



Nuffield Australia Farming Scholars

NUFFIELD UPDATE

November 2010

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The Chairman Writes

At the Spring Tour held in Victoria, we conducted our annual presentation day for new scholars and listened to seven returning scholars present their findings. We congratulate the new scholars and wish them the best of luck on their future travels. This year we awarded 18 scholarships from a possible 22. At Nuffield Australia we believe that while growth in scholar numbers is part of our long term strategy, it is critical that we keep the standard at the same level of the previous 60 years.

We also celebrated our Diamond Jubilee 60th year, with toasts from Graeme Box (1973 and previous Nuffield Chair), Jenny Hawkins (2009) and Robert Harrison (1965) who cut the cake. The second George Wilson oration was delivered by Doug Rathbone (CEO of Nufarm). It was great to have members of the Wilson Family attend and for Nuffield to recognise the effort that George put in to ensure the program continued after the UK funding ceased.

Congratulations to Ashley Severin (1987) and Brendon Smart (1990) for being awarded life memberships. A great honour and the first time many of us have seen Brendon struggling for words.

The Global Focus programs continue to develop, and in September we saw the departure of Program 3 which went to the US, France, Bahrain, the Ukraine, and India. This trip took the scholars to new countries never before visited on a Global Focus Program. This experience of group travel and information gleaned stands the new scholars in good stead for their individual study and for the rest of their business life.

Nuffield Australia is making a difference. Through the efforts of our scholars, the alumni, the executive, and the Board, we are all playing a part in developing the human capital for agriculture in Australia that will lead it into the future.

Finally, this will be my last report as I complete my term as Chairman of Nuffield Australia. I would just like to thank Nuffield Australia for all the opportunities and experiences that I have been so lucky to partake in. A big thank you to the alumni and the Nuffield Australia Board for your support but in particular to the new scholars, who every year get selected to the program and then transform and excel in ways they would have only dreamed of without their Nuffield Scholarship.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce Terry Hehir (1994), a Victorian Dairy Farmer as the new Chairman of Nuffield Australia. It was even more fitting that we were able to announce his appointment at not only a dairy farm, but a robotic dairy farm. The new Deputy Chairman is Ronald Thompson (2006) who has a farm at Chinchilla in Queensland. I wish both Terry and Ronald the best in these new roles and hope that they get as much out of the job that I did.

Dave Brownhill



New Life Members

Two Life Members were awarded on the Friday night of the Spring Tour.

The first recipient was Ashley Severin, a 1987 Nuffield Scholar (pictured left).

The second was Brendon Smart, a 1990 Nuffield Scholar (pictured right).

Life Membership is a rare honour. Nuffield Australia has awarded only 10 in 60 years.



Around the Branches

Northern Territory



The season is coming slowly to a close in the north. Most of the NT has had good rains. Ash said the desert country is green with feed and has full waterholes and fat cattle.

The top end has also had a good break to the season, with good rains and way cooler conditions than average through October. Good feed and lower water pressure is also a bonus. Most places are nearly finished their 2nd mustering round.

The melon season is getting close to slowing down, and has seen fluctuating prices, due to over supply at times. Mango season is winding up in the Katherine district with many farms experiencing light crops, which led to slightly higher prices.

We are happy to have had 2 recipients of Nuffield scholarships for 2011 and congratulate Lorre Herrod and Rob Cook on their efforts. Rob Cook from Suplejack Station was awarded the NT scholarship sponsored jointly by the ANZ bank and the NT Government Dept of Resources. Lorre Herrod from Ballongilly Station was awarded a scholarship sponsored by Macquarie Agricultural Funds Management Limited

NT Nuffield would like to thank all the sponsors and appreciate the continued support of the NT Government and the ANZ bank for their support and would like to acknowledge the efforts of Bob Williams from the NT Dept of Resources, and Alison Clarke from ANZ Darwin/Katherine.

Ash Severin was awarded a Nuffield Life Membership and we congratulate him on that score. Also Ash and Lyndee were married recently in a quiet, low-key way? Congratulations and all the best in the future from us all.

