



Nuffield Australia Farming Scholars
NUFFIELD UPDATE
June 2010

Box 586 Moama NSW 2731
Tel: (03) 5480 0755
jimgeltch@nuffield.com.au
www.nuffield.com.au

The Chairman Writes

Once again it is that time of year when applications are open for 2011 scholarships. We have 20 scholarships available for travel in 2011. As has been proven in the past, the best way to attract applicants is through previous scholar encouragement. Therefore I ask you to think about farmers who you believe would benefit from a Nuffield scholarship. This only takes a small amount of your time and as the benefits of the scholarship program are enormous, please do your bit.

I recently returned from New Zealand where, along with Jim Geltch and Peter Nixon, we attended the presentation day for recently returned New Zealand scholars. It was a good experience for us all, and it helped develop the links within Nuffield. There is no doubt that the New Zealand Nuffield Scholars are very appreciative of the fact that they can join the Global Focus Programs, as we in Australia are, adding to the diversity.

Nuffield Australia has recently signed a MOU with Charles Sturt University that allows Nuffield Scholars to receive prior learning credits for their Nuffield scholarship. This initiative has been matched by Marcus Oldham College, who have announced that a Nuffield scholar should receive one unit (25%) of unspecified credit in their Postgraduate program. This speeds up the process for those wishing to undertake further study.

We had five speakers at the Australian ABARE Outlook conference in Canberra on March 2nd and 3rd including a session hosted by Nuffield Australia on the next generation in the rural sector. There were numerous discussions at Outlook about driving productivity and there is no doubt that Rob Kelly (Scholar 2006) and Jane Bennett (Scholar 2009) demonstrated that this was possible with the right attitude, knowledge and passion.


Once again, please encourage potential applicants to apply prior to the 30th June 2010. Application forms are available on the Nuffield Website.

David Brownhill (Chairman)



Around the Branches

Northern Territory



It has been busy here, the Autumn Tour in April was good and we'd like to thank all who contributed including our NT sponsors, the Department of Resources and our new partner, ANZ.

The tour started in Darwin with returning scholars presentations. It then continued to Katherine via Howie's farm in the Douglas/Daly area and Friday night dinner at the All Seasons where John Armstrong spoke about his NT experiences. On Saturday we visited Herrod's Ballongilly brahman stud and the Ooloo mango farm. Thanks to the Howie's, Herrods and Trevor Cambell, for their time and hospitality. A Katherine Gorge boat tour and dinner was great on Saturday afternoon and night! On Sunday some returned home and others continued on with a tour to Broome.

Ashley and Lindy are very happy to be home from hospital. Ash is recovering well and Lindy is doing a great job holding the fort. They had some interesting results from some straws Ash bought when he did his Nuffield in 1986. They AA'd some cows and got a 50% strike rate. not bad after 24 years in the freezer!

Helen and John Armstrong are hoping things will turn around with the live export trade as prices are lower and the Indonesian market is flat. They thoroughly enjoyed the Nuffield tour.

Jon and Shaz are in the middle of planting and harvesting. The year doesn't look too promising but you never know! The weather has been strange with rain and humidity in May playing havoc with the crops. They hope the rest of the year will be normal. They also enjoyed the Tour and being able to put faces to people that they had met over the phone.

Shaz Shaw

Around the Branches

Victoria



The Victorian alumni were invited to a Christmas gathering in Melbourne on Friday 11 December. Over 15 scholars and partners attended, which got underway at the European Bar on Exhibition Street in Melbourne's CBD.

Surrounded by a jovial city workforce, we sampled a few drinks before heading to a restaurant in Chinatown for a meal. A great night was had by all with good conversation and lots of fun.

Victoria will host the National Spring Tour from 21-24 October and we look forward to welcoming the alumni from across the country to Melbourne and the surrounding regions. This tour coincides with Nuffield's 60th anniversary and we promise to provide a very special program. More details will follow soon.

We look forward to receiving a high number of applications for 2011 scholarships and our State selection process will commence on July 27. We would like to thank Jim for his ongoing support and we look forward to seeing good winter rains in the months ahead.

From a farming perspective, most regions seem to have had a magnificent autumn break with farms in the Western District saying it's the best ever in memory. As long as the winter doesn't become too wet is the main thing for the dairy regions.

Parts of Gippsland missed some of the early autumn rains but appear to have caught up now. Northern Victoria has had some water allocation at last, which is a positive, but the locusts have also appreciated the green pick, which will be of concern come spring when the eggs start to hatch again.

Fonterra has jumped out of the gates early releasing their opening milk price, which isn't something to dance in the streets about but better than last years opening price. Still very early days with the milk price but the industry talk is very positive.

