



Nuffield Australia Farming Scholars

NUFFIELD UPDATE

November 2009

SPRING TOUR – HAWKESBURY VALLEY, NSW

The New South Wales Branch of Nuffield Australia hosted the Annual Tour from 22nd to 25th October, 2009.

Special thanks must go to Simon and Rosie Turnbull, Tony Hamilton, Ian Macintosh, Liz Riley, Matt Stott and Jan Stillard who all helped with gifts, Esky's and wheels etc.

Of course the tour had input from Jim Friend, Brent Alexander, the Nuffield Board AND THEIR PARTNERS and we really appreciated their help.

Particular thanks to NSW Farmers, Delta Agriculture, Grain Growers Association, Rural Press and Leppington Dairies who sponsored meals. Also the many Nuffield sponsors and friends who made the tour such a lot of fun as well as instructive.

To meet 18 new Nuffield's [5 from NSW] was worth the trip, let alone the returning scholar's reports which were, I think, equal to the best ever.

Hugh and Jenny Roberts.

SPRING TOUR – OVERVIEW

Between 60 and 160 people participated in various segments of the program. The week commenced with the debriefing and briefing for new and returning scholars on the Wednesday in Sydney.

On the Thursday morning the delegates boarded buses from Windsor or Woolloomooloo to head to Leppington Dairy, owned by the Perich Family within the Leppington Pastoral Company Pty. Ltd. The dairy was commissioned in November 2000 and is a 2,000 cow freestall facility which enables climate control. Fans and sprays are automatically controlled to switch on once the temperature rises above 21°C. Annual production is in excess of 28 million litres and they own and operate a milk tanker that distributes their milk to six different processors, including a joint venture with UHT, Kirin, A2 Dairy Products Australia and other boutique manufacturers.

Leppington Pastoral Company has expanded the business into a range of other enterprises including Organic Fertilisers (Leppington) and Superior Shavings, Oran Park Raceway, Narellan Town Centre, Freedom Nutritional Products and Contract Beverage Packers of Australia.

The next stop for the day was the Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute at Camden, including a drive through the farm past the Cow Pastures, before arriving at Belgenny Farm for lunch and an opportunity to listen to a number of researchers from NSW DPI.

Presentations at Belgenny Farm commenced with Garry Levot speaking about Insecticide Resistance in Sheep Lice. It has been predicted that the economic loss from lice in Australia is approximately \$123million per annum, with lousy sheep cutting 10% less wool. Wool growers have a very limited opportunity to eliminate lice from sheep, being 'offshears' (0-24 hours after shearing) or in 'short wool' (1-42 days after shearing). Treatments outside these times only reduce lice numbers. Narelle Sales then spoke about the research being conducted to develop a lice detection test which, hopefully, would be able to be carried out by a farmer in the shearing shed, enabling him then to determine whether lice treatment is necessary.

Michael Hornitzky spoke about Colony Collapse Disorder in Honey Bees. Honey Bee industry production is estimated at \$80 million, but bees contribute to the pollination of seed and food crops at an estimated value of about \$1.7 billion per annum. Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) is a poorly understood phenomenon in which worker bees quickly disappear from affected colonies, with no single cause identified. Further work is still required in this area to fully understand the disorder.

Bob Macintosh followed with a talk about three cereal rusts and UG99. This was followed by Mark Stanham talking about the history of Camden Park before finishing with an inspection of the original Merino genetics.

Later that afternoon the buses split, with each visiting a vegetable farm before meeting up at Rural Press and The Land Newspaper for a tour and BBQ dinner.

On Friday we all gathered in the Sebel at Windsor to hear presentations from the returning scholars. Professor Bill Bellotti; Vincent Fairfax Chair in Sustainable Agriculture & Rural Development, gave the keynote address titled "The Role of Australian Agriculture in Securing Global Food Security". He spoke about the current challenge of increasing global food production by 75% by 2050, while reducing inputs and green house gas emissions. At the same time, primary producers are dealing with carbon trading, climate change, water policy and environmental flows. This will be the largest challenge humanity has ever faced.