All the best to everyone in the coming season.

Jono Shaw

Victoria



After the wettest winter in 15 years, Victoria is expected to produce some large crops, and high fodder yields this season.

Now all that's needed is enough good weather to harvest it all. However when things are looking good there always seems to be something to watch out for such as those dark clouds, the risk of locusts doing the harvesting early and a climbing dollar. Fortunately government agencies have begun to tackle the locusts with aerial spraying in the north west of the State, following an increased number of hatchings.

Even Lake Hume has filled to capacity for the first time in over 10 years, after only being just 2.1 per cent full in April last year. However, although the state's water storages are high, some areas of Gippsland have still experienced below average rainfall.

Last Thursday, a number of Victorian Nuffield Scholars gathered at Crown Casino for the Annual NAB Agribusiness Awards for Excellence. Australia's top companies and individuals in agriculture sectors are recognised at these awards and John Foss (2001 Scholar) of the Chia Company took out the prize for the Innovation in New and Emerging Industries Award (sponsored by RIRDC.) Congratulations John!

We also congratulate Victorians Roma Britnell and Adam Jenkins, both from the Western Districts, for their 2011 Scholarships. Roma, from Woolsthorpe receives the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship supported by Landmark and will study the importance of food production to the Australian community. Adam, from South Purrumbete received the Scholarship for a primary producer sponsored by Rabobank and will study agricultural cooperatives with an emphasis on dairy cooperatives. We wish them both a successful year and look forward to their presentations next year.

Nuffield Victoria has also just held its Annual General Meeting. The office bearers for 2010-11 are: -

- Chairman: Michael Hastings.
- Vice Chairman: Jamie Snell.
- Secretary: Nicola Raymond.
- Treasurer/Public Officer: Max Jelbart.

I would like to thank Jim for his ongoing support and we look forward to a successful harvest season and catching up with more scholars over the coming year.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Michael Hastings

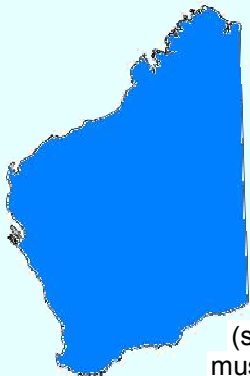
Lyndee & Ashley sign the register on Mt Conner. Photo- Grenville Turner



Around the Branches

Western Australia

Firstly, we would like to congratulate Michael Foss on being awarded the 2011 scholarship. The topic of corporate farming structures is becoming increasingly relevant in modern farming and we look forward to finding out what the world has to offer Australian farming.



What a year! Amazing the area of WA that has recorded well below average rainfall with some areas receiving less than 80mm! Hopefully with prices looking positive next year (sounds familiar), a good season must be due to generate cash flow and remind us why we love this industry.

It sounds like current scholars, Rob Egerton Warburton and Ed Cox both had enjoyable and interesting tours with Ed having his first visit from an English scholar. He has organised a busy schedule for his guest through the Nuffield network around WA.

It was interesting to hear from Dave Fulwood on his return from the Ukraine: -

"I had the pleasure of organising a week in Ukraine for four Australian scholars and one scholar from Northern Ireland. We travelled from Kiev in the north and finished in the south at Odessa on the Black Sea. Visits included grain farms, stockfeed manufacturing and distribution, vegetable processing and production, grain storage an export terminal and a farmers market.

"We also met with various agribusiness professionals in Kiev to gain an understanding of Ukraine and the challenges and complexities of doing business in this part of the world. With over one third of the worlds "cherozem" black soil, massive soviet built irrigation systems and large arable areas it is easy to get excited by the huge potential of Ukraine. However, this can be dampened as we learned about the many difficulties faced by investors that have come and gone since the days of communism."

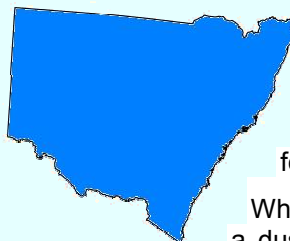
Congratulations to John Foss, managing director of The Chia Company, winner of the Innovation in New and Emerging Industries category at the NAB Agribusiness Awards.

