

**NUFFIELD AUSTRALIA**  
**Acknowledges with thanks the support**  
**of the following for their 2014 Scholars**



**Rabobank**



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**2013 Scholar Presentations and Dinner**  
**Perth, Western Australia**  
**19<sup>th</sup> September 2013**  
***"Innovation in Australian Agriculture"***



**NUFFIELD AUSTRALIA**

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## Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2013

- 6:00PM Arrival of guests. Pre-dinner drinks are served.
- 7:00PM Formal welcome by Chairman Mr Terry Hehir, and special presentations
- 7:10PM Toast to absent friends  
Toast to Nuffield Australia
- 7:15PM **Entrée is served** (cold): Terrine of chicken and mushroom, wrapped in leek thyme sour dough, soubise, baby olives and white anchovy.
- 7:45PM **Main course is served**
1. Pan seared snapper, polenta crusted prawn, pea and mascarpone risotto, asparagus, tomato and herb dressing;
  2. Grilled fillet of beef, sautéed exotic mushrooms, sweet potato pave, broccolini, glazed baby onions, beef reduction.
- 8:15PM George Wilson Oration (presented by Guy Debelle, Assistant Governor Reserve Bank of Australia )
- 8:40PM **Dessert is served:** Warm vanilla and white chocolate pudding with cinnamon ice-cream and amaretti cookie.
- 9:10PM 2014 Nuffield Scholarships are awarded to new Scholars by Chairman Terry Hehir.
- 10:30PM Final drinks ordered and consumed.
- 10:30PM Closing remarks by Chairman of Nuffield Australia, Terry Hehir
- 11:00PM Guests depart.

## George Wilson

George Wilson was the Australian Nuffield Farming Scholars Association founding chairman when the organisation 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

## Colin De Grussa



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**Colin de Grussa**, from Esperance in WA, receives the 2014 Nuffield Scholarship, supported by CBH Group and CSBP.

Colin will research how farmers across the globe interact with government for the benefit of their industry.

He works in a family-owned and managed 2100 hectare farming enterprise, with a 1600 hectare cropping program consisting of wheat, barley and canola. In addition, the operation turns off around 1000 prime lambs a year.

Colin would like to investigate the ways primary producers in other nations are engaging with policy makers, and the role of government in the future of agriculture.

“The intention is to identify how farmers and agribusiness can build strong, positive connections to ensure informed policy decisions are made by our politicians.

“Non-agricultural lobby groups are increasingly influencing politicians while farmers appear to have lost their ability to influence policy direction,” he explains.

Colin also would like to examine the way farmers and agribusinesses interact with consumers.

To complete his studies, Colin would like to visit North America, the UK and a range of EU nations, to meet with farmers, lobby groups, politicians and advisors.



## Greg Gibson

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**Greg Gibson**, from Hagley in Tasmania, receives the 2014 Nuffield Scholarship, supported by the Sidney Myer Fund.

He will study the latest drainage techniques, with the aim of increasing production on non-performing ground through better water management.

Greg manages the family farm in northern Tasmania, a 530-hectare intensive farming operation with a cropping program consisting of alkaloid poppies, onions, processing peas, broccoli and potatoes. Also grown are an array of seed crops including carrot, beet, clover and ryegrass seed. The grazing program consists of an Angus cow herd of 170 head and a 5000 head fat lamb trading operation.

With water logging a significant issue in the district, Greg's studies will focus on advances in drainage technology.

"We cannot continue to spend resources on ground that is not producing – bringing non-performing ground into production through better water management and soil health is my goal.

"I would like a better understanding of water management, including Variable Rate Irrigation (VRI), soil moisture monitoring and drainage," he explains.

Greg is particularly interested in the feasibility of farmers using a rear-mounted drainage machine on their own tractors.

He will travel to the USA, Canada and Europe during his travels.



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 fourth annual George Wilson Oration delivered by Hon Neil Andrew AO (1975 Scholar).

## Hannah Marriott

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**Hannah Marriott**, from Kalkallo in Victoria, receives the 2014 Nuffield Scholarship, supported by the William Buckland Foundation.

Hannah will research the ability of Electronic Identification Devices (EID) to deliver production benefits to sheep farmers, with traceability as a bonus.

