Port Lincoln in South Australia, receives the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.

Clint would like to investigate new technologies and how they could be applied in the South Australian prawn industry, management practices in other fisheries that could improve the performance of the Spencer Gulf Prawn Fishery and prawn fisheries in Australia generally and finally identify how product differentiation will improve prawn prices (including the value of an internationally recognised environmental accreditation system).

Clint is self-employed as a prawn fisher in the Spencer Gulf Prawn Fishery, based on the capture of wild King Prawns. He is also employed in the family Southern Bluefin Tuna business. In addition, Clint is a member of the Spencer Gulf and West Coast Prawn Fishermen's Association's management committee.

He says food processing technologies and in some cases fishing technologies are well advanced in a number of countries. Clint would like to visit countries excelling in this area, including Norway, Japan and the United Kingdom. Additionally, he would like to investigate sustainable fishing practices in the UK and the United States of America.



Robert Nichols

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Robert Nichols, from Sassafras in Tasmania, receives the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the RIRDC Chicken Meat Program.

Robert is planning on studying renewable energy as an alternative farm income. He says while there is significant interest from farmers wishing to understand more about the renewable energy industry, there is a lack of information available.

Robert is convinced that opportunities exist for the bio-digestion of manures and factory wastes as well as green crops that can be grown specifically for energy production. With farm cropping options exposed to competition from overseas imports he sees the home production of renewable energy as being an industry that has little or no import challenges and one that holds significant openings for the Australian farming community.

Robert's operations include the 250 ha Nichols Farms, which supply in excess of 750,000 chickens and 30,000 turkeys per year for the Nichols Poultry processing business. He is also sole director of Blowing in the Wind P/L which was established in 2008 to operate a 225 KW wind turbine to generate a significant portion of the energy Nichols Poultry requires.



Australian Government

**Rural Industries Research and
Development Corporation**

Roma Britnell

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Roma Britnell, from Woolsthorpe in Victoria, receives the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship supported by Landmark. She will study the importance of food production to the Australian community.

Roma says while it is important to produce food in a safe and environmentally responsible manner, it's also important to understand the compromise required to find a balance between food production, the role food plays as a fundamental human need, and its importance to the health of our nation both economically and socially. The key to success will be achieving equilibrium between the environment and people, and this will only be achieved when communities see agriculture as the solution, not the problem, she says.

To assess both food production potential and how competitors to Australian producers are placed, Roma hopes to visit Ukraine, Canada, South America, Japan, China and America.

With her husband Glenn, Roma owns three dairy farms, which produce in excess of six million litres of milk. She has been chairman of the Regional Research and Development Program for the last 6 years and is also employed part-time as a registered nurse managing an aboriginal health service.



Adam Jenkins

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Adam Jenkins, from South Purrumbete, in Victoria, receives the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship for a primary producer sponsored by Rabobank.

Adam will study agricultural cooperatives, with an emphasis on dairy cooperatives. Specifically he would like to investigate the major challenges for existing cooperatives and supply companies and whether these issues are shared internationally and across commodities. He also would like to look at the structure of cooperatives, the role leadership and management systems play and whether there is a place for a global cooperative.

Adam, his wife Catherine and their four children, own and operate a fully self-sustaining low input grassed based dairy farm of 176ha with 44ha lease country in south-western Victoria. Currently the operation is carrying 240 milking dairy cows (predominantly crossbred) with a further 135 replacements.

His travel plans include the United Kingdom, where the dairy industry continues to undergo major structural change, South America to learn how this developing economy is moving forward in a very challenging political environment, as well as a look at a range of existing agricultural cooperatives in north America and New Zealand.



Paul Adam

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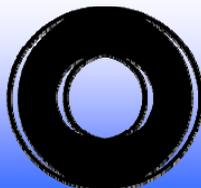
Paul Adam, from Tottenham in New South Wales, receives the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship supported by Macquarie Agricultural Funds Management. Paul is planning to study cost efficiencies in no-till cropping systems.

With his wife Meggan he runs a no-till continuous cropping enterprise on controlled traffic, planting 2000 hectares of mainly cereals over two properties, “Dysart” and “Lansdale”.

He says no-till has generally proven to be very efficient when compared to conventional systems, generally not resulting in any great yield increases, but giving major savings and benefits in sustainability. Paul says such systems tend to require less fuel, time and machinery, all of which provide huge savings in dollar terms. However, he is concerned that farmers have hit a ceiling with savings and ever-increasing expenses will again start to eat into profit margins.

Paul would like to focus on machinery cost efficiencies, including machinery requirements, fuel efficiency, hectares to hour of operation, ability to multi-task and the minimum amount of capital outlay needed to operate a broad-acre no-till farm business. This gives the potential to decrease fixed and variable expenses, without sacrificing your capability to still do the task in timely manner. Paul believes this area alone could provide some major profitability. He is hoping to visit Brazil, France and Germany, including visits to machinery manufacturing facilities, field days and as

leaps forward in overall farming to visit Canada, America, many to investigate his topic, machinery manufacturing facilities many farms as possible.