It would be fair to say "Bring on 2011!"

Phil Longmire

New South Wales

Well what a difference 12 months has made! This time last year nearly all of NSW was drought declared. It was recently announced that all of NSW is now out of drought. We spare a thought for those in the West who are in the middle of a crippling drought, a situation NSW had been in for nearly a decade.



What a change in landscape from a dust bowl. NSW now has rivers flowing, grass as far as the eye can see and bumper winter and summer harvests expected. Prices for cereal grains are at high levels and cotton plantings have doubled with greater availability of water and near record prices. Mutton and lamb prices are also at record levels with low supply and high demand. Cattle prices remain strong, despite the high AUS\$. What a great time to be in agriculture! Unfortunately wool prices, even though they are on the rise, still need to lift in order for farmers to stay in Merinos, particularly the superfine sector. The lack of demand for high end fashions due to the financial crisis seems to be out shadowing the lack of supply. Hopefully this sector will turn around in the next 12 months. Imagine being a wool grower who trades cattle and has to buy them on the current market? Good luck to those on the other end.

To all those who have crops to harvest I hope the weather is kind to you, the grain hardens, does not sprout and grades well. There is also the threat of a locust plague; hopefully they will be kept under control and not damage crops or the grassland of the West.

The other major issue is the MDRA's proposed draft to a plan to cut water allocations to irrigators and save the environment. Sounds simple!!! If there is one positive to come out of this it is that it is banding farmers and their communities together, all speaking with one voice.

Nuffield NSW held their AGM in Gunnedah on the 13th of October. The meeting was followed by a visit to AMPS Agriculture Business and some of their trial plots. Thursday night was spent at Richard Heath's. James Hassel was re-elected Chairman, Robert Kelly Deputy-chair, Bruce Thompson Secretary and Matthew Stott Treasurer. In the middle of next year Nuffield NSW is planning an outback tour of NSW to visit farms in our western division, so we invite all farmers, partners/wives/husbands to come along for the trip.

Continued...

Around the Branches

NSW Continued

The next wave of Nuffield scholars has been announced. I would like to congratulate all the scholars on joining the Nuffield alumni. I would like to welcome the 4 NSW scholars to the NSW branch.

Paul Adam from Tottenham will be supported by Macquarie Agriculture Funds Management. He is looking into cost efficiencies in no-till cropping. Paul and his wife Megan are currently farming 2000Ha of cereal crops.

Robert Blatchford hails from Gurley. Robert and wife Penny run a dryland, no-till cropping enterprise, growing cotton, durum, wheat, chick peas, faba beans, millet and opportunity cattle trading on 6700Ha.

Robert is supported by the Grain Growers Association and will be investigating cover crop options for cotton to reduce evaporation and store moisture for future crops.

Michael Inwood from Bathurst is supported by the Sydney Myer Fund. He will be studying sustainable agriculture management with a specific focus on soil.

Michael is involved in managing a 800Ha family farm, specialising in environmentally sustainable superfine wool production with a small percentage of first cross lamb production and cropping.

James Male is from Yerong Creek and will be supported by Meat and Livestock Australia. James, in partnership with his brother, runs a mixed farming enterprise of 4,400Ha, which is made up of cereals, oilseeds, pulse crops and sheep for prime lamb production. James manages the livestock operation.

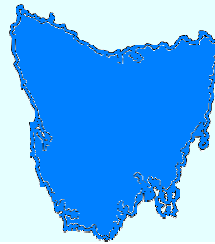
James will be investigating the impact on export lamb industry of breed selection, sustainability of market prices, feedlot structures, market competitors and improved feed efficiency through breeding and nutrition.

We wish them all well on their travels and look forward to hearing from them throughout their travels and on their return.

I hope this has been a good year for all those involved in agriculture and hope next year to be even better. I wish you all well for Christmas and the New Year.

Robert Kelly

Tasmania



It gives me great pleasure to welcome our two new 2011 Nuffield Scholars, Rob Nichols and Paul Lambert. Rob has a mixed cropping farm and poultry business at *Sassafras* and will study *"Renewable energy as an alternative farm income"*.