Nicola Raymond

Western Australia



It is nice to see the weather pattern start to change after a long, dry summer and hope that all have received rain. After a series of challenging seasons an above average year Australia wide would be a great boost.

Our annual luncheon at the Royal Freshwater Yacht Club was well attended and capped off with excellent presentations by our four returning scholars, Cameron Tubby, Leon Ryan, David Cussons and Brendon Tierney. A diverse range of topics was well received by scholars and guests.

Our AGM followed and I would like to thank Murray Gmeiner for the fantastic effort as Chairman for the last 3 years and for the good stead in which the WA Nuffield is currently enjoying. This must also be said of Dave Fulwood as Treasurer and Brian McAlpine as Secretary. The patience and support of their wives, Linda, Jo and Tracy, is generally unrewarded but greatly appreciated.

While Brian has agreed to follow on with another term as Secretary, I would like to congratulate Tracy Lefroy as the new Treasurer and Leon Ryan as Vice Chairman.

After the luncheon and following the AGM, Tracy and Brian McAlpine kindly offered their home and hospitality for an informal catch up of scholars, wives, partners and children, which was enjoyed by all.

Congratulations to Annabelle Coppin on her appointment to the WA Beef Council Producers Round Table and her nomination for the 2010 WA Citizen of the Year.

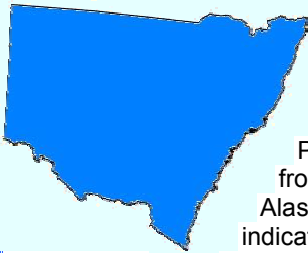
It is that time of the year to follow up and convince the quality farmers that would make successful scholars to apply, as applications are currently open.

To Rob and Ed, I hope your Nuffield year is progressing well and to all, let the rain fall (within reason) and the year be a successful one.

Phil Longmire

Around the Branches

New South Wales



As this newsletter goes to print, NSW has Alan Redfern and Brad Stillard heading off on their Global Focus Programs. If the reports from Dave Gooden and Alastair Starrit are any indication, they're in for a fantastic trip. Dave and Alastair returned from their GFP's around a month ago and with the excellent start to the cropping season across most of NSW, have been busy getting their crops in the ground and planning their next trip.

Dave found the GFP an amazing experience. *"Firstly experiencing world travel, planes, new places and friends and secondly, gaining an understanding of global agricultural customs, culture, profitability, the environment and trade. From the community conscious UK to the big and broad landscape of South America, it was truly a memorable tour."* Dave sets off again on the 6th of June and is planning on travelling through UK, Ireland, mainland Europe, Canada and the USA, investigating pesticide application. While there is a lot of R&D being conducted across the world, he feels that more work needs to be done to bring the outcomes to farmers.

Alastair also had an enlightening trip. His take home message, *"Australia upholds an enviable position in relation to bio-security and quarantine with a reputation as innovators in farming in a difficult environment. I only hope our government recognize this and have the foresight to replenish the agricultural sector starting with re-investment in research and development."* Alastair sets off again in early July and will be travelling through the UK, Canada, the USA, Uruguay, Brazil and New Zealand looking at soil health and CO₂ sequestration. Check out his excellent GFP report on the Nuffield Website.

Chris Ferguson will have to wait until September for her epic GFP tour, but she's been busy in the meantime. She spent three weeks in the USA after the Contemporary Scholars Conference in Washington, visiting goat producers, importers, distributors and researchers. Like most, if not all new scholars, she ended up coming home with more questions than answers! She feels that her investigation into the opportunities for the Australian Rangeland Goat industry will evolve along a marketing theme *"given that the problems we experience in managing goats in arid areas are tightly linked to market creation"*. She is off to the Gobi Desert for three weeks in August with a PhD

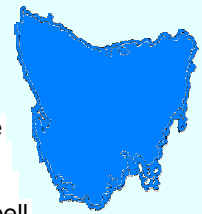
student talking to nomadic herders and doing rangeland assessments before her GFP. Finally she plans to visit the Middle East, Africa, Brazil and New Zealand as well as follow a plane load of goats from farm to slaughter in Malaysia early next year. Check out Chris's excellent blog at <http://goatcatcher.farmnet.com.au/> which of course can also be accessed from the Nuffield Website.

Hearing the travel stories of our current scholars brings back fantastic memories of our own adventures and certainly reminds me of the wonderful opportunities the Nuffield program offers. Needless to say, applications for 2011 are now open, so don't keep it a secret; encourage a fellow farmer to become a Nuffield Scholar.

James Hassall

Tasmania

Autumn in Tasmania has been exceptional, with most parts of the state experiencing good rains and warmer than usual temperatures, providing pasture growth almost like spring.



