

Nuffield Australia Newsletter

DECEMBER 2011

The Chairman writes

This year, Nuffield Australia awarded a record 21 scholarships across a wide diversity of farming pursuits. We are grateful to our sponsors who have each invested \$50,000 per scholarship. With their support, we now have more scholars from the modern era of Nuffield than from the proceeding 45 years.

It was pleasing to see the 2012 Scholars attending the South Australian segment of the International Conference, and how satisfying it was to host overseas Nuffield colleagues! Congratulations to the organising committee and everyone involved for their efforts.

In the two days preceding the International Conference, we had 13 returning Scholars from 2010 and 2011 present their reports to the alumni. This was followed by panel discussion which explored global agricultural issues outside of their individual study. It was an excellent two days.

Nuffield Scholars have always had a strong sense of the impact of the Nuffield alumni in guiding and influencing agriculture. This year, the Nuffield Australia Board commissioned a telephone survey of the value of the Nuffield Scholarship Program to individual Scholars, to agriculture and to the nation. All but five of the 232 Scholars were contacted by telephone; quite remarkable considering the program commenced in 1950 and 30 Scholars are retired.

Results showed 171 scholars are (or have) been members of industry boards or committees, including 93 at the level of CEO or Chair. The alumni are also prominent in community leadership with 134 who are (or have) been members of committees or boards of community organisations.

I welcome new Nuffield Scholar Directors Richard Heath, Andrew Fowler and Don Madden, who were elected to the Board when Ronald Thompson, David Brownhill and Rob Egerton-Warburton retired at the expiration of their terms. David Brownhill has served the Nuffield Board admirably for nine years.

Nuffield Australia is incredibly well served by Jim Geltch as CEO. Jim's tireless work and dedication to Nuffield is becoming legendary and for this we are grateful.

Congratulations to Max Jelbart who has been awarded Life Membership of Nuffield Australia in recognition of 20 years of continuous and passionate support of the organisation in a number of important roles.

Happy harvesting and best wishes for the New Year.

Terry Hehir



**Terry Hehir, Chairman,
Nuffield Australia**

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Did you know?

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Keynote speeches from the Adelaide and Perth International Conference days were filmed. Check it out! [Click here](#)

Did you know?

2011 SPRING TOUR

Returning scholar presentations from the 2011 Spring Tour in Adelaide were filmed and are now on the Nuffield Australia website.

There are also scholar audio interviews on the website in the multimedia section.

Check it out!

[Click here](#)

2012 Calendar of events

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	HOST
February 18-April 1	Global Focus Program (February)	NZ, CSC, Washington DC, Manito-ba, California, Mexico, Brazil	Nuffield Australia
February 25-March 3	Contemporary Scholars Conference (CSC)	UK and The Netherlands	Nuffield UK
March 6-7	2012 Scholars briefing	Canberra, ACT	Nuffield Australia
March 6-7	ABARES Outlook Conference	Canberra Convention Centre, ACT	ABARES
March 14	2011 Scholars debriefing	Armidale, NSW	Nuffield Australia
March 15-18	Autumn Tour	Armidale, NSW	Nuffield Australia
April 1	2013 Scholarship applications open	National	Nuffield Australia
June 1-2	2012 Scholars briefing	Canberra, ACT	Nuffield Australia
June 3-July 14	Global Focus Program (June)	Philippines, China, California, Ontario, Washington DC, Ireland, France	Nuffield Australia
June 30	2013 Scholarship applications close	National	Nuffield Australia
July 30	Tasmanian state selection	Launceston, Tas	Tas. Nuffield
July 31	Victorian state selection	Melbourne, Vic	Vic. Nuffield
August 1	NSW state selection	Sydney, NSW	NSW. Nuffield
August 3	Queensland state selection	Brisbane, Qld	Qld. Nuffield
August 6	SA state selection	Adelaide, SA	SA Nuffield
August 8	WA state selection	Perth, WA	WA Nuffield
September 3-4	National selection	Melbourne, Vic	Nuffield Australia
September 7-8	2012 Scholars briefing	Canberra, ACT	Nuffield Australia
September 8-October 20	Global Focus Program (September)	India, Bahrain, Turkey, Ukraine, France, Washington DC, Nebraska	Nuffield Australia
October 24	2013 Scholar briefing	Brisbane, Qld	Nuffield Australia
October 24	2012 Scholar debriefing	Brisbane, Qld	Nuffield Australia
October 25-28	Spring Tour	Brisbane, Qld	Nuffield Qld