Paul lives at Merseylea and operates numerous dairy farms across the north of the State, from Dairy Plains to South Riana. He will investigate dairy technology with a focus on robotic milking in a large scale system and on farm energy production.

Paul and Rob will both travel to New Zealand for the Contemporary Scholars Conference in March next year.

Ian Duthie has recently returned from his Global Focus Program and is very grateful for the myriad of experiences and doors that were opened for him in this action packed journey. A slight detour from the group allowed Ian to attend a conference and build some valuable networks with people in his shellfish industry.

Congratulations to Jane Bennett who recently won the *"Telstra Tasmanian Business Woman of The Year"* award.

Good general rains across the State have most grazing areas enjoying a good Spring although surpluses for silage are a bit light on to date.

Tasmanian Nuffield Scholars and their families will gather at Campbelltown on Sunday 12th of December for a BYO picnic followed by the AGM. This will be a good opportunity to meet the two new scholars and hear about Ian Duthie's travels to date.

A farm tour and information dinner will be held on 25th and 26th of March around Devonport. This will include visiting some scholars' operations and also promote the Nuffield organization to our sponsors and prospective applicants. Please mark that weekend in your diaries.

Tony Barker

VALE

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of 1955 Nuffield Scholar, Max Piggott

Autumn Tour 2011

This tour has been cancelled

Scholar presentations will be made immediately prior to the International Conference on the 24th and 25th September 2011.

More detail regarding the 2011 Scholar Presentations and Awards Dinner can be seen on the brochure advertising the International Conference.

Around the Branches

South Australia

Heading into November it would be fair to say we all have our fingers crossed that we avoid the terrible heat wave of last year. Spring has thus far been extremely mild, we have had substantial and timely rain and that this year is shaping up as one of the best across all of SA. Lets hope all the grain, lambs, beef, grapes, honey, oysters, prawns, crayfish, wool, cherries, lucerne are abundant and of the highest quality.

This year has again been very successful for South Australian Nuffield. Sixteen applicants were interviewed at State level and all were of exceptional quality. Of these, eight gained an interview at National selections. It was very pleasing that five were awarded a 2011 Nuffield Scholarship. Congratulations to Shannon Mayfield, Craig Duffield, Clint Sharfe, Scott Samwell and James Robertson and good luck for the years of Nuffield that lay ahead. A special thanks to Nufarm who have sponsored this year's State Scholar (Shannon Mayfield).

In late August we held our Annual Tour dinner and AGM in Adelaide. The tour started with a visit and tour of the RM Williams factory in Salisbury including a lunch and an address from the companies CEO. We then visited 2009 scholar Hieu Ly and his family's hydroponic tomato operation in Virginia. The day was gratefully supported by Pfizer animal health, was extremely well attended and enjoyed by all.

The 2010 AGM was very well attended with 27 scholars present. The AGM saw a change in the structure of the State executive where three scholars were elected as State committee members. Congratulations and thanks to Graham Clothier on re-election as Treasurer, new Secretary John Gladigau, Andrew Johnson as Sponsorship Officer and Andrew Hienrich, Cathy Harvey and Charlie Hilton as Committee members. Thanks also to outgoing Chairman Andrew Johnson who has served brilliantly and injected SA Nuffield with enthusiasm, momentum and, of course, eleven new scholars.

2011 will be a busy year as we host part of the International Conference. A lot of work has gone into this with more to come. We envisage that most will be required to help out at some stage and we hope that the majority will attend. For this reason we have decided not to hold our annual State tour and dinner to allow all to focus on the International Tour. An AGM will be held at some stage late in 2011.

The Christmas show is pencilled in for December 17 so I hope to see many of you there as we won't be together again until September. All the best for the remainder of this season and all of the next and keep looking for the next bunch of SA Scholars.

Damien Smart

Queensland

As this newsletter goes to print, varying seasonal results have the Queensland agriculture sector in a whirl. Parts of North Queensland are experiencing dry conditions and cattle are either being unloaded to market or transported to agistment.