Hannah is farm manager of a family-owned 1080-hectare prime lamb property, one of three farms the family operates. The fully integrated business means sheep move from one farm to the next, involving merino, first cross and second cross lamb production. She joins 4500 first cross ewes to Dorset rams, with lambs grown for the domestic and export markets.

While traceability may be the underlying benefit for using EID in sheep, Hannah believes there needs to be significant production benefits that are user-friendly to ensure adoption by industry.

Hannah believes EID's could help manage seasonal risk by ensuring excess sheep are sold on poor performance rather than age, and will also ensure the increasing cost of inputs are used most efficiently.

"The technology can help farmers make informed decisions, but it needs to be practical and relevant," she explains.

Hannah plans to visit New Zealand, the Middle East, America, Europe and Asia to complete her studies.

*The*  
WILLIAM BUCKLAND  
FOUNDATION  
WBF

## Aubrey Pellett

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**Aubrey Pellett**, from Hill End in Victoria, receives the 2014 Nuffield Scholarship, supported by the Geoffrey Gardiner Dairy Foundation.

Aubrey will study the future of productivity gain for dairy farming.

He is a dairy farmer, milking 450 cows on approximately 190 hectares of milking area and 40 hectares of support area. Being self-employed, Aubrey is the prime decision maker in the business, along with his spouse.

Aubrey plans to examine productivity opportunities Australian dairy farmers may have when looking out 20 years into the future, with a focus on the major opportunities that will deliver more from less for the industry.

"I'd like to identify how dairy businesses will profit from the opportunity to feed a larger, wealthier population but with greater scrutiny on inputs and environmental performance in the long term.

"I see plenty of areas to investigate, including next generation ryegrasses, alternative home grown feeds, cow genetic improvement as well as robotic milking and feeding," he says.

Aubrey would like to visit Germany, Holland, New Zealand and the USA on his travels.

## Guy Debelle



Guy Debelle is the Assistant Governor (Financial Markets) at the Reserve Bank of Australia, a position he has held since 2007.

He has oversight of the Bank's operations in the domestic and global financial markets, including the management of Australia's foreign reserves. Prior to his current position, Guy worked in the Economic Research and Economic Analysis Departments including as Head of that Department and as Head of International Department.

He has also worked at the International Monetary Fund, Bank for International Settlements, Australian Treasury and as a visiting professor in economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

He graduated from the University of Adelaide with an honours degree in economics, and gained his PhD in economics at MIT.

He is an associate editor of the International Journal of Central Banking and has published on a range of topics in the fields of labour and monetary economics.

## Scholarships to be Awarded

A **grain grower** supported by the **Grains Research and Development Corporation**

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A **horticultural producer** anywhere in Australia, supported by **Horticulture Australia Ltd.** using voluntary contributions from Nuffield and matched funds from the Australian Government

A levy paying **vegetable grower** anywhere in Australia, supported by **Horticulture Australia Limited** using the **Vegetable Industry Levy** and matched funds from the **Australian Government**

A **horticultural producer** anywhere in Australia, supported by **Horticulture Australia Ltd.** using voluntary contributions from Nuffield and matched funds from the Australian Government

A **horticultural producer** anywhere in Australia, supported by **Horticulture Australia Ltd.** using voluntary contributions from Nuffield and matched funds from the Australian Government

A **dairy producer** anywhere in Australia, supported by **Dairy Australia**

An **aquaculture producer** or a **wild catch fisher** anywhere in Australia, supported by the **Fisheries Research and Development Corporation**

A **shark fisher** anywhere in Australia, supported by **Woolworths** and the **Fisheries Research and Development Corporation**

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

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

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

A **cotton grower** anywhere in Australia, supported by the **Cotton Research and Development Corporation** and **Cotton Australia**

A **cattle, sheep or goat producer** anywhere in Australia, supported by **Meat & Livestock Australia**

A **sugar cane grower** anywhere in Australia, supported by the **Sugar Research Australia**

A **dairy producer** from Victoria, supported by the **Geoffrey Gardiner Dairy Foundation**

A **primary producer** in Victoria, supported by the **William Buckland Foundation**

A **primary producer** anywhere in Australia, to study Natural Resource Management, supported by the **Sidney Myer Fund**

A **primary producer** in Western Australia, supported by **CBH Group** and **CSBP**

### Simon Mattsson

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**Simon Mattsson**, from Marian in Queensland, receives the 2014 Nuffield Scholarship, supported by Sugar Research Australia.