ABARES OUTLOOK CONFERENCE 2012

The 42nd ABARES Outlook Conference will be held at the Canberra Convention Centre on March 6-7, 2012. This event boasts 20 sessions with more than 70 speakers, providing access to new economic data, internationally recognised speakers, and is attended by industry decision makers and primary producers. Nuffield has an excellent relationship with ABARES and has access for scholars at this event. If you are interested in attending, contact Jim Geltch on 03 5480 0755 or [email here](#)



Australian Government
Australian Bureau of Agricultural and
Resource Economics and Sciences

Spring Tour Summary, Adelaide

The 2011 Scholar Presentations and Awards Dinner weekend was held at the Stamford Grand Hotel, Glenelg, South Australia on Saturday, 24 September and Sunday, 25 September 2011. The theme was 'Innovation in Australian Farming'.

This event is a major highlight on the Nuffield Australia calendar as it gives the recently returned scholars an opportunity to present their findings of their experiences.

In total, 13 Australian Scholars and one Irish Scholar presented to an audience of over 180. All presentations and videos of each presentation are available on the Nuffield Australia website under the conference tab Please visit the site to watch the presentations. They included:

Edward Cox (WA), Helen Thomas (SA), Brad Stillard (NSW), Ben Hooper (SA), Steve Newman (SA), Hieu (Hil) Minh Ly (SA), Don Madden (QLD), Paul Adam (NSW), Craig Duffield (SA), Michael Foss (WA), Lorre Herrod (NT), Shannon Mayfield (SA), Roma Britnell (VIC) and Bill O'Keeffe, a 2010 Irish Scholar.

Over 200 scholars, partners, sponsors and supporters attended the awards dinner on Saturday evening at the South Australian Jockey Club where 21 new 2012 scholars were awarded their scholarships.

There was also a presentation of a 40-year Achievement Award presented to **Mr Guy Wheal**, 1971 Nuffield Scholar from South Australia.

[Click here for more information](#)

The evening also featured the **George Wilson Oration**, delivered by **Professor Wynne Jones**, a 1983 UK Scholar, in memory of the inaugural Chairman of Nuffield Australia.

Finally, **Max Jelbart**, a 1991 Victorian Scholar was awarded a Life Membership at the dinner. Life Membership is a rare honour as Nuffield Australia has awarded only 12 in the past 60 years.



L-R: Peter and Caroline Nixon and Barb and Max Jelbart at the Awards Dinner.

2012 Autumn Tour, Armidale, NSW

Why not join us for the 2012 Nuffield Australia Autumn Tour, hosted Nuffield NSW at Armidale, which rests high on the Northern Tablelands?

At this Autumn Tour, to be held 15-18 March, eight Nuffield Scholars will present their study findings at the prestigious University of New England (UNE). The Autumn Tour Dinner will also be held at the Booloominbah Collection, a grand mansion housed within the homestead at UNE.

Tours include a visit to UNE, the Top of the Range Tomato Farm which is part of the Costa Group, and Walcha Dairy, a 476-hectare sheep and beef farm which was converted into a highly-productive dairy farm in 2008 with the arrival of 700 cows from Victoria and owned by Peter and Elaine Notman (1997 Sch). A visit to Mt William, by invitation of Robert and Fiona Kelly (2006 Sch), will also be a highlight, with a demonstration of TechnoGraze fencing hardware and presentations by MLA, Sheep CRC and AWI on latest sheep genetics, wool marketing and promotional activities.