The rest of the State has received record rainfall over the past months and experienced a season to match. Grain farmers are

busy harvesting with varying results of yield and quality. The cotton industry is going all out to plant a record area and hopefully get some of the best prices since the mid-nineties.

Coal seam gas exploration continues through Queensland causing concern as producers come to grips with the mining industry operations.

This newsletter is very exciting for Qld as we welcome two new scholars, Andrew Dewar and Aaron Sanderson. Both are about to embark on a fantastic journey.

Andrew Dewar is the 2011 Woolworths Scholar. A vegetable grower from Clifton SE Qld, Andrew will be studying best practice management of summer vegetable production. He hopes to visit the USA Salinas Valley, Israel, Europe, Spain and China.

Aaron Sanderson is from Ayr in North Qld. Aaron will be studying food production in the wet tropical areas of the world and how those production systems relate to Northern Australia. He hopes to travel to countries with similar latitudes to Northern Australia as well as Brazil, Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia.

Congratulations also go to 2007 scholar Camilla Philip and husband Andrew on being awarded Future Focused Farmer of the Year 2010. This is a fantastic achievement.

Marty Phillips presented his findings at the Melbourne spring tour and did a wonderful job. It is an absolute credit to all the returning scholars that they can produce such a polished performance. We look forward to reading Marty's report.

Robert Harrison was the Queenslander interviewed in a Parkinson style on Saturday evening. The older Nuffield's have some amazing stories to tell. It is very important that these stories are told in front of the new scholars as well as some of the not so new!

In other Queensland news Ronald Thompson has been elected to the position of Deputy Chairman of Nuffield Australia.

Michael McKellar

2011 Nuffield Events Calendar

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	HOST
1 st - 2 nd March	ABARE Outlook Conference	Canberra Convention Centre	ABARE
3 rd March	2010 Scholars debriefing	GRDC Boardroom	Nuffield Australia
3 rd - 4 th March	2011 Scholars briefing Canberra	GRDC Boardroom	Nuffield Australia
5 th March - 17 th April	Global Focus Program	NZ Brazil Mexico California Ontario Washington DC and Scotland	Nuffield Australia
5 th - 13 th March	Contemporary Scholars Conference	New Zealand; Wellington and Christchurch	Nuffield New Zealand
25 th - 26 th March	Tasmanian Field Day/presentations	Devonport	Tas. Nuffield
1 st April	Applications 2012 scholarship open	National	Nuffield Australia
2 nd -3 rd June	Scholars briefing Canberra	NFF House	Nuffield Australia
4 th June - 17 th July	Global Focus Program	Philippines China Virginia Washington DC Maritime States Ireland France	Nuffield Australia
30 th June	Applications close	National	Nuffield Australia
25 th July	Tasmanian State selection	Launceston	Tas. Nuffield
26 th July	Victorian State selection	Melbourne	Vic. Nuffield
27 th July	NSW State selection	Sydney	NSW Nuffield
29 th July	Queensland State selection	Brisbane	Qld. Nuffield
1 st August	SA State selection	Adelaide	SA Nuffield
3 rd August	WA State selection	Perth	WA Nuffield
29 th - 30 th August	National selection	Melbourne	Nuffield Australia
8 th - 9 th September	Scholars briefing Canberra	NFF House	Nuffield Australia
10 th Sept - 23 rd October	Global Focus Program	India Bahrain Turkey Syria Ukraine France Washington DC and Nebraska	Nuffield Australia
23 rd September	Scholar briefing/debrief	Adelaide	Nuffield Australia
24 th - 25 th September	Scholar presentations	Adelaide	Nuffield Australia
24 th September	Nuffield Awards dinner	Adelaide	Nuffield Australia
25 th Sept.- 9 th October	International Conference	Adelaide South Australia and Perth Western Australia	Nuffield Australia

Worth Sharing

1967 Nuffield Scholar **HENRY HOPKINS** was awarded Life Membership at the World Simmental Congress gala dinner in Melbourne recently. He was an original member of the Australian Simmental Breeders Association council and went onto become president in 1975. Henry established the Wormbete Simmental stud located on his property "Allawah", near Illabo, in the early '70s. His son, **John**, and his wife, **Nicole**, continue to run the property and stud.