We held a general meeting at Campbell Town on 17th of April where we organized our plan for sourcing potential applicants for scholarships. Personal approaches by the Tasmanian alumni was again the preferred method of working through the database of likely contenders. This was supported by an ABC radio interview with Ian Duthie commenting on his experience at the Contemporary Scholars Conference held in the US in March.

Ian Duthie leaves for his Global Focus Program in September and is now busily preparing his workplace while his head is still spinning with ideas from the challenges presented at the conference in the US. We wish Ian all the best for the rest of his travel.

I encourage any scholars and partners who can make time, to come for a weekend away to Bruny Island on 18th and 19th of June. Promised is an eco cruise from Adventure Bay and a chance to visit some boutique agriculture on the Island.

There is only a few weeks left before applications close for 2011 scholarships so please make use of this time to help the next crop of scholars find their opportunities.

Tony Barker

Around the Branches

South Australia

With some parts of SA enjoying probably the best start to the season for many years, significant areas are still yet to have had any substantial break to the season as I write this news letter in late May. Fingers crossed for the up and coming season and wish you all well across this great land for an abundance of produce.



It has been extremely enjoyable hearing and reading many proactive and positive reports from our recent 6 scholars who are all embarking on their Nuffield journey throughout this year. Many have started and can I wish Hieu, Ben and Ben, Steven and Stephen and Helen, along with all of our new Scholars, safe and successful travels. I look forward to hearing the rest of the stories and of course, reading the reports.

Whilst this time of year tends to be our dormant period there has been much activity from our Alumni here in SA towards the up and coming International Conference in September 2011. I'd like to thank you all for your help and ongoing support. As we are unveiling the content of the conference it is promising to be exceptionally good and we look forward to seeing many of you there.

We had our annual Christmas show, kindly hosted by Matthew and Kendal Munzberg. Amongst their vines at Tanunda in the Barossa Valley, it was a great opportunity to catch up with all again at another well supported SA function. Also, many didn't hold back to sample a good selection of top Mad Dog wines.

I would very much like to thank Nufarm as our State sponsor for their ongoing support, and now would also like to include Nu-Seed, their Seed Division, for coming on board as joint sponsors. Along with all Nuffield sponsors it "simply wouldn't be what it is" without your support. We welcome Nu-Seed to the Nuffield family and look forward to much interaction.

Looking ahead for the year we hope to present another top bunch of scholars to the list, don't forget to encourage new participants to apply. The AGM and State Tour will be at a similar time as last year, in August. We are planning a bus trip to a few venues along with dinner and we look forward to seeing many of you there.

Again, good luck to all for the season ahead and another vibrant year within Nuffield.

Andrew Johnson

Queensland



Good rain interrupted by out-of-character heavier rain events caused floods and serious damage to many areas in Queensland. As this report goes to print people remain as busy as ever with plantings, mustering, weaning and selling of livestock all around the State. However some areas are still hoping to get rain as they have missed out.

We have endeavoured to contact all Alumnae seeking their assistance in identifying and encouraging applicants for 2010 scholarships. Thank you for assistance, no matter how little; it is appreciated by your executive.

Camilla and Andrew Philip's company, Spexsports, were recently recognised at the Ausveg Conference on the Gold Coast, receiving an award for innovative marketing for their new *Intense Tomato* variety.

Our very own Brendan Kersh has turned adversity into a positive. While incapacitated and recovering in bed he has written a blokes story about his wife, mother of his children, best friend and business partner. A little book that is the perfect gift of appreciation written for adults and children alike. MUM.... the super human being that is the common factor in everyone's life. It is illustrated by Norah Kersh, Brendan's mother. "*then Mummy went to bed!*" is available at all good book stores and newsagents or order online at www.brendankersh.com

Tim Harslett, our Secretary is recovering from a knee reconstruction and complications caused by infection after surgery. We wish him a speedy recovery.

2009 Scholar, Marty Philips is preparing for round two of his scholarship leaving on the 21st June. He will be travelling to Denmark, Netherlands, Scotland and USA. Marty intends to be home early September.

Our other 2009 scholar, Don Madden is to recommence his studies on September 12th, visiting US, Mexico and China. Currently he is doing background research and considering options with his study topic of renewable fuels through animal waste.

Michael McKellar

2010 Autumn Tour

Approximately 50 people participated in the 'Autumn Tour' held over 4 days in the Northern Territory.

As the group came together on our first evening we headed out for dinner to Chars Restaurant, one of Australia's best know steak restaurants.