On the New England Highway, Armidale is 567 km north of Sydney, 467 km south of Brisbane and 170 km inland from the coast. Armidale has a large regional airport and QantasLink has a maximum of five, direct flights daily from Sydney to Armidale. There are regular price offers so book your flight now to avoid disappointment!

Contact Nicola to request a registration form by phone on 0406 761 798 or [email](#)



State Reports

VICTORIA

On 12 August, 24 scholars, sponsors and Nuffield 2012 applicants gathered in Melbourne for our annual tour and AGM. It was held on this date – between state and national selections – to encourage shortlisted applicants to increase levels of engagement with the Victoria alumni.

Our first visit was to the Victorian AgriBiosciences Centre at Bundoora, by invitation of Professor German Spangenberg, Executive Director in the Biosciences Research Division. This facility includes academic and commercial research and development including plant breeding and genetics. It has Australia's largest plant gene discovery program, molecular genetics dedicated to agricultural genomics and has the largest current GM wheat program in the southern hemisphere.

We had a tour of the laboratories with insights into molecular genetics and plant gene technology. We were also updated on the development of AgriBio, a new \$228 million public-private partnership for a new AgriBioscience facility. It is due to be operational in 2012.

Our second visit was to the Murray Goulburn Cooperative Integrated Logistics Centre, by invitation of Phil Saunders, National Storage and Distribution Manager. Murray Goulburn remains 100 per cent dairy-farmer

owned and has 2,500 farmer-suppliers, 2,200 employees and \$2.24 billion annual revenue. It is one of the largest container exporters from the Port of Melbourne and is the largest dairy exporter from Australia. The Centre has a 130,000 tonne capacity, manages the export of at least 50 containers of dairy products daily, and 200 containers a day distributed to the domestic market, including Woolworths, Coles and IGA. They manage their 160-truck milk transport fleet with up to 480 drivers. It is a formidable cooperative story!

Nuffield Victoria also held its annual AGM where the current officeholders were all re-appointed with Chairman Michael Hastings, Treasurer Max Jelbart and I remain as Secretary. This was followed by a casual and enjoyable dinner at O'Connells Hotel in South Melbourne.



L-R: A member of the VABC research team shows Victorian Scholars Michael Hastings, Trevor and Carryn Caithness, Graeme Box and Carol Millar around the laboratories.

We also welcome three 2012 Victorian scholars. Ashley Fraser from Rutherglen will study 'How seed coating both protects and enhances crop growth'; Bryce Riddell from Yarrowonga, will study 'Commercial production and value-adding opportunities for alternative hay crops, such as Orchard Grass, Timothy Grass and Teff Grass'; and Damien Murphy from Dumbalk North will investigate 'The different finance schemes in place around the world which young farmers use to start building their asset in agriculture'. We wish them all a fantastic year.

We are pleased to have Rural Finance continue their support of Nuffield as our Victorian State sponsor and Michael and I thank Max for working diligently on this relationship.

At the September Spring Tour in Adelaide, almost 200 scholars and supporters listened to 2011 Victorian scholar Roma Britnell present her findings from her study. Roma was one of 13 scholars who presented over the two days and all are to be commended for their excellent presentations.

I wish everyone a successful harvest a happy Christmas and New Year.

Nicola Raymond, Secretary

Scholar Reports

The latest reports are now on the Nuffield International website. They include:

- Ben Tyley, 2010 Scholar from SA who studied: 'South Australian Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery Rebuilding and Sustainable Management'.
- Brad Stillard, 2010 Scholar from NSW who studied: "Irrigation with saline water".
- Ed Cox, 2010 Scholar from WA who studied: ' Dairy farm production - improving forages for dairy cows'.

[Click here](#) to view all reports.

State Reports

QUEENSLAND

There is not a lot to currently report from the Queensland branch of Nuffield. However, there is some exciting news. We have broken a record for the highest number of successful applicants in one year – for the 2012 scholarship year.