He will study soil health, focussing on both the beneficial and predatory microbial activities that are crucial to sustaining productive soils.

Simon manages his family's north Queensland farm, producing sugar cane, soybeans and chickpeas in rotation, utilising a two metre controlled traffic farming system. He uses a supplementary irrigation system including centre pivot and hard hose irrigators.

Simon has a keen interest in further understanding soil health and the properties that improve the structure and wellbeing of soils in general.

"I'd like to focus on soil biology and the balances of fungi and bacteria, as well as the beneficial and predatory-type microbial activities which are crucial to sustaining soil health.

"My desire is to investigate soil health and the fundamentals that sustain good practices that will provide the basis of a sustainable production system into the future," Simon explains.

In addition, Simon would like to investigate value-adding at the farm gate to make the most of the current rotation of soybeans and chickpeas with the primary crop of sugar cane.

To complete his studies, Simon would like to visit the UK, the USA, Brazil, India and South Africa.





## Michael Lyons

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**Michael Lyons**, from Charters Towers in Queensland, receives the 2014 Nuffield Scholarship, supported by Meat and Livestock Australia. Michael will study innovative ways of managing natural resources to create highly profitable grazing businesses.

With his wife, Michael manages the family-owned North Queensland property 'Wambiana', which is 23,200 hectares and runs up to 3,500 head of Brahman cattle. The cattle business includes breeding bulls for sale, growing out steers and a cattle-trading enterprise.

Given the declining terms of trade for beef, Michael would like to study innovative ways of managing natural resources to produce 'more with less'.

"On the production side I'd like to look at rotational grazing to regenerate biodiverse pastures and investigate selection for cattle that are adapted to their environment, meaning lower input costs," he explains.

Michael also hopes to research complementary enterprises such as agri-tourism, on-farm education and training, and also 'stacking' enterprises where the outputs of one enterprise become the inputs of the next.

He would like to visit South Africa, the USA and South America to complete his studies.



## Ben Boughton

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**Ben Boughton**, from Moree in New South Wales, receives the 2014 Nuffield Scholarship, supported by the Grains Research and Development Corporation.

Ben will research the potential of Unmanned Aerial/Ground Vehicles (UAV/UGV) for the grains industry.

With his wife, Ben works in his family's business, Gilroy Farms, which is a dryland cropping enterprise producing wheat, barley, chickpeas and sorghum. Cropping a total of 2000 hectares, Ben is involved in management decisions, including agronomy and investment, and day-to-day farm operations.

Ben believes while there is much value for the grains industry in accessing precise data for better paddock management, collecting this data is expensive, time consuming and often confusing.

He says UAV's and UGV's offer huge potential in all agricultural enterprises, but particularly in grains.

"This data could be used in applications such as weed and disease monitoring, water movement and vegetation mapping, facilitating variable rate fertiliser application and yield forecasting," Ben explains.

Ben hopes to visit the USA, Europe, and Brazil to conduct his research.



## Nick Gillett

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**Nick Gillett**, from Bencubbin in Western Australia, receives the 2014 Nuffield Scholarship, supported by the Grains Research and Development Corporation.

Nick will study innovative ways of improving crop germination and yield in a drying climate.

As co-owner and principle manager of the family-owned farming operation in the low-rainfall eastern wheatbelt of WA, Nick crops over 5600 hectares of wheat and over 900 hectares of barley annually. The Gillett's also run some sheep on the remainder of their property.

With three of his districts worst winter rainfall years on record occurring in the last ten years, Nick would like to study how to improve wheat germination for better plant establishment in marginal conditions.

Nick has a wide range of research targets, including investigating soil moisture measuring devices, mechanical intervention to improve the seedbed and hydro-priming of seed pre-planting.

"I'd also like to look at pre-treatment of seeds with salicylic acid or similar to improve the imbibition process, wheat genetics and also soil ameliorants for retaining moisture within the root zone," he says.

To complete his studies, Nick hopes to visit India, the USA, Mexico, north Africa, Iran and South Africa.



## Nigel Corish

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**Nigel Corish**, from Goondiwindi in Queensland, receives the 2014 Nuffield Scholarship, supported by the Cotton Research and Development Corporation and Cotton Australia. Nigel will study Fertiliser Use Efficiency (FUE) in irrigated cotton crops.