Congratulations Henry!

In September at the Kondinin/ABC Rural Australian Farmer of the Year awards, 1999 Nuffield Scholar **ROSS WOODHOUSE** was awarded the top prize of Farmer of the Year. Not to be outdone, 2007 Nuffield Scholar **CAMILLA PHILLIP** and husband **Andrew** won the Future-focused Farmer of the Year award.

Nuffield was also well represented in two other categories:

- **GARY HANNIGAN**, 2006 Nuffield Scholar and wife **Tracy** of Broken Hill, NSW were finalists for the Diversification Farmer of the Year award and
- **ROBERT KELLY**, 2007 Nuffield Scholar, and wife **Fiona** of Guyra, NSW were finalists for the Wool Producer of the Year award.

Well done to our four Nuffield Scholars. The brochure for the Awards night could have been a promotional brochure for Nuffield Australia.

To cap all this off, at the recent NAB Agribusiness Awards Dinner held in Melbourne, Nuffield Australia was well represented with;

- **JOHN FOSS**, 2001 Nuffield Scholar and Managing Director of The Chia Company winning the Innovation in New and Emerging Industries Award and
- **BEN BOOTLE**, 2001 Nuffield Scholar and Chairman of AgTechnix P/L, winners of the Technology and Innovation Award.

Congratulations to both John and Ben (must have been a good year in 2001?)

JANE BENNETT, 2008 Nuffield Scholar, was recently awarded the Tasmanian Telstra Business Women of the Year. This automatically meant Jane was a finalist in the National Business Women of the Year Awards held in Melbourne on the 11th November. She was also a finalist in the Hudson Private and Corporate Sector Award held on the same evening.

Although unsuccessful in taking out the top awards, Jane's efforts in winning the State Award and going head to head with some of Australia's leading business women was an achievement in itself. To put the awards in context, Gina Rinehart (Lang Hancock's daughter) won the 2009 Award. Jane credits her Nuffield scholarship as a major part of her career development.

Well done and congratulations Jane.

Spring Tour

The Victorian Branch of Nuffield Australia hosted the annual tour from the 20th to 24th October, 2010.

Between 60 and 140 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 Melbourne. That evening the majority of the group arrived in Melbourne and met for dinner at Dicaprio's Pizza and Pasta Restaurant.

Thursday

Thursday morning commenced with a presentation from Tim Jelbart, a property valuer discussing valuations and compensation in and around the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). Duncan McDonell, a 1976 Nuffield Scholar also spoke about the impact of the UGB on his region and farming business.



Spring Tour Participants

Following this the delegates all boarded buses and headed towards Kinross Farms, a family owned and managed business that has been producing eggs for over 40 years and is the largest independently owned egg producing farm in Victoria. Here we met with Philip Szepe who spoke about not only the faming business but also the impact of the bushfires. Following the 2006 bushfires they had implemented a thorough fire plan, which included three types of insurance, one to cover the loss of infrastructure, another to cover the increased cost of maintaining the business and the last to cover a loss in profit. Following the bushfires on the 7th February 2009 all three types of insurance cover were required.

Upon departing Kinross Farms we travelled to Duncan and Patience McDonell's property at Darraweit Guim. Here the group toured the farm and listened to talks from Blaze-aid and Grain Assist.

That evening the group had dinner at "Rupertswood" Mansion. "Rupertswood" was built as a residence for Sir William John Clarke and covered an area of 31,000 acres. It is also the place where the "Ashes" were created in 1882. The evening included a history of the property and the Clarke family, and for one Nuffield Scholar also provided an opportunity to reminisce about his school days and scrubbing the floor of the mansion.

Friday

On Friday we all gathered at the Melbourne Airport Quality Inn to hear the presentations from the returning scholars. The day was officially opened by Victorian Minister for Agriculture, Joe Helper, MP.