We are delighted to announce four scholars. Our congratulations go to James Walker from Longreach, who will study 'Intensive breeding systems which maximise sheep production and fertility'; Ray Vella from Rockhampton, who will study 'Beef genetics and pasture'; Bryan

Granshaw from Burdekin, who will research 'How to get more out of the natural biology and synergies that exist within our soils'; and Natalie Williams from Jericho (the centre of nowhere!) who will investigate 'Research, trials and practical applications surrounding soil carbon sequestration in agricultural environments, particularly rangelands and semi-arid environments.

They are an excellent group of new scholars who bring a diversity of sectors, study topics and geographical regions to the Nuffield Queensland group.

Our 2011 scholars Andrew Dewar

and Aaron Sanderson are currently in the final stages of their year and both tackling the report writing. Andrew finished his travels just in time for the start of the vegetable season and also in time for the arrival of his and his wife Jules' third child 'Lucy'.

We will be planning to hold our annual state meeting in February 2012. Date and venue are to be confirmed, but we are likely to venture out of the south-east corner of the state for a change of scene and something different.

Tim Harslett, Secretary

NEW SOUTH WALES

What an eventful 2011! Most of NSW recorded record rainfall delivering increased water allocations, particularly to cotton and rice growers. Rain also resulted in livestock producers running more stock leading to record lamb and mutton prices. Cattle prices are also at tremendous levels. With low sheep numbers and reduced wool stocks worldwide, wool has finally seen a dramatic rise. Fine wools, which doubled in price, are rewarding for those who've remained in the industry.

Crop prices remain softer than most would like but recent rain should bolster yields as harvest gets underway. Cotton prices reached near record prices, but have eased back recently. Grape crops in the north look slightly above average with harvest set to begin mid-January. Volumes appear stable, although chardonnay remains in surplus. Prices for grapes remain fair although the high dollar is making an impact.

NSW and other states are dealing with several industry issues. A date has been set for the release of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, which no

doubt irrigators will scrutinise.

The carbon tax has been passed through parliament with a price set at \$23.00/tonne. And the debate between agriculture and Coal Seam Gas continues with recent blockades on the Liverpool Plains and Hunter Valley. We'll see how these issues progress but we need to lobby to ensure agriculture the winner because with no food or fibre, those pushing these policies and agendas would not exist.

NSW Nuffield congratulates and welcomes three 2012 scholarship recipients to the Nuffield alumni. Mark Swift is the inaugural recipient of the John Deere scholarship. Mark grows winter and summer crops in the central west and will study the effects and cost of the precautionary principle, which is when, without scientific proof to the contrary, a person taking a particular action has to prove it is not harmful. Ewan McAsh is sponsored by Fisheries Research and Development Corporation. Ewan is managing director of McAsh Oysters near Batemans Bay and will research a new strategic direction for the NSW oyster industry. Ewan also has an oyster and wine

bar in Ulladulla! Matthew Simmons is a free-range pork and organic farmer from Ebenezer and is sponsored by the Sidney Myer Fund. He will study free-range piggeries with a focus on rotating pigs and cropping and managing nutrient build-up. We wish them all well on their travels.

James Hassall has recently stepped down as chairman of NSW Nuffield and I thank him for his efforts. I have taken over as chairperson. We also welcome to the board Jenny Hawkins as deputy chair with Bruce Thompson and Matthew Stott saying on as secretary and treasurer.

Finally, NSW will host the Autumn Tour from 15-18 March 2012 next year and I invite you all to attend. It will be held at Armidale in Northern NSW. A great program is being organised so we hope to see you there. Remember if you are coming and haven't been to Armidale bring your winter woollies and then some!

Rob Kelly, Chairman

State Reports

NORTHERN TERRITORY

It was a season of mixed fortunes in 2011 with a late finishing, big wet season, then early rains in the 'build up' (spring). It was a short production season in the Top End as plantings and mustering were delayed and then hampered at the end.