The family business consists of four mixed farming properties on the NSW-QLD border, with irrigated cotton the main production crop, with about 4000 hectares grown annually. They also grow about 4000 hectares of dryland cultivated crops, including wheat, chickpeas and sorghum, as well as operating a lamb feedlot and running 130 head of Angus breeder cows.

Nigel's role in the business is to manage and operate one of the properties, Yambocully, and is also part of the Corish Farms management group, which manages the financial decisions across our businesses.

With fertiliser, and in particular nitrogen, being one of the biggest farm input costs Nigel is keen to study how to improve both FUE and Nitrogen Uptake Efficiency (NUE) on both his own farm and across the industry.

"There are a number of different forms of nitrogen and a number of different crop application methods - the studies will allow me to find the most efficient type and way to apply nitrogen to the crop," he explains.

Nigel hopes to visit USA, Brazil, China and Europe to complete his studies.



## Tim Gubbins

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**Tim Gubbins**, from Moyston in Victoria, receives the 2014 Nuffield Scholarship, supported by Australian Wool Innovation.

Tim will study how to achieve the full potential of the Merino sheep breed.

Tim is livestock manager on a Western Districts property, with responsibility for a Merino flock consisting of 5500 commercial ewes and 600 stud ewes, 4000 weaners and 2000 mixed-age weathers. The operation also includes a Merino stud and has a winter grazed area of approximately 1200 hectares, as well as an annual cropping program of around 3000 hectares.

Tim would like to study the Merino breed with a focus on the period from conception through to weaning.

"I see lambing losses as the biggest issue in the area. Not only are there production losses associated with this issue, it is also an animal welfare concern.

"I would like to explore the use of DNA markers and electronic identification to better understand genetic traits that could help with lamb survival and growth rates," Tim says.

Tim believes the wider industry stands to benefit from anyone who can improve the Merino's ability to conceive and raise a lamb that has the ability to survive to weaning age.



## Bob Nixon

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**Bob Nixon** from Kalannie in Western Australia, receives the 2014 Nuffield Scholarship, supported by the Grains Research and Development Corporation.

Bob will study techniques and crop rotations to cope with a drying climate.

In partnership with his family, Bob runs a broadacre cropping and livestock property within the low rainfall district of the central wheat-belt, receiving an annual rainfall of 300mm.

This year their cropping program consisted of 9100 hectares wheat, 1570 hectares canola, 1000 hectares barley and they also run 2000 Merino ewes mated to Merino/Samm rams.

Bob is particularly interested in adding low-risk diversity to their crop rotation. He would like to investigate making low cost canola profitable in the local environment.

"I would like to study a range of options, including managing off patent, low-cost herbicides for weed control, retaining seed, how to mitigate direct heading seed loss, plant densities and row spacing, as well as the potential for GM traits such as a 'drought guard gene'," he says.

Bob would like to visit Canada, the USA and the Middle East to complete his studies.



## Chris Reichstein

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**Chris Reichstein** from Esperance in Western Australia, receives the 2014 Nuffield Scholarship, supported by the Grains Research and Development Corporation.

He will study how best to deliver information to farmers in order to bring about practice change, resulting in improved profitability and/or sustainability.

Chris crops wheat, barley, canola and field peas over an area of 4000 hectares north-east of Esperance in the 400 millimetre rainfall zone. The business is purely grain production with livestock being phased out in 2007.

Chris says while a great deal of research and development work is undertaken in Australia, the packaging and delivery of the messages by traditional means is giving a poor return on dollars invested.

“Like most, farmers are time-poor, so I’d like to investigate the best combination of technology, media, social and scientific means that can be employed to best disseminate this valuable information, and research what role grower groups can play,” Chris explains.

Chris says while his studies may be targeting change at the research and extension level, the benefits would encompass all stakeholders.

To complete his studies, Chris would like to include the USA and Brazil on his travel schedule.



## Tania Chapman

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**Tania Chapman**, from Mildura in Victoria, receives the 2014 Nuffield Scholarship, supported by Rabobank.

Tania will research citrus varieties grown around the world to assess suitability for Australian growing conditions, cost efficiency of production, and market opportunities they may create.

With her family, Tania owns and operates a 140-hectare citrus property south of Mildura, producing Navel oranges predominantly for export and Valencia oranges for the export, domestic and juice markets.

Tania’s key role in the business is in financial and marketing, with responsibility for the quality assurance program, Maximum Residue Limits and other protocols to ensure that they can export to as many markets as possible – currently Mildura Fruit Company exports to 32 countries worldwide.