Day 1 – Wednesday

The tour on the first day was based around the Darwin region, commencing with a visit to Paspaley Pearls. Paspaley is the world's leading South Sea pearl company, growing the finest quality pearls in the world. This visit included two segments of the business, the shipyards followed by the main head quarters of Paspaley Pearls, located on the edge of the Darwin Mall. The shipyards contained six dry repair berths and five wet berths, covering all facets of ship repair including engineering and maintenance. While the provision of these services to Paspaley's own fleet of pearling ships remains a core priority, Pearl Marine Engineering Pty Ltd also completes work for a wide range of contracts including The Royal Australian Navy. The visit to the shipyards concluded with an inspection of one of the



pearling ships. The group were all impressed by the level of comfort onboard the vessel.

The tour then continued on to Crocodylus Park where we heard Prof. Grahame Webb speak about the concept of sustainable use of wildlife to benefit conservation. This was followed by a visit to the abattoir and hatchery, where we were able to hold a baby crocodile before finishing with an opportunity for some participants to feed large breeding crocodiles in the park.

Day 2 – Thursday

Starting with the returned scholar's presentation day, the keynote speaker was Bruce Sawyer, Director of Farming Systems, Plant Industries Division in the NT Department of Resources. Bruce provided an overview of the agricultural sector in the NT, detailing that the Pastoral Industry is worth in excess of \$260M, field crops around \$18M and horticulture approx \$118M, with mangos as the largest horticultural industry.

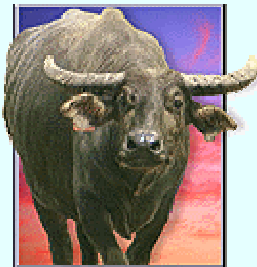
The day continued with 7 presentations from returned Scholars. All Scholars kept the audience well entertained with the high quality reports that revealed their findings and how they will apply the learning's to their own farms and agriculture in Australia.

Included in the day's program was a presentation from Katherine Sarneckis, CEO Seafood Industry Council. Katherine spoke about "*Local seafood swindles – the deception and failure of voluntary labelling*". Following this we were all more informed about dining out in local restaurants and being able to determine whether our seafood is locally produced.

That evening a dinner was held at the Novotel Restaurant, with an entertaining and informative talk by Luke Bowen, Executive Director of the NT Cattleman's Association. This presentation highlighted the lack of infrastructure, i.e. roads in the region and he also spoke about the value of the export live cattle trade.

Day 3 – Friday

On Friday morning we departed Darwin and started heading towards Katherine. Our first visit for the day was to Geoff and Sharon Arthur's property called Beatrice Buffalo Pty. Ltd. Here we viewed their small herd of Buffalo and heard about their plans to develop their buffalo dairy and buffalo animal



Riverine Buffalo

husbandry. From here we continued onto Beatrice Hill Farm (BHF). BHF is used as the base for the NT buffalo research program and floodplain land management research programs. The NT has the only buffalo research program in Australia.

BHF manages the Department's Riverine buffalo breeding herd. The program is developing a Riverine buffalo breeding herd through a cross breeding program between Riverine buffalo imported from USA in the early 90's and the local swamp buffalo. This includes a project to register the herd on to the breed plan stud recording system (funded by RIRDC).

Having spent the morning hearing about Buffalo breeding in the NT we headed towards the Douglas Daly Region, making a quick stop at the tourist park for lunch. After emptying the shop of all icecreams, icypoles and chocolate bars the group continued on route to Howie's property called "Maneroo".

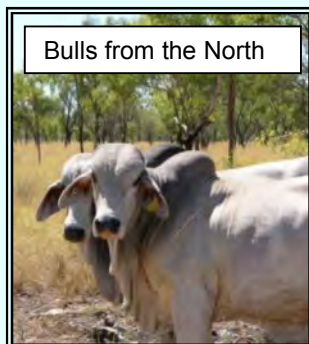
Phil and Annette Howie, along with their son Chris and daughter-in-law Amanda, manage a 5,200 ha property which borders the Daly River. Originally from Western Australia, they now run rotational cell-grazing to rest pastures, and no-till hay production to reduce erosion and loss of soil moisture. Under the cell-grazing system, the cattle are rotated to new pastures every 60 days. In September 2009 they were awarded the NT Landcare Primary Producer Award for their sustainable land management and cattle production methods.

That evening the group checked into the All Seasons' in Katherine before heading to a buffet dinner in the

restaurant where we were able to eat crocodile and kangaroo from the barbie. At this stage a number of local Nuffield alumni joined us for dinner, including Jon Shaw, Helen Murphy and Dean Hersey.

Day 4 – Saturday

Following yet another early start the group visited Ballongilly Station, the property owned by Paul and Debbie Herrod. Along with their daughter Lorree, they run Ponderosa Brahaman Bull Stud. Paul spoke about their bull stud management and selection, detailing their feeding methods to ensure they produce high quality bulls which will meet customer requirements. We inspected a number of their bulls destined for an upcoming sale and were impressed by their placid nature.