The wet summer/autumn in Queensland lead to higher prices for horticultural crops through winter and spring which was a bonus. It was the coldest June since 1957 which lead to massive mango flowering, though overall production was only up marginally from 2010 due to a big fruit drop during fruit fill. Prices were reasonable, depending on who you talk to!

A fusarium drama was experienced on some melon farms which resulted in lower yields, although the cooler dry season also contributed to this. All-in-all the horticultural producers were happy.

For cattle producers it was different. The government's suspension of the live cattle trade to Indonesia had a devastating effect on cashflow as producers had only just started the

first mustering round after a long wet season. The ripple effect through the broader community was as bad as contractors were not required, staff laid-off, boats turned away and hay unable to be sold. Spending in the community slowed as belts tightened and overdrafts were stretched. Although the ban was tentatively lifted after a month, it took longer to start-up and by then, many animals were out of spec, (too heavy), and were sold at a lower price – if a market could be found. There has been substantial finance restructuring in the industry and confidence seems flat although prices are currently good. One positive is that other markets have been identified for heavier cattle which should give producers more flexibility in the future.

In central Australia, there has been good recent rain and excellent regrowth after the bushfires in August/September. Cattle prices have recovered after the northern cattle resumed into traditional markets. Rain is currently hampering mustering efforts, though few complain about that!

Tourist numbers have been down

dramatically this season, possibly due to the high Aussie dollar, and there is investment uncertainty but as we say, life goes on!

Our two 2011 scholars Lorre Herrod and Rob Cook have finished their study and returning to normal, although I don't know if there's any such thing! Lorre is back on the station and Rob is juggling station business with speaking engagements and receiving awards. This might be a future professional pastime! Rob was the recipient of an 'Australian of the Year' award for the NT in the 'Local Hero' category and also a 'Pride of Australia' award in the NT for courage. He is in the national round which will be announced on November 22. His determination and attitude is inspirational and he's fortunate to have excellent support from wife Sarah and his extended family. Congratulations Rob.

I wish everyone well for their respective seasons, and have a great Christmas and New Year. May your fridge be over-flowing, or at least bursting at the seams!

Jon Shaw, Chairman

Scholar participates in Bay-to-Birdwood historic car run

Victorians Bill Poynton and his wife Judy had a slightly different, but busy weekend in Adelaide during the Nuffield International Conference. After attending the conference and dinner on Saturday, 24 September, they participated in the annual Bay-to-Birdwood historic car run on the Sunday. This is the largest, most continually held motoring event of its kind in the world.

After joining 1,807 other entrants at Glenelg in their 1959 Standard Super 10, they travelled through the city and the Adelaide Hills for around 70 kilometres to the National Motor Museum at Birdwood. The route was frequently lined with well-wishers who added colour and atmosphere.

Their Standard has been in the family since purchase in 1956 and Bill and Judy had taken it from Warrnambool to Adelaide by trailer after learning the two events coincided. Bill knows that South Australia's David Shannon is also a regular participant but was overseas in September this year.

Photo caption: *Two Standard Super 10's after arriving at Birdwood with their owners in 1950's style attire. (Bill and Judy Poynton to the right)*



State Reports

TASMANIA

This year has seen many positive and successful events both locally and nationally. Since the last newsletter, we have had our AGM in Ross, which was well-attended. The batten of responsibility has been handed over so hopefully things will run as smoothly as when Tony Barker was chair. Our thanks go to Tony for his time and effort.

We are pleased to have two scholars awarded scholarships from Tasmania this year. Michael Chilvers will investigate 'Models for managing production systems' and Richard Weston will study 'Production systems for white asparagus'. Impact Fertiliser has been a perennial supporter of Nuffield in Tasmania. Unfortunately the company has needed to review its sponsorship commitment in light of a recent takeover. However, they

remain committed to Nuffield and we will maintain a good relationship into the future.