Tania would like to research the varieties grown in various countries and to see if they are not just suitable for our growing conditions, but can also be produced cost-efficiently, as some varieties require a lot more manual work during the production process.

Tania's itinerary includes China, the USA, Spain and Japan.



## Keshav Timalsena

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**Keshav Timalsena**, from Armidale in New South Wales, receives the 2014 Nuffield Scholarship, supported by Woolworths.

He will research the use of semi-close glasshouses to maximise tomato production while minimising inputs and waste.

Keshav is employed as senior grower manager of Tomato Exchange, a hydroponic tomato producer with 20 hectares of production under glass. The company produces over 12 million kilograms of truss tomatoes and over a million kilograms of cocktail tomatoes annually and supplies major supermarket chains.

Keshav says there is an opportunity in the Australian industry to modernise glasshouses, resulting in higher yields while reducing environmental impact.

“There is new technology in the US/Europe called semi-close module greenhouses, which have a very clean environmental footprint.

“In this system, carbon dioxide produced from burning natural gas is retained within the greenhouse - this air is recycled and not released to the atmosphere as in typical glasshouse operations,” he explains.

Once this new technology is established in Australia, Keshav believes it will help his industry maximise yields while reducing environmental impacts.

Keshav’s travel itinerary includes the USA, Europe, Mexico, Brazil, Canada and New Zealand.



## Karen Brock

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**Karen Brock**, from Winkleigh in Tasmania, receives the 2014 Nuffield Scholarship, supported by Horticulture Australia Limited using voluntary contributions from Nuffield Australia and matched funds from the Australian Government.

Karen hopes to reduce the assessment time of soft berry fruit by developing a technique for placement of gene markers in the plant.

With her husband, Karen owns and operates Brocklands Pty Ltd, a diversified horticultural business, supplying plants and tissue culture material to the soft berry fruit and truffle industries, operating a tissue culture laboratory and running a joint venture raspberry breeding program among other operations.

Karen says at present it takes up to three years to get new soft berry fruits to market for assessment, however she believes this time could be halved by using Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) technology to develop a technique for placement of gene markers in the fruit.

“This could mean instant verification of pathogens residing in plant tissue, enabling rapid multiplication which then results in material being released to the market in just 18 months.”

To carry out her research, Karen hopes to visit Oregon, Arkansas and California in the USA, as well as the UK, Chile, Morocco and New Zealand.



## Emma Germano

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**Emma Germano**, from Mirboo North in Victoria, receives the 2014 Nuffield Scholarship, supported by Horticulture Australia Limited using funds from the National Vegetable R&D Levy and matched funds from the Australian Government.

Emma will research global export opportunities for vegetables and other primary produce.

Emma is Business Development and Operations Manager for 'Germano Produce', a family business supplying cauliflower and cabbage crops for the Australian eastern seaboard fresh market and Woolworths Australia.

The family farm is around 120 hectares, with about 50 per cent planted to vegetable crops. The business currently grows approximately 50 thousand cauliflower plants per week for six months of the year and also grows broad beans, cabbage, and Chinese cabbage periodically during the six-month harvest period.

Emma will research how different countries approach the issue of export, including what government programs are available to growers, as well as the market opportunities for Australian produce.

"I expect this will involve the study of tariffs and free trade agreements, and also how subsidies have an effect on global trade - to complement this, I would also like to investigate how Australia is able to compete in the global food market," she explains.

She plans to visit Europe, Israel, Brazil and China to complete her studies.



## Wayne Dredge

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**Wayne Dredge**, from Lakes Entrance in Victoria, receives the 2014 Nuffield Scholarship, supported by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation and Woolworths.

Wayne will research various methods of fishing for species such as Gummy Shark and also hopes to assess the environmental outcomes of the techniques on fish stocks and broader environment.

Wayne is a commercial fisherman working in the Commonwealth Southern Shark Fishery and the Tasmanian and Victorian Southern Rock Lobster Fisheries.

As owner/operator of the "Opal Star", Wayne spends up to eight months a year at sea, with annual harvest averages of around 15 tonne of Southern Rock Lobster and 25 tonne of primarily Gummy Shark. Other catch includes Octopus, some scale-fish and crabs.