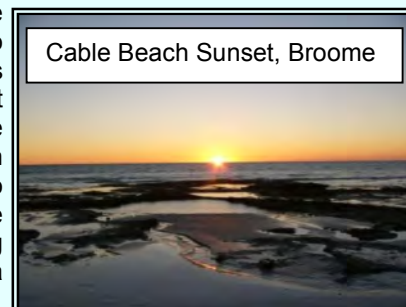
The second visit for the day was to a MIS Mango Plantation, originally established by Timbercorp. Although currently operated by receivers, the orchard will continue to operate until the end of the next harvest. The property is currently managed by Ooloo Farm Management, which is part of the OneHarvest Group. The orchard consists solely of the Calypso™ variety. This variety is a cross between Kensington Pride and Sensation and was introduced into Australia in 1999. The OneHarvest Group has the exclusive rights to sell this variety. Initially established in 2006 the trees remain the

property of the investors for a period of 20 years, with the land currently for sale. The 135 ha orchard has 25,000 trees planted of varying age, with harvest typically occurring during Oct-Dec.

At lunch time the group returned to the All Seasons for a casual lunch before heading off on the Nabilil Dreaming Sunset Dinner Cruise in the Katherine Gorge. During this cruise we heard about Nabilil a dragon-like figure who named the region Nitmiluk after hearing the song of the cicada and the spirit, history and culture of the Jawoyn people. The cruise continued along the first two gorges, and finished with dinner onboard the boat on the return trip. This was a fantastic evening and a great way for this Autumn Tour to draw to an end.

Day 5 – Sunday

The day commenced with the ANZAC Dawn service in Katherine before returning to the All Seasons for check out. At this stage the group split, with some returning to Darwin and the rest continuing onto Kununurra and Broome.



Thanks must go to the local NT Nuffield alumni and their partners for making this tour possible.

Liz Mann

| 2010 Nuffield Calendar | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| DATE | EVENT | VENUE | HOST |
| 26 th February 2010 | Scholars briefing Canberra | NFF House | Nuffield Australia |
| 26 th Feb-10 th April 2010 | Global Focus Program | NZ UK Brazil Canada USA and Mexico | Nuffield Australia |
| 6 th March-14 th March 2010 | Contemporary Scholars Conference | Washington DC/Penn. USA | Nuffield Australia |
| 20 th April 2010 | Scholar debriefing | Darwin | Nuffield Australia |
| 21 st April-25 th April 2010 | Autumn Tour | Darwin and Kununurra | NT Nuffield |
| 22 nd April 2010 | Scholar Presentations | Darwin | Nuffield Australia |
| 1 st April 2010 | Applications 2011 scholarship open | National | Nuffield Australia |
| 4 th June 2010 | Scholars briefing Canberra | GRDC Boardroom | Nuffield Australia |
| 3 rd June-17 th July 2010 | Global Focus Program | Philippines China USA Canada Ireland France | Nuffield Australia |
| 30 th June 2010 | Applications close | National | Nuffield Australia |
| 26 th July 2010 | State selection | Launceston | Tas. Nuffield |
| 27 th July 2010 | State selection | Melbourne | Vic. Nuffield |
| 28 th July 2010 | State selection | Sydney | NSW Nuffield |
| 30 th July 2010 | State selection | Brisbane | Qld. Nuffield |
| 2 nd August 2010 | State selection | Adelaide | SA Nuffield |
| 3 rd August 2010 | State selection | Perth | WA Nuffield |
| 6 th -7 th Sept. 2010 | National selection | Melbourne | Nuffield Australia |
| 13 th September 2010 | Scholars briefing Canberra | NFF House | Nuffield Australia |
| 12 th Sept-26 th Oct 2010 | Global Focus Program | USA, France, Ukraine, Syria, Bahrain, India & Singapore | Nuffield Australia |
| 20 th October 2010 | Scholar briefing/debrief | Melbourne | Nuffield Australia |
| 21 st – 24 th October 2010 | Spring Tour | Melbourne | Vic. Nuffield |
| 22 nd October 2010 | Scholar presentations | Melbourne | Nuffield Australia |
| 22 nd October 2010 | Nuffield Awards dinner | Melbourne | Nuffield Australia |

Katherine to Broome

We left Katherine for Kununurra by bus and the travel took most of the day through some beautiful but rugged land used to graze cattle; almost exclusively Brahms. We had one engagement in the evening, an overview of the Ord River Scheme, particularly Stage 2. This was presented by Peter Stubbs the Director of the Ord-East Kimberley Expansion Project.