Graeme Nicoll was the first scholar to speak with his presentation titled: "Enhancing the Resilience of Dairy Farms in the High Rainfall Regions". Graeme's recommendations for the Australian Dairy Industry were to encourage a systems thinking approach, including detailed in-herd benchmarking, assessing Montbeliarde cross cows in Australian conditions and

adopting a best management approach to pasture management. In addition communication within the industry must be improved.

Steven Ball investigated zero-till farming systems in high rainfall growing zones (HRZ) and its impact on soil biology and nutrient cycling. His studies have resulted in him buying a disc seeding machine, retaining cropping residue, using composted waste as a soil conditioner and investigating niche markets. In addition he is also looking at options to lease/buy land with water, working with the media to get the "good" news stories out

and also addressing the need for commonality of terms.

Gary Kleyn from Future Directions International (FDI) Pty. Ltd. addressed the question "How Can Australia Best Display a Global Leadership Role in Improved and Sustained Agriculture Productivity and Landscape Regeneration in the event of Global Food and Water Crises?" He discussed the impact of population issues, water considerations, food issues, land limitations, science, technology and innovation and the international triggers for conflict.

David Gooden's studies covered responsible pesticide application. He recommended that we should have in-field spray application specialists and that crop spray rigs should be assessed to determine spray coverage and penetration. In addition farm industry groups need to be proactive and encourage media to disseminate positive stories about pesticides and their use.

Rowan Paulet was the last scholar speaking before lunch, his topic "The integration of livestock and cropping in high rainfall zones (HRZ)" suggested that Australian farmers need to have flexibility in their farming systems to enable adoption of new technology, but research and development must still continue.

After lunch Marty Phillips spoke about the the Australian Barramundi industry – addressing cheap imports. His concluding comments stated that the industry must address off-flavor to maintain high quality product. Australia cannot compete on price but we need to differentiate our Barramundi and promote it as Australian quality and grown.

Alastair Starritt studied carbon sequestration in farming systems: A Direction for Enhancing Carbon Sequestration and Soil Health in Broad-acre Agriculture. He spoke about the importance of soil carbon in improving soil structure and agricultural production, and that perhaps in the future we may be able to measure soil carbon using an automatic soil sensor.

Rob Egerton-Warburton then spoke on integrated stock-cropping systems. He mentioned that diversity decreases risk but increases opportunity. He also addressed the importance research and development corporations working together in the future to maximise productivity and be outcome focused.

The Friday scholar presentations concluded with a panel session chaired by Terry Hehir, involving all scholars who had spoken during the day.

Presentation Dinner



Jennifer Hawkins proposed the Nuffield toast

The Friday evening saw 140 people attending the Scholar Presentation Dinner at Bella Vista, Quality Inn celebrating 60 Years of Australian Nuffield Farming Scholarships



2011 George Wilson Orator- Doug Rathbone

The George Wilson Oration was given by Doug Rathbone, Managing Director and Chief Executive of Nufarm Ltd and the highlight of the evening was the presentation of scholarship to the 2011 Nuffield Scholars.



Robert Harrison cuts the 60th Anniversary Cake

Saturday

On Saturday morning the buses departed the Quality Inn to visit a Rotary and Robotic Dairy in Gippsland before visiting Flavorite and Gippsland Aeronautics.

Grant and Leesa Williams installed one of Australia's first robotic milking systems. They milk through a traditional 40-unit rotary on their home farm while a number of other cows are milked an average 2 to 2.4 times per day through the A3 Astronaut robotic dairy.

At Flavorite the group inspected a hydroponic tomato facility which produces vine ripened truss tomatoes, single and cherry truss tomatoes. The business is currently undergoing an expansion with an additional 22.8 ha of greenhouses being built. All new greenhouses include hanging gutters (which Flavorite introduced into Australia) and incorporate a hot water buffer system which enables CO₂ to be pumped into the greenhouse to increase plant growth.