A number of Tasmanian scholars attended parts of the recent International Conference. It was great to catch-up with friends and to make new acquaintances. Congratulations must be passed to Brendan Smart, the organising committee and Nicola Raymond. While all went well for the attendees, I'm sure that there was a lot of scurrying around behind the scenes that went unnoticed. This also included Brendan repairing the bus for us on the Margaret River WA Study Tour! I did hear of other bus dramas with other tour groups which made us feel lucky we had Brendan on-board! The flexibility of being able to drop into or out of the tours as we did also made life very pleasurable. Guest speakers and panel sessions were well-planned and

delivered, providing thought provoking content for us to discuss with the great network of fellow scholars.

In other recent good news, you may have heard of the appointment of Tasmanian scholar Jane Bennett to the ABC Board. Jane is well-equipped to represent rural and regional Australia on issues, particularly for farmers. Jane says that she welcomes Nuffield input and feedback. We congratulate Jane on her achievements to-date.

The landscape in Tasmania is still very green since the rain last summer that continued into spring with growth continuing to place demands on our time. We wish all scholars and their partners a happy and safe festive period and success into the harvest period.

Anthony Brandsema, Chairman

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Grain harvest has kicked off in South Australia with mixed results and we are all looking for favourable weather to get the crops off. Livestock producers have enjoyed the great prices for both meat and wool and no doubt the fishermen are gearing up to supply the festive season with plenty of fresh seafood. Best wishes to all for the conclusion of this year and the start of another.

South Australia has had another great result this year with the six hopefuls that were interviewed at Nationals all gaining scholarships. Matt Neumann, Stuart Sharman, Linda Eldridge, Ryan Smart, Robin Schaefer and Dave Reilly were all brilliant at state level and we were pleased to hear they performed very well at the final interview. I would like to wish these, and all the new scholars, the very best for the year to come as well as their future

involvement in Nuffield.

While SA Nuffield has had no specific events this year, it is fair to say we have been very busy. There was a great amount of work involved in the SA leg of the International Conference in September and our alumni committed wholeheartedly to the cause. There are too many people to thank individually, but the combined effort of everyone made for a great conference. Their efforts were appreciated by participants and organisers alike.

SA was pleased to host part of the Conference with the four technical tours to the South-East, Mid-North, West Coast and Adelaide districts to showcase the state. We received glowing reports from participants on all these tours, with special emphasis on the inclusion of local produce and a personal touch. These tech tours may be the topic of future animated discussion as to which was the best

performer, but I think deep down we all know the answer to that!

The State AGM was held during the International Conference with great attendance. John Gladigau was re-elected Secretary, Graham Clothier Treasurer and Catherine Harvey, Charlie Hilton and Andrew Heinrich all re-elected to the state committee. Also elected to join the committee were Stephen Ball, Ben Hooper and Emma Leonard. Finally, Andrew Johnson continues his role as state sponsorship officer. My sincere thanks to you all.

I would like to conclude by thanking the entire South Australian alumni for your commitment, support and enthusiasm for Nuffield both at state and national levels and your continuing role in supporting new and current scholars.

Damien Smart, Chairman

State Reports

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

As 2011 heads towards Christmas, a mixed season across the WA agricultural region nears completion. With excellent yields being achieved in the northern agricultural zones, wet conditions during harvest is causing quality concerns and hay damage throughout the state. The forecast for the summer is four to five cyclones with wetter than average conditions so hopefully the crop will be in the bin and the rain benefits those in the pastoral regions.

What a fantastic Nuffield International Conference. The quality of speakers at the conference day in Fremantle, involving a number of Western Australian scholars, made for a fantastic day. It culminated with a great

evening and a chance to catch up socially before the three regional tours kicked off around the state. From all reports, the tours were not only extremely interesting but most enjoyable. Our hats off to Peter Nixon, Dave and Jo Fulwood, Murray Gmeiner, Leon Ryan, Peter Giumelli, Rob Kestel, Aaron Edmonds, Edgar Hawter and Tim Funston in their efforts to make the WA leg a memorable one. (I apologise if inadvertently missed anyone).

It's been great to hear that Michael Foss had a fascinating trip overseas we look forward to hearing his findings in February at our annual luncheon, a great day to look forward to.

Increased interest in Nuffield has resulted in a huge jump in applications from WA. This is not only great to see but has resulted in three successful applicants of high calibre for 2012 with Rhys Arangio in the aquaculture industry, Jemma Sadler from the grain sector and Kelly Manton-Pearce in wool and sheep production. What a broad spectrum within the agricultural industry to be studied in 2012.

The health of WA Nuffield continues to grow with increased sponsorship and growing interest. The WA Nuffield committee wish all scholars and their families a safe and festive Christmas period and a successful 2012.

Phil Longmire, Chairman

2011 International Conference

All the news from the International Conference can be found on the Nuffield International website, including numerous photos, videos of the keynote speakers and presentations. [Click here to view](#). In Perth, a number of scholars and partners enjoyed the social events!



L-R: Marie Fowler, Ben Forsyth, Helen Geltch, Felicity Tiller



L-R: Peter Nixon, Tina and Edgar Hawter



L-R: Phil Longmire, Annabelle Coppin, Tim Van Loon



L-R: David and Jo Fullwood, Andrew and Marie Fowler

Nuffield Australia is proud to announce 21 new scholars for 2012

We are delighted to welcome 21 new 2012 Scholars to Nuffield. [Click here](#) to view their photographs.

Rhys Arangio, from Willagee in Western Australia is sponsored by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation and Woolworths and he will study ways to reduce marine mammal depredation in fishing operations.

Michael Chilvers, from Nile, Tasmania is sponsored by the Grains Research and Development Corporation. He will re-search strategies to efficiently transition from a traditional family farming structure to a diversified agricultural business.

Linda Eldredge, from Clare in South Australia is sponsored by Grains Growers Limited and she will study 'real-time' business management.

Ashley Fraser, from Rutherglen in Victoria is sponsored by Grains Research and Development Corporation and he will study how seed coating both protects and enhances crop growth.

Bryan Granshaw, from Dalbeg in Queensland is sponsored by the Sugar Research and Development Corporation and will research how to get more out of the natural biology and synergies that exist within our soils.

Kelly Manton-Pearce, from Yealering in Western Australia is sponsored by CBH and CSBP. She will investigate the supply-demand balance for the Australian sheep industry and how sheep farmers should respond to the growing demand for a high-quality retail-ready lamb product.

Ewan McAsh, from Burill Lake in New South Wales is sponsored by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation and he will research a new strategic direction for the NSW oyster industry.

Damian Murphy, from Dumbalk North in Victoria, is sponsored by the Geoffrey Gardiner Dairy Foundation. He will investigate different finance schemes in place which young farmers use to start building their asset in agriculture.

Matthew Neumann, from Mundulla in South Australia is sponsored by Rabobank and he will investigate how to iron out inefficiencies in the fresh food supply chain.

Dave Reilly, from Loxton in South Australia, is sponsored by Woolworths and he will study management of date palm plantations for premium date fruit production.

Bryce Riddell, from Yarrawonga in Victoria, is sponsored by Rural Finance Corporation and will study commercial production and value-adding opportunities for alternative hay crops, such as Orchard Grass, Timothy Grass and Teff Grass.

Jemma Sadler, from Wongan Hills in Western Australia is sponsored by the Grains Research and Development Corporation and will study profitable cropping with sustainable weed management, an issue she sees as an increasing problem in the WA wheatbelt.

Robin Schaefer, from Loxton in South Australia is sponsored by the Grains Research and Development Corporation. He will study farm business management systems as well as medium to long-term weather forecasting, with a focus on management tools to aid decision-making.

Stuart Sharman, from Coonawarra in South Australia is sponsored by the Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation and he will study Continuous Improvement (CI) principles and how they can be applied to viticulture.

Matthew Simmons, from Ebenezer in New South Wales is sponsored by the Sidney Myer