Stuart Barden, supported by GRDC, was the first scholar to present. His topic was 'Grain Growing in Low Rainfall Environments'. His closing comment, taken from a BBC Four interview, was "If you can't take a joke, Daddy, you shouldn't be farming."

Leon Ryan, supported by GRDC, then spoke about "China, India, and Durum Wheat - Understanding Emerging

Trends". During his presentation approximately 661 new consumers were born in China and 687 new consumers were born in India, all of whom need to be fed!

Cameron Tubby, supported by Landmark, then spoke about 'Drought Proofing the Low Rainfall Zones of WA'. The secret to doing this will not just be in new systems but rather how they are implemented. It will require a holistic view of farm management with people working with the environment in less risky enterprises, creating more sustainable farming systems for current and future generations.

Bruce Watson, supported by Macquarie Agricultural Services, spoke about 'Commodity Price Risk Management'. His closing comment referenced a study by Nivens & Kastens (1999) that found that price received had the least impact on farm profit, while cost of production and technology adoption had the largest. We should stop stressing about marketing and accept market average for a significant portion of our grain.

Ben Morris, supported by the Rural Finance Corporation, spoke about the importance of soil structure and fertility. Controlled traffic and zero till should both be implemented to improve soil structure and ongoing research is required into nutrient availability.

David Drage, supported by the Estates of the late RC & EC Cappur Webb, spoke about "Carbon Pollution Reduction Schemes: Threats and Opportunities for Broadacre Agriculture". He mentioned that actual science has become irrelevant in the debate as climate change and carbon pollution are hot topics, although adoption of farming practices to fit the political agenda will still result in the adoption of good farming practices. The world currently faces more important issues than carbon pollution reduction schemes.

Brendon Tierney, supported by the Kondinin Group, studied the way capital is employed in farm businesses and whether there is a more efficient way to use this capital. He stated that a change of mindset is required in Australia to separate farm operations from ownership activities.

James Hassall, supported by the GRDC, provided an update on the development of precision agriculture. GPS, wireless technology and agricultural equipment have undergone significant developments, with more advancement expected in the future. Stay tuned to www.robotsgofarming.com

The final scholar to present on the day was David Cussons, supported by Australian Wool Innovation. His topic was 'A Study of Communication Techniques and approaches to Crisis Communication.' He concluded by saying that we need to understand the demographics of the public, embrace the latest social media techniques, have a crisis communications plan and also use sports stars to promote agriculture.

Friday evening over 160 people attended the Scholar Presentation Dinner at the Hawkesbury Race Club. The evening featured Ian Macintosh delivering the inaugural George Wilson Oration (in memory of our long standing past Chairman), presentations to 4 of our 40 year returned Scholars and a presentation to Neil Inall, who along with Geoff Miller,

completed the External Review of Nuffield in 1999 that has led to our recent growth. However, the highlight of the evening was the presentation of scholarships to the 2010 Nuffield Scholars. These were:

Stephen Ball, Riverton, SA, supported by the GRDC.

Robert Egerton-Warburton, Kojonup, WA, supported by the GRDC.

David Gooden, Lockhart, NSW, supported by the GRDC.

Rowan Paulet, Flynn's Creek, Vic, sponsored by GRDC.

Alastair Starritt, Wombota, NSW, supported by GRDC.

Alan Redfern, Wee Waa, NSW, supported by the Grain Growers Association.

Ian Duthie, Triabunna, TAS, sponsored by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.

Edward Cox, Busselton, WA, supported by Dairy Australia and the Australian Dairy Conference.

Graeme Nicoll, Fish Creek, Vic, supported by the Geoffrey Gardiner Dairy Foundation.

Christine Ferguson, Wanaaring, NSW, supported by Meat & Livestock Australia.

Ben Hooper, Tintinara, SA, supported by the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation Honeybee Research and Development Program.

Don Madden, Proston, QLD, supported by Rabobank.