The expansion will take the Ord from 14,000 hectares to 22,000 hectares and will allow a surge of current crops such as Chia, melons, pumpkins as well as other crops such as cotton and rice. Costing around \$220 million, the work is to start this month and the first land release is expected in 2011. The long term plans allow the Ord Scheme to extend into the Northern Territory. Noel Wilson also gave us details of where the Ord is today with 45% of its area under Sandalwood and the next big thing, Chia, could be as important.

The generosity of the speakers was highlighted to me in that they gave their time freely to talk to Nuffields on the evening of Anzac Day.

John Foss [Nuffield 2001] and his wife Kay then took us through the Chia story. Originally from South America, Chia is a grain of antiquity but has health properties that are just being recognised. Chia is the highest known source of plant based Omega3 and has high levels of fibre and protein. It is also gluten free and is endorsed by the Celiac Society and has a tick of approval from the Heart Foundation [That is the end of the commercial John]. If this comes to maturity, and I have no reason to suspect it will not, Chia and the Ord will be a perfect fit.



Some sturdy tourists took 3 planes to fly the Ord at 5.30 am. Some did not.

Tropical Sandalwood was the first up on Monday [still a public holiday] and well worth a look. Sandalwood is a parasite so is planted with a host which changes as the Sandalwood grows. The nurseries had to be seen to be believed; excellent agriculture!

Rewards Group then showed us their packing shed for red grapefruit and mangoes at the \$6.25 million facility. It was absolute state of the art. As the fruit is being packed, the major supermarkets in Melbourne are being notified and by the time it is at the end of its process the destination of the pack is known! The facility is a credit to the owners.

Majibun Farm is being developed as a Chia production block and is using recycled water to

facilitate this. We saw a few crops of rice which could be making resurgence.

The sugar mill is gone and the other crop of interest with a change of Government in WA is GM Cotton.

We looked at 2 really interesting farm shops. First The Hoochery, which is a rum distillery and shop. It seemed very popular. They now have to grow their own sugar to make the molasses for the rum. This was an adjunct to many years of successful special seed production. The other shop was a Sandalwood venture and it had only been opened 3 days. It was really smart and told a great story

Our thanks to John and Kay and those who made the Ord a great visit.

On Tuesday 27th April we took off down the Gibb River Road for 1,000 km of gravel heading for Broome. The youngest participant was a 2009 scholar; the most senior a 1966 scholar and the party consisted of 2 drivers, 20 scholars and 1 sponsor. We were camping out, just a ground sheet, air mattress then sleeping bag. Thankfully a passing shower the first night was the only precipitation.

There is a serious side to the tour that I will come to in a bit. However, it needs to be said we laughed our way for 4 days in one of the most unforgettable Nuffield tours I have ever been on. We went to Emma Gorge then El Questro to camp after a tour of Chamberlain Gorge. It is worth noting that the camping ground at El Questro was expecting to host 400 people a night in the season [still 2 weeks away]. The 2 premium suites at El Questro homestead are virtually fully booked at around \$2,500 a night. Quite a farm-stay operation!

Day 2 started with swims at Zebedee Springs, then Ellenbrae Station for lunch with scones made as we spoke with the manager. Very much a cattle harvesting operation and different to the class Brahms seen earlier in the NT. Then on to Manning Gorge for the night.

Day three was a stroll to the Gorge before breakfast [two Geltch kms = five real ones] or a swim at the camp for others. Then to Lennard River Gorge which is the same distance except that it is up.



The serious bit is that Leonard River can run up to 4 km wide in the wet and we drove through 40,000 acres of flat self mulching gray soil that could be watered by the river. Napier Downs will someday be a huge food producer.

Overnight, Windjana Gorge quite a sight.

Day 4 was a bit of Aboriginal history, then to Tunnel Creek where the river goes 750 metres through the Napier Range. Then another 100 km of flat open country, some of it possibly irrigation-able in the future.



200 km on the tar bought us to Camballin and Liveringa Station, an example of what the future brings. The Fitzroy River during the Wet is second only to the Amazon in flow to the ocean. If it could be dammed, or if the powers that be WANT to dam it, Camballin has 61,000 acres of irrigable country, all treeless and level. That is right, twice the total area of the competed Ord! It was developed in the late seventies by Texan know-how and destroyed by Government apathy. The farm now produces 1,500 cattle a year plus sorghum hay for the export cattle boats. We were wonderfully hosted [indeed lavishly] and we were probably the scruffiest group of Nuffields that ever went on a farm inspection. Then to Broome.

It is impossible to sum up what we saw as it was different for each one and I do not know whether I saw a dream of hopes shattered or a dream of the future. I suspect that the Kimberley is the future and it will happen in the life of our younger scholars.

Thank you to Jim, Graeme and Des the drivers, and the fun/serious team.