The final visit for the day was Gippsland Aeronautics. This company commenced operations at the Latrobe Regional Airport in Morwell in the 1970s as an aircraft maintenance and modification business and then set up a small manufacturing line for the GA200. In 1993, the company re-certified a new model, the GA200C with the capability of lifting one tonne on 300HP, giving the aircraft a 30-50% better performance than any aircraft in its class. The company has since manufactured over 45 of these aircraft and has exported to countries including China, New Zealand, USA, Canada, Brazil and South Africa. They have also developed a high wing, eight seat GA8 Airvan, as a utility transport to replace the Cessna 206/207 and DHC Beaver. This aircraft has also been exported across the world

Sunday

The Tour concluded with a visit to Peter and Elaine Notman's seed business at Poowong and Caldermeade Farm, which is owned by Max and Barbe Jelbart.

The Eighteen 2011 Scholars



Aaron Sanderson, Ayr, Qld received the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship supported by Grains Research and Development Corporation.

Craig Duffield, Ramco, SA received the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship supported by Grains Research and Development Corporation.

Michael Foss, Bruce Rock, WA received the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship supported by Grains Research and Development Corporation.

Robert Blatchford, Gurley, NSW, received the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship supported by Grain Growers Association.

James Robertson, Renmark, SA, received the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship supported by Australian Wool Innovation.

James Male Yerong Creek, NSW, received the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship supported by Meat & Livestock Australia.

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

Shannon Mayfield, Kimba, SA, received the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship supported by Nufarm.

Andrew Dewar, Clifton, QLD, received the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship supported by Woolworths.

Clint Scharfe, Port Lincoln, SA received the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship supported by Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.

Robert Nichols, Sassafras, TAS, received the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship supported by Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation Chicken Meat Research and Development Program.

Roma Britnell, Woolsthorpe, VIC, received the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship supported by Landmark.

Adam Jenkins, South Purrumbete, VIC, received the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship supported by Rabobank.

Paul Adam, Tottenham, NSW, received the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship supported by Macquarie Agricultural Funds Management Ltd.

Lorre Herrod, Katherine, NT, received the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship supported by Macquarie Agricultural Funds Management Ltd.

Michael Inwood, Bathurst, NSW, received the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship supported by Sidney Myer Fund.

Robert Cook, Alice Springs, NT, received the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship supported by NT Department of Resources and ANZ.

Paul Lambert, Merseylea, TAS, received the 2011 Nuffield Scholarship supported by Dairy Australia and the Australian Dairy Conference.

Scholar Reports

"Trace Element Nutrition: Revitalising Health and Agriculture-A study in the management of trace elements – their significance in sustaining community health, crop growth and farmer profitability" by Evan Ryan 2009 Nuffield Scholar

"Making more from the same Ewe Base - Looking at fertility, fecundity, lamb survival and adaptability" by Julie Brien 2009 Nuffield Scholar

"Carbon – the New Diamond for Australian Agriculture - A Study of Climate Policy for Australian Farmers" by Jennie Hawkins 2009 Nuffield Scholar

"The Future of Tasmania's Once Iconic Crops; Hop production systems and Fruit supply chain challenges" by Tom Frankcomb 2009 Nuffield Scholar

"Genomics in Australia: A study of the implementation of genomic technology in the Australian dairy industry" by Paul Mumford 2009 Nuffield Scholar

"Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture systems incorporating abalone and seaweeds" by Adam Butterworth 2009 Nuffield Scholar

"Integrated Farming Systems - The past or the future?" by Rob Bradley 2009 Nuffield Scholar

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 to discuss the issues affecting world farming.

There will be 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 Livable 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.

Visit the Nuffield International website <http://www.nuffieldinternational.org> for details and book your place now!

The Spring Tour, a major highlight of the Nuffield Australia calendar has been scheduled to take place in Adelaide over the weekend leading up to the International Conference- Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th September. If you are planning to register for the International Conference then the Spring Tour is not to be missed!

The Spring Tour will incorporate a Presentation Dinner on Saturday 24th when newly selected Scholars will be presented with their Awards. The event will also feature the George Wilson Oration, named in memory of the inaugural Chairman of Nuffield Australia.

More details of the Spring Tour will be available will be available in due course.