Wayne would like to study research methods of hook-based fishing compared to gill-net fishing for Gummy Shark, taking into account environmental impact.

Wayne would like to visit Canada, New Zealand and Norway to complete his travels.



## Ben Ralston

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**Ben Ralston** from Batemans Bay in New South Wales, receives the 2014 Nuffield Scholarship, supported by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.

Ben will study how to educate Australian restaurant owners/chefs and retailers in serving and handling oysters, creating better links through the supply chain to the benefit of farmers and consumers.

Ben is an oyster farmer on the South Coast of New South Wales, where he produces 80 thousand dozen oysters annually on 10 hectares. He is self-employed and responsible for all aspects of his business, including marketing, sales, finances, compliance and regulation.

He would like to see Australian restaurants and the wider community order live oysters direct from farmers, shucking and serving the oyster meat in its own natural juice, a common practice overseas.

Ben believes oysters are at their best when they go direct from farm to retailer, giving value to the consumer and more profit for the farmer.

“Using my Nuffield Scholarship, I’d like to experience first-hand how overseas industries handle demand for their product and sell oysters live - this knowledge can be brought back not just to the farmers but the chefs and restaurants that sell our oysters,” he explains.

Ben would like to visit Europe, the UK and Hong Kong on his travels.



## Nicola Mann

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**Nicky Mann**, from Warnervale in New South Wales, receives the 2014 Nuffield Scholarship, supported by Horticulture Australia Limited using voluntary contributions from Nuffield Australia and matched funds from the Australian Government.

Nicky will study intensive hydroponic berry production within greenhouses.

Nicky and her husband are hydroponic rose growers on the Central Coast of New South Wales, producing 6000 square metres of roses and selling over a million stems a year. She is in charge of strategic planning and management, plus the sales and marketing of the roses.

With a new project underway to grow berries in a fully hydroponic and closed greenhouse system, Nicky would like to further investigate intensive hydroponic berry production on a large commercial scale and whether the system can be combined with aquaculture.

“There are some Australian aquaponic projects producing both fish and leafy greens, like lettuce, herbs and Asian vegetables.

“However, none to my knowledge are combining hydroponic berries or hydroponic flowers with aquaponics and this provides huge opportunities for this type of production,” she explains.

Nicky would like to visit the USA, Canada, New Zealand, Brazil, Mexico and Europe.



## Sarah Sammon

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**Sarah Sammon** from Swan Hill in Victoria, receives the 2014 Nuffield Scholarship, supported by Horticulture Australia Limited using voluntary contributions from Nuffield Australia and matched funds from the Australian Government.

Sarah will research the commercial viability of alternative flower petal products, as well as advancements in the production, packaging and marketing of rose petals.

With her mother, Sarah founded Australia's first rose petal farm nine years ago and now they grow and freeze-dry the largest colour range of rose petals in the southern hemisphere.

Sarah grows the rose petals outdoors on the family farm, where they have more than 6,000 rose plants and a small crop of hydrangeas, which produce from October through to July.

Sarah will research alternative flower petal products to ensure the domestic industry continues to evolve and thrive.

"My studies will investigate the production and packaging of edible rose petals for culinary use as well as certified organic rose petals and their commercial viability," Sarah says.

She will also include research into niche markets including rose petal oil, crystallized flowers and tourist shops or cafes on flower farms.

Sarah hopes to travel to Ecuador, the UK, France, Bulgaria, Germany and the USA.



## Paul Niven

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**Paul Niven**, from Stanley in Tasmania, receives the 2014 Nuffield Scholarship, supported by Dairy Australia.

Paul will research an integrated dairy farm management system that includes the physical and financial information to reduce risk in the business.

Paul is Business Manager (Dairy) for the Van Diemen's Land (VDL) company, Australia's largest dairy farming business. Paul's role is to oversee the production and profitability of the dairy business, which includes 25 dairies ranging from 300 to 1800 cows and a heifer-rearing facility.

Paul has several areas he would like to investigate in researching an integrated dairy farm management system.

"I'd like to see how to integrate commodity pricing into our management system, research environmental recording and monitoring, grazing management, as well as stock information and management," he explains.

With 25 similar, but unique farms, Paul has an ongoing challenge in monitoring both the current, in-season performance of the properties, as well adjusting to longer-term factors.

Paul hopes to visit New Zealand, the USA, Brazil, Ireland, China and Saudi Arabia to complete his studies.