Hugh Roberts.

Worth Sharing

Copies of Stan Schur's latest DVD of the Autumn Tour in Darwin are available from the National Office for a small fee. DVD's of previous tours are also available

Bruce and Karina Watson had a little boy, William (3.75kg) on Monday June 7th. William's arrival was well timed, says Bruce, as they had finished planting only the previous day!

VALE

Captain John Stewart
-former UK NFST Director-

Scholar Reports

1. **"How to Develop a Dynamic Regional Brand To Restore Health & Wealth to Rural Economies"** by Lester Marshall 2008 Nuffield Scholar
2. **"Market Based Ecosystem Services - A proposed National Stewardship Initiative"** by Sam Archer 2008 Nuffield Scholar
3. **"The Role of Farmer Collaboration in Creating Supply Solutions"** by Ben Ranford 2008 Nuffield Scholar
4. **"The Drive for Water Use Efficiency"** by Jarrod Ryan 2008 Nuffield Scholar
5. **"Carbon Pollution Reduction Schemes - Threats and opportunities for broad acre agriculture"** by David Drage, 2009 Nuffield Scholar
6. **"Talking Agriculture - A study of communication techniques and approaches to crisis communication"** by David Cussons 2009 Nuffield Scholar
7. **"Commodity Price Risk Management in Australia - A Dare to be Average!"** by Bruce Watson 2009 Nuffield Scholar
8. **"The Efficient Use of Capital in Farm Businesses"** by Brendon Tierney 2009 Nuffield Scholar
9. **"Drought Proofing the Low Rainfall Agricultural Zones of WA - Alternative farming systems for low rainfall, semi arid agricultural regions of Western Australia"** by Cameron Tubby 2009 Nuffield Scholar
10. **"Grain Production in Low Rainfall Environments: A World View"** by Stuart Barden 2009 Nuffield Scholar
11. **"Future Trends in Precision Agriculture - A look into the future of agricultural equipment"** by James Hassall 2009 Nuffield Scholar
12. **"Grains Demand & Consumption Trends in the Chinese, Indian and Durum Wheat Markets - A guide for broad acre farmers to understand the markets in order to match production to consumption"** by Leon Ryan 2009 Nuffield Scholar
13. **"Soil Structure and Fertility - The Key to Increasing Grain Production in the High Rainfall Zone"** by Ben Morris 2009 Nuffield Scholar

2010 Outback Kimberly Focus Tour

The Nuffield's are on the Gibb River Road, thrifty troopies and trailer carry the load
Jim's vehicle the fastest, with economy to boot, laden with mattresses luggage and loot
Des & crew full of cheer, protecting the grog, especially the beer
GJ and crew in the four wheel drive, years of knowledge amongst them there five
Kununurra we left, no more phone, body bags and duct tape plastic and foam

Emma Gorge our first stop, red cliffs and rocks, a beautiful sight
Magical water hole deep and cool, under the mist, of a single waterfall
Rounded rocks, ferns, and filtered light, fluorescent legs giving everyone a fright
Margaret afoot, Max by her side, this girl goes anywhere, determination and pride

Onto camp at El Questro Station, emerald green lawns and 5 star accommodation
Hugh and Jenny Roberts quietly having a smoke, very quickly followed by many funny jokes
Chamberlain Gorge, with Splash, Kathy and Chilly, awesome cliffs, 600 million years history
Archer fish with deadly sight, champagne orange and fruit, made the night
Return from the cruise for exquisite food, leaving the group in a very good mood
Enhanced by the beer, wisdom poured from Graham's mouth, providing correction in finding due South

Ian and Diane were cuttin' some wood. We didn't think they would snore, but MAN they could
Malcolm the porter did what he oughta, Kristina with blisters required the Sister
The very next day at the start of the trip, at Zebedee springs we called for a dip
We surrendered to the charms of those towering palms
The experience for all was most essential, but we hear for some it was far more sensual
With our bodies relaxed and our emotions sated, we headed back to the bus before anyone mated
Peter the senior, quietly spoken, shorts in his suitcase, was only a token
Karen happy snapping from far and near, hindered poor Des from finding 5th gear

Pentecost River, rocky bottom, high water level, placed the trailer and refreshments in peril
Ellenbrae Station for lunch scones and cream, really a loo stop for the female team
Mt Barnett Roadhouse for ice fuel and food, onto the campground to set the mood
Majestic Boab's, like bottles of wine, backstraps and cherries a meal divine
Rob and his limerick on Archibald Solebroker, proved to be, a prize winning joker
Kathy was kind and a generous sole, always stayed neat and lent out her pole
Julie the youngest by many a mile, helped with all tasks with the loveliest smile
We crossed Manning River and scaled ridges extended, to finally discover the Manning George splendid