MACQUARIE

Lorre Herrod

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Lorre Herrod, from Katherine in the Northern Territory, receives the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship supported by Macquarie Agricultural Funds Management.

Lorre would like to focus on cattle in her Nuffield Scholarship, particularly investigating how to get better productivity in her family's herd through improved quality rather than quantity. Specifically she wants to look at how to improve the fertility, conformation and genetics of Brahman cattle, preparation, handling and feeding of sale cattle and artificial insemination.

She currently manages the 20,000 acre Ballongilly Station, which is situated 35 kilometres north-west of Katherine. It is a family business run in conjunction with Western Creek Station, which is 1,100 sq km. Ballongilly Station has 40 hectares of farming comprising Cavalcade (pasture legume), Jarra (finger grass) and silk sorghum hay, while another 200 hectares has been cleared and maintained for improved pasture. The livestock is made up of Brahman stud cattle, including 450 breeders in single sire lots of 60.



MACQUARIE

Michael Inwood

‘Toulon’

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Michael Inwood, from Bathurst in NSW, receives the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the Sidney Myer Fund. Michael will study regenerative agricultural management with a specific focus on soil inputs.

He believes agricultural inputs dictate sustainability, public perceptions of our industry and the potential for agriculture to meet the ever-increasing demands of world population growth. Michael would like to investigate inputs that are in harmony with natural systems and, where possible, are inexpensive, low tech, abundant and replicable or self-replicating.

Michael is actively involved in managing ‘Toulon’, an 800 ha family farm at Glanmire, near Bathurst NSW. It is an environmentally sustainable superfine merino wool growing operation with some diversification into first cross lambs and cropping. They are also heavily involved in an on-farm natural resource management project called ‘Toulon - Engaging Nature’ which focuses on sustainable agriculture including the use of solar and renewable power.

He hopes to visit Europe, Brazil, China, India and the USA to gain a much broader perspective and world view of sustainable agricultural production. In doing so Michael aims to learn about new (and old) innovation in sustainability and inputs.



Andrew Dewar

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Andrew Dewar, from Clifton in Queensland, receives the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship supported by Woolworths.

Andrew is going to study summer vegetable production, including using shelter crops to manipulate the amount of daylight hours and heat units a crop receives, water management, labour savings through automation and nursery seedling production.

The Dewar family produces fresh vegetables for both the fresh market and for processing 12 months of the year on their farm south of Toowoomba. The vegetable business is in its infancy as they are only third year growers, having moved away from lucerne production to horticulture to ensure the long-term water and financial viability of the farm. The farm is 1000 acres, which is being developed in stages, and they produce approximately 200-250 acres of vegetables per annum.

He is hoping to travel to the Salinas Valley in the US to look at the effects of day length and heat units on lettuce production, Israel to study water management, as well as Europe and China.

Robert Cook

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Rob Cook, from Supplejack Station, Northern Territory, receives the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the Northern Territory Department of Resources and ANZ.

Rob will be studying beef production in relation to the live export trade, market sustainability and the threat/pressure boxed meat poses to the Australian live export trade. In addition Rob is looking to gain a first-hand understanding of the drivers of low cost beef production globally, as well as pest control and land management. Also Rob is hoping to gain new and innovative ways to encourage young people back into the cattle industry.

He hopes to travel to Brazil, which he says is the lowest cost producer of beef in the world, Argentina, whose residents consume more beef individually than any other country as well as America, Indonesia and Egypt.

In 2008, Rob was left a quadriplegic after a helicopter accident on the family cattle station. He has contributed and participated in the beef industry of the Northern Territory for the past 13 years with a very physical and hands-on approach. He says as this is no longer possible, he is looking to arm himself with the tools, skills and knowledge to remain a productive member of the industry and contribute with a more theoretical approach.



Shannon Mayfield

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Shannon Mayfield, from Kimba in South Australia, receives the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship supported by Nufarm.

Shannon is hoping through his Nuffield study to be able to create profitability from livestock in increasingly tough rainfall conditions. Eyre Peninsula is predominantly a cropping region, and Shannon believes producers there are taking little advantage of the ability to value-add low cost grain in feeding their livestock. He says with the immense freight disadvantages the region faces in transporting feed grain to end users, he believes there is now a great scope to create a profitable prime lamb industry locally by improving feeding systems. Shannon will study livestock feeding systems in low to medium rainfall cropping environments, incorporating the possible improvements that could be made through nutrition and genetics in both paddock and intensive feed-lotting situations.

With his wife Shena, Shannon is the owner/operator of a 1200 hectare property south-west of Kimba in South Australia, leasing a further 2000 ha. Enterprises include no-till production of wheat, barley, canola and lupins as well as sheep trading and the production of prime lambs and wool

Shannon hopes to look at the New Zealand lamb industry, feedlots in Colorado, USA and to visit South African Meat Merino and Dohne breeders.



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