Helen Thomas, Manoora, SA, supported by Landmark.

Minh Hieu Ly, Waterloo corner, SA, supported by the National Vegetable R & D Levy and Horticulture Australia.

Steven Newman, Gumeracha, SA, supported by the National Vegetable R & D Levy and Horticulture Australia.

Brad Stillard, Barooga, NSW, supported by the Australian Processing Tomato Growers and Horticulture Australia Ltd.

Ben Tyley, Kangaroo Island, SA, supported by the Sidney Myer Foundation.

Marty Phillips, Innisfail, Qld, supported by Nuffield Australia – Queensland Branch.



2010 Nuffield Scholars. Additional information about these scholars is available on the website

On Saturday morning the buses departed for Osborne Park, recently purchased by Darley Australia from Ingham's Racing and Breeding Horse Operation. This property is owned and operated by Darley, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed of Dubai. It is part of his global breeding operation that currently stands stallions in six countries around the world. Horse breeding is the Sheikh's passion, with the best horses transferred to Godolphin, to race in the famous blue silks that have been carried to victory in numerous races across the globe.

Following this visit the group visited UWS – Hawkesbury Campus to inspect some leading edge research. This included a tour of the water recycling on the urban/rural periphery with Roger Attwater. Roger spoke about the opportunities that exist for water recycling and reuse and the importance of risk management and communication in transforming this into a valuable water resource. The second facility visited was the trial site used to determine how Australia's eucalypt forests and woodlands will respond to changes in atmospheric carbon dioxide and climate. Tony Haigh, the lead researcher, spoke about his work, which included the construction of whole tree chambers to control atmospheric conditions.

The day concluded with a lecture on campus by Ana Rubio speaking about her work on developing environmental management systems with NSW Oyster Growers. In doing so it confirmed that oyster farming on the estuary was environmentally sustainable and the adoption of an EMS had assisted farmers to further improve their business. Sunday, the final day of the spring Tour, saw the group visit the headquarters of the Grain Growers Association and the Bread Research Institute (BRI). This visit provided an opportunity for the group to hear about the history and current developments of the Grain Growers Association. Bruce Lee, from the CSIRO Food Future Flagship, spoke about new novel grain products, including a low gluten beer. He also spoke about leading edge research in the beef industry, involving testis cell transfer to enhance breeding. The morning concluded with a presentation on the role of BRI and an inspection of their facilities.

The NSW Spring Tour finally concluded with a BBQ lunch provided and cooked by the Grain Growers Association.

Autumn Tour 2010

The tour will be held in Darwin on Wednesday and Thursday 21st-22nd April, and then we will fly to Kununurra for Friday through to Sunday to visit the Ord River Irrigation District.

The returning Scholars debriefing session will be held prior to the Tour on Tuesday 20th April and Scholar presentations will be held in Darwin on Thursday evening 22nd. A full program will be available within the next month.

A novel addition to the Tour, for those interested, will be a further week travelling and camping from Kununurra along the Gibb River Road to Broome. The draft program will include visits to Wyndham, El Questro (Emma Gorge, Zebedee Springs, and Chamberlain Gorge cruise), Manning

Gorge, Lennard River Gorge, Tunnel Creek, Windjana Gorge, Derby and Broome. We anticipate 3-4 nights camping out and 2-3 nights in Broome.

A voluntary one day excursion to the Fitzroy River flood plain to inspect and discuss the previous, current and potential attempts to develop this huge land and water resource will be a highlight of the week (for some!). See the dates on the calendar.

AWARDS TO PRE 1969 SCHOLARS

Brendon Smart, former Chairman, presented appreciation plaques to four scholars, Jim Bell, Doug Oldham, Neville Skerman and Jim Witherspoon



Jim Bell receives his plaque



Doug Oldham receives his plaque



Neville Skerman receives his plaque



Jim Witherspoon is presented with his plaque

NUFFIELD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Having just returned from the Spring Tour at the Hawkesbury valley (Western Sydney) it gives me great satisfaction to see the results of the returning scholars, and also the enthusiasm of the new scholars. Congratulations to NSW for a great tour and in particular to Hugh and Jenny Roberts, who worked tirelessly to make the Spring Tour a great success.

The presentations from the returning scholars were excellent and I think they will all continue to contribute to Australian agriculture in a very positive way. We had topics ranging from Farming in Arid Environments to Communication and Marketing. The day was facilitated by University of Western Sydney (Hawkesbury Ag. Collage) lecturers and this led to some lively debate on issues ranging from feeding the World in the future to the Emissions Trading Scheme. The reports will be posted on the website in the near future and they are well worth reading. All in all, a very successful day attended by over 100 people.

Developing farmers through the Nuffield programme is an excellent way to make a difference in Australian agriculture. Some comments to me from people who were attending their first Nuffield event were very complimentary and in most cases they wanted to know how they could get involved.

The Friday evening Presentation Dinner was at the Hawkesbury Race Club and was attended by over 150 people. Highlights of the night included presenting the 2010 scholars with their ties and scarves. A new initiative, the George Wilson Oration, was given by Ian Macintosh AM (1965 scholar). Ian challenged the current thinking on 'Spin' and also professional politicians, and challenged those in the room to look at leadership roles backed by experience.

Earlier in the week we spent time getting feedback from the 2009 scholars on how to improve the programme and also spent a day with the 2010 scholars giving them background information about the programme they are about to begin. This culminated in a harbour cruise on Sydney Harbour where the new and old scholars and partners enjoyed a great and relaxing night. This was a great opportunity for interaction and networking.

Next year for the first time, we are offering 3 Global Focus Programmes and while this requires more work, it will enhance opportunities for scholars. This year we have



selected our highest number of scholars with 18 travelling in 2010 and we are very grateful for the support of all our sponsors and investors. We look forward to helping the new scholars in their endeavours and wish them the best of luck with their study and safe travels.

David Brownhill

STATE REPORTS

South Australia

2009, finally, has produced an above-average season across most parts of SA. From one of the best general openings to the season, rainfall has been good through to spring. Harvest is well underway through many regions and they are reporting above average yields. The South East is back under water and feed is plentiful.

We have had an extremely successful year within the South Australian Nuffield family and I would like to thank you all for your support over the last 12 months. It was a busy period, attracting and interviewing new scholars and conducting our annual State Tour. This year we had a different format and held a conference in Adelaide. We had a fantastic day attended by many of our sponsors and industry people. Over 70 people attended throughout the day and we had in excess of 80% role call from our Alumni. Well done!

Our conference was opened by the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Paul Caica. The morning heard reports from Matthew Munzberg, Ben Ranford and Lester Marshall. The afternoon was for Nuffield Innovators, scholars pushing the boundaries. We listened to John Gladigau, Brett Roberts, Tim Van Loon, Damien Smart, David Shannon and Hon. Neil Andrew. In fact over 15 of our scholars had direct roles to play throughout the day.

The AGM was held and office bearers for this year are, Chairman- Andrew Johnson, Deputy Chair- Mark Modra, Treasurer- Graham Clothier, Secretary- Damien Smart and Sponsorship Officer- Ben Ranford. I look forward to working with you over the next 12 months further developing Nuffield in our State.

SA is proud to have gained 6 new Scholars this year, a great result in a competitive field. Congratulations to Minh Hieu Ly- Virginia, vegetable industry, Ben Hooper- Tintinara, honey industry, Steven Newman- Gumeracha, vegetable industry, Ben Tyley- Kingscote, lobster industry, Stephen Ball- Riverton, grain and rabbit industries and Helen Thomas- Manoora, grain and sheep industries. Well done and fantastic to have a diverse range of industries and enterprises to our mix. Can I give you all a warm welcome to Nuffield and wish you safe and successful travels over the next 12 months. Good luck.

We will be having our Christmas show on December 18th, kindly hosted by the Munzberg family in the Barossa Valley at Tanunda. We look forward to seeing many of you there and if anyone is traversing our great State at that time, please drop in. Moving into 2010, we are thinking of an earlier state tour, which may incorporate a closer look at the Murray and Lower Lakes region, a good opportunity to promote the benefits of Nuffield to potential scholars.

With harvest beginning and another year drawing to a close I wish you and your families a safe and happy festive season and a successful harvest and end to the season.

Andrew Johnson

Queensland

Queensland Nuffield has some exciting news. We have 2 new members that were announced on Friday 23rd Oct at the Awards Dinner, as part of the Spring Tour Windsor NSW.



Don Madden receiving his award

Don Madden, from Proston, Co-owner and Feedlot Manager of the Smithfield Group, received the 2010 Scholarship supported by Rabobank to investigate the use of animal wastes to produce renewable fuels, particularly the gasification of briquetted cattle manure. He intends to visit the US, Germany and India as part of his research.

Marty Phillips, a barramundi producer from Innisfail, received the 2010 Scholarship supported by The Viertel Charitable Foundation. Previously Marty has been associated with sugarcane, banana and pawpaw farming in North Qld. He plans to study the freshwater trout industry in the US and quality salmon programs in Scotland as part of his research into marketing and aquaculture production techniques and implications for production costs, water quality and fish flavour.



Marty and Linda Phillips

Congratulations to these two outstanding Nuffield's, all the best and safe travel.

As mentioned, the National Spring Tour was held in the Hawkesbury Valley in the Sydney Basin last week. The tour was a very successful event, with a variety of field trips and some outstanding returning scholar presentations. The week culminated in the Gala dinner and presentation. It turned out to be a party for Helen McKellar's birthday, as well as a celebration for the 18 new Nuffield Scholars.

Four, 40-year scholars were also presented, two of whom were from Qld. They were Jim Witherspoon and Queensland's very own Nifty Neville Skerman.



Neville and Alison Skerman

Sunday 21st February 2010 has been selected as the date for the Qld chapter of Nuffield to hold our AGM. It is our intention to make it worthwhile for you to visit Ronald & Sally Thompson's Yarnham property near Chinchilla. It will be an opportunity to check out what is happening in agriculture in that region.

Nuffield Qld is revisiting an old concept of farm visits and we will also be inviting potential scholars along to give exposure to the Nuffield program and meet with scholars of the past and present.

As this year draws to a close may I wish you and your families a Happy and Holy Christmas and may 2010 be a good one.

Michael McKellar.

New South Wales

At the time of writing this, the harvest is either well under way or just starting throughout the State. Our crops here have been going well but we are all aware of the southern crops not looking good. I hope it turns out better than early predictions.

The Spring Tour was hosted by NSW this year and was a fantastic affair. Many thanks to the organizers of the event. Hugh Roberts did a brilliant job putting the itinerary together with Jim Geltch and Liz Mann. I don't know what we would have come up with without them!

During the tour, NSW Nuffield had their AGM and it is with much pleasure that I advise that James Hassall is the new Chairman and Bruce Thompson the Secretary/Treasurer. I am sure they will do a fine job and will have all the alumni's support in the future.

I would like to thank Brent for being a great Secretary/Treasurer over the last three years. He has been very busy with a few other scholars down south getting "Southern Ag Venture" off the ground. I am sure it will be a great success helping farmers market their crop post Single Desk.

Our new crop of Nuffield scholars has been announced. Congratulations to you for joining this group of farmers. I am sure you will agree (in time), that this is one of the defining moments in your professional career. We all look forward to hearing back from your travels.

Finally, I would like all of you to start thinking about what it takes to be a "Nuffield" and start putting the list together for next year's crop of potentials. We all know someone who would benefit from Nuffield so get ready to tap them on the shoulder.

Jim Friend

Victoria

Victorian Nuffield held its AGM and Central Victorian Tour in August. Following the tragedy of the Black Saturday bushfires, Duncan & Patience McDonnell kindly hosted the group, facilitating visits to Kilmore, Flowerdale, Kinglake and Whittlesea to witness the devastation.

Kevin Butler of Blaze Aid gave an inspiring insight to his organisation where volunteers have assisted in restoring fences - and the spirits - of landowners who had not only lost fences but stock, property and loved ones.

After lunch at the Growling Frog Golf Course, the tour visited Phillip Szepe of Kinross Farm, a large egg producer also affected by the fires. As well as supplying eggs to the domestic market, he was also recently supplying Melbourne-based CSL with eggs to produce a vaccine for swine flu. Duncan also gave a tour of his property and illustrated the pressures on his district and the implications for land owners of the rapid growth of Melbourne.

A number of Victorian Nuffield Scholars recently attended the NAB Agribusiness Awards for Excellence and a Rural Press Club of Victoria meeting with Marco Ferroni of the Syngenta Foundation. Marco presented on food security challenges in world agriculture and future technologies available to address this issue. We will be rounding off the year with pre-Christmas drinks in Melbourne.

I would like to congratulate our 2010 Victorian Scholars Graeme Nicoll and Rowan Paulet on their scholarships. I would also like to thank Jim for his ongoing support and we look forward to a vibrant 2010!

Nicola Raymond, Victorian Secretary

Tasmania

In June we met at Longford for our AGM where Tony Barker was elected Chairman, James Walker, Secretary and Kathy Henry continued on as Treasurer. A great attendance for the day allowed us to finalise our process for scholar applications and to do some future planning.

A group of 10 scholars and partners headed to the West Coast for a weekend winter escape in August. First visit was Granville Harbour Farm, an oasis of green pasture pretty much in the middle of nowhere from an agricultural perspective. They run a beef herd of 670 cows and carry all stock through to rising 2yo before sale. To achieve this they make about 2000t of silage because it is just too wet for making hay. At times the cows go down to the beach and graze on Bull Kelp washed ashore during the wild West Coast storms.

On Saturday the group rode the ABT railway from Queenstown to Strahan, stopping for some gold panning along the way. An excellent journey but I guess they will have to stick to agriculture to find their fortune.

Sunday was a brilliant day for a cruise on Macquarie Harbour. The water was calm enough to go out to the heads past

numerous fish farming operations, Atlantic Salmon and Ocean Trout. As the boat went up river the reflections and scenery changed with the weather, giving the group a typical west coast experience. The trip was thoroughly enjoyed by all and many thanks to Darryl and Michael for the organizing.

The season could be summed up as being wet. Some parts of the State had the wettest winter for 50 years! This is great for livestock production but rather frustrating for those trying to sow crops.

We have a lunchtime gathering planned for 12th December to welcome back our two returning scholars, Thomas and Rob and to introduce our new scholar Ian Duthie from the aquaculture industry, (the first for Tasmania). So I look forward to catching up then.

Tony Barker, Chairman

Western Australia

Western Australia is pleased to have another two Scholars again this year. We congratulate Ed Cox and Rob Egerton-Warburton on their Scholarships and the opportunity to experience the global agricultural situation first hand.

The season has been reasonably kind to most of the state and harvest of broadacre crops is beginning to get underway. Over the whole State yields are predicted to be average to slightly above average but as usual, there are plenty of areas that are going to be well below average. The strong dollar is proving to be another issue to contend with and Western Australia is already talking about labour and skilled labour shortages.

The WA Branch of Nuffield is already planning for the International Conference in 2011, and is organising an excellent experience for all who attend. Please keep the dates free. The International Conference is an excellent opportunity for networking with all the Nuffield Scholars globally and a chance to see the excellent way WA does things!

The WA Branch has its AGM and Sponsors Luncheon coming up on Friday 12th of February. All are invited to attend. We will have presentations from the recently returning WA Scholars and will hear from the new 2010 Scholars of their plans for the exciting year ahead of them.

Dave Fulwood has had a high profile in the media recently as the first WA farmers to harvest and deliver a GM crop. This reinforces the forward thinking and being early adopters that Nuffield encourages. Congratulations Dave and Jo!

Finally, congratulations to Aaron Edmunds and his new lovely wife Hilda on their recent marriage. ACE has even reintroduced some sheep on his property so Nuffield certainly makes people change!

Murray Gmeiner

Northern Territory

The top end is winding down from another busy year. The season has been very average in the horticulture sector and the cattle industry remains steady.

Jon and Sharon are waiting for the first wet season rains after a busy veg season, butternuts being the saviour, while Helen and John from Gilnockie Station had a better year with supplements being affordable and have had their first rains.

Ashley and Lyndee's tourist season is winding down. It was better than average with a lot of campers and caravans. As always, permanent staffing is hard to find but the backpackers have filled in some of the gaps. The station has had a permanent dozer driver for the last few months and is about to build new cattle yards. Many trucks of cattle have been sold at low prices but they are starting a new breeding herd with 300 Murray Grey cows and 16 stud bulls, which is exciting. Camels are still a big issue and the fences and bore runs are always there. A rain would be handy.

Bill and Trish Davey moved to Mareeba in Queensland in the middle of the year. We hope they enjoy their new area.

Helen, John, Phil and Dean are preparing a busy schedule for the April tour next year. The tour is from 21st April and is focusing on the Darwin and Kununurra regions. There are plans under way to visit Paspaley Pearls, a crocodile farm, a mango packing shed and to enjoy a cruise around the harbour. There will also be a trip to the farming area of Kununurra and to Lake Argyle. Members will have to get in early if interested as flights start to get hectic that time of year.

Jon Shaw

SCHOLAR REPORTS

(Published recently on the "Nuffield Website")

"Sailing Ahead; The Australian Livestock Export Trade" by Annabelle Coppin, 2008 Nuffield Scholar

"Investment and Growth in Extensive Agriculture - A Study of Investment Differences in Global Agriculture" by Mark Graham, 2008 Nuffield Scholar

"Commodity Marketing and Value Adding - Wheat production and marketing, biofuels in Australia and global trends that could shape our markets" by Simon Tiller, 2008 Scholar

"A study into sub-surface drip irrigation" by Mathew Stott, 2008 Nuffield Scholar

"The Role of Regionality in the Marketing and Branding of Food" by Jane Bennett, 2008 Nuffield Scholar

"Maximizing profitability when going Organic" by Jason Jarvis, 2008 Nuffield Scholar

"Beyond Sustainability for the Australian Pastoral Industry (Improving Profitability for the Family Farmers in the Rangelands)" by Graham Finlayson, 2008 Nuffield Scholar

"Success and Succession in the Family Farm Business" by Jamie Snell, 2007 Nuffield Scholar

CHINA YANGLING AGRICULTURAL HI-TECH FAIR

The concept from Murray Scholz 2008 of showing scholars 100 doors at the end of the travel year was exactly what happened to Ronald Thompson when he was invited by the Chinese Government in Shaanxi province to speak at the China Yangling Agricultural Hi-tech Fair. Since travelling in 2007, Ronald has led a Nuffield group through Brazil and a returned scholars group through China before travelling back to Yangling near Xian (home of the Terracotta Warriors) at the beginning of November.

Ronald's experience was amazing. The speaking group at the Hitech Agricultural Fair was presented in an elaborate ceremony in front of over 100,000 people. Ronald's wife, Sally, watched from a VIP area as the twenty minute ceremony culminated in a large fireworks display. The VIP visitors were then allowed access to the exhibition halls for an hour prior to the public being allowed into the area.

The first day of the forum was VIP treatment and listening to presentations or speeches as the Chinese prefer to call them. Mr Myron Sofer, a director of a research facility in Israel, gave his presentation on the importance of research to benefit farmers. This was followed by three Chinese speakers who spoke on a range of subjects including carbon powder from cotton trash, setting up a large orchard in Shandong Province and an interesting speech from a lady who went from being unemployed to running a large clothing factory.

The Chinese emphasise relationships, so sharing a meal is of utmost importance. Each meal had the appropriate amount of fresh cuisine and a large amount of dignity.

There was a presentation dinner on the first night and Ronald was the first keynote speaker on the second day. He shared information about hi-tech farming including controlled traffic and precision farming as well as talking about the Weedseeker® and electronic tagging of cattle.

Other speeches covered eco agriculture, how to be a good village official and the development of the apple industry. At the end of the presentations there was a question and answer session with Weedseeker and electronic tags being a hit.



Ronald Thompson in China

The final day was a highlight with Ronald being interviewed for 20 minutes on a live radio and TV broadcast. The audience was a staggering 50 million agricultural viewers and listeners! Ronald was asked questions on where Australia

could help China's agriculture as well as questions about the electronic tag system and the Weedseeker.

Visits to the research and development farms were a researcher's candy store. No expense has been spared as the Chinese showed their immense ability to gather information. If only our country could do the same! The association between Nuffield and the Yangling Agricultural Fair looks to be an ongoing opportunity for the organization.

The time in China finished with R&R for Ronald and Sally who caught an overnight sleeper train from Xian to Beijing where a visit to Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City was followed by seeing the Pandas at the zoo and visiting the Olympic stadium at night. They also walked the Simatai section of the Great Wall and had the famous Beijing (Peking) Duck.

A ride on the famous Maglev in Shanghai, the magnetic monorail that travels at 430km an hour (that is not a misprint, 430km per hour!) saw the end of an opportunity of a lifetime all culminating from being a Nuffield scholar

Ronald Thompson

WORTH SHARING

UK Visitor

We have a request from a young fellow, George Badger (18 yrs) whose family befriended our daughter in UK, seeking one to three weeks work/stay on a farm in Australia in Jan 2010.

He is presently in NZ where he has completed a shearing course but mostly worked as a tutor in a Christchurch school. SA, Vic. or maybe S. NSW would suit him best. It would be great if any Nuffield Scholars could help. Please contact me. Ian R Farquhar

Birth

Emily Grace Cussons was born on Sunday 13th September. A daughter for David and Kelly

Important Website links

www.coretext.com.au/communications_images.php for more photos of the 2010 Scholar Awards Dinner

http://www.nuffield.com.au/news_f/media_09.html for individual media releases about our 2010 Nuffield Scholars

http://www.nuffield.com.au/confer_f/2009_spr.html 2009 Scholar presentations made at Windsor

http://www.nuffield.com.au/confer_f/ora_f/gw-ora09.html to read Ian Macintosh's Inaugural George Wilson Oration

Leigh (Leroy) Vial, 2006 Nuffield Scholar, is taking a sabbatical from farming in the Western Riverina in Laos with his family. To read more about Leroy's take on life in Laos, visit http://www.nuffield.com.au/report_f/field_n.html

Another thoughtful essay from Leigh Vial titled "Cherish the Generalist" can be found at http://www.nuffield.com.au/report_f/other/Leigh%20Vial_Generalists0609.pdf

Caroline Nixon has completed the 4th and final instalment of "Nuffield the Man". See all four instalments at <http://www.nuffield.com.au/index.html>



Leigh Vial and family with the two Lao ladies in our life: Khone, and Tholani, the Lao goddess of the soil

NUFFIELD 2010 CALENDER

Date	Event
12 th February	WA Sponsors luncheon/AGM
21 st February	Queensland AGM
26 th Feb to 10 th April	February Global Focus Program
6 th -14 th March	Contemporary Scholars Conference in USA
1 st April	Applications open for 2011 Scholarships
20 th April	2010 Scholar debrief Darwin
21 st -25 th April	Autumn Tour in Darwin/Kununurra
25 th April to 2 nd May	Kununurra to Broome along the Gibb River Road
4 th June to 17 th July	June Global Focus Program
30 th June	Applications close for 2011 Scholarships
12 th Sept. to 26 th Oct.	September Global Focus Program
19 th October	2011 Scholar debrief Melbourne
20 th October	Management training day with Woolworths executive team
21 st -24 th October	Spring Tour in Melbourne