The water cascaded, into the pools, only 2 jumped in to prove they are fools
Back at the camp site the others reposed, guys warning of crocs' snapped GJs sphincter closed
Only one 69er was had for the day, and that was to celebrate Hugh Robert's birthday
Breakfast was had, and on we trekked, the road was closed but in we went

The Lennard Gorge, was the target, shit it was hot! We nearly all carked it
The chasm was deep, the view was great, without the Gatorade coulda nearly lost a mate!
Next time an extreme trek is undertaken, we'll choose someone who can be forsaken

Richard's dreamtime story, of King Leopold's Range, with NZ and pigeons, seemed rather strange
At Windjana Gorge, we set up camp, hard dirt ground and plenty of ants
The blue moon was bright the singing a fright, In bed by ten, to snore through the night
Termite mounds, made of Spinifex and faeces, magnificent structure from such a small species
And now for the gorge, WOW what a look, 200 meters of vertical rock.
Black as charcoal, red ochre rocks, set among ponds infested by crocs
Backdrop of trees, foreground of sand, Jabiru, Archerfish, Brolgas - all grand

Into the troopies and off we head, to learn about Pigeon, who is now, unfortunately, dead
The next part was rough, so slow we did creep, to explore the grandeur of Tunnel Creek
Our expectation of crocs, with red eyes gleaming, Barb was quite scared and started screaming
Marg followed suit and jumped a mile, the rest continued with a smile
Stalactites and Shawls hung from the ceiling, limestone veils created a cathedral feeling
Bouncing and bumping and lots of tossing, we hit the bitch' near Fitzroy Crossing

Sue the joker, kept us in stitches, delusions of camels, donkeys and witches
Guys jokes, humour, and laughable wit, kept us from bed, just a little bit
Our bums were numb our bladders were tight, we headed for Camballin as fast as we might
Country hospitality at Liveringa was had, cakes and sandwiches with Deb, and tour with Brad
1.5 million acres overall in size, crocs in channels and floods for a prize
With bums still numb and brains near dead, off to Broome for a bonk in a bed (or a cold shower instead)

Thankyou GJ Des and Jim, with a diet of lettuce we were bound to stay slim
The camaraderie and laughter will be remembered forever, a Nuffield trait when we are all together

Created by car 3 passengers, 2010 Nuffield Kimberly tour: Karen, Graham, Des, Malcolm, Kristina, Sue, Guy, Richard.

2011 International Conference

South Australia and Western Australia – September and October 2011

This triennial Conference offers scholars from across the world the opportunity to experience the extraordinary destination that is Australia. It will be a premier opportunity for scholars to be engaged in Australia's vibrant and diverse farm sector and discuss the issues affecting world farming.

There are three stages to the conference, South Australia- 25th to 30th September, Transit- 1st to 4th October and Western Australia- 5th to 9th October. The two conference centres will be Adelaide, the "City of Churches" and Perth, "One of the World's Most Liveable Cities".

The technical tours will take in places that feature in the tourist guide books such as Port Lincoln and the Adelaide Hills region incorporating Mount Barker, Strathalbyn and Victor Harbour. In Western Australia we will visit the Benedictine Monastery town of New Norcia, the vineyards of Margaret River and the historic town of York. Unlike tourists, however, we will have the benefit of on-farm guest speakers, case studies and social events. It promises to be a valuable and enjoyable International Conference

Book your place from July 1st 2010. Visit the Nuffield International website for details.

Nuffield South America Tour

Santiago to Rio- August and September 2010

This tour leaves Sydney on August 29th and returns on September 21st. It takes in the spectacular tourist sights of Chile, Argentina and Brazil as well as guided visits to and discussions about the diverse primary industry of these three nations. Truly the opportunity of a lifetime! **This is the last chance as it may not be run again.**

Cost is **\$9,500 to \$10,000 all inclusive** including airfares meals and accommodation.

If interested, contact the tour leader, Ronald Thompson, at yarnham@hotmail.com or 0427621159. **This is the last chance at this price.**

Spring Tour

Victoria- October 2010

Victoria is the destination for the Spring Tour that begins and ends in Melbourne. The tour also takes in farming to the bushfire ravaged north of the city and the Gippsland dairy region.

The tour coincides with the 60th anniversary of Nuffield farming Scholarships and it promises to be a memorable event.

Dates are Tuesday October 19th to Sunday October 24th.

The tour leaders will be Peter Best, Nicola Raymond and Max Jelbart, ably assisted by Liz Mann.

At the time of going to press details are still being developed but the Spring Tour promises to be a most rewarding experience. Keep an eye on the Nuffield Australia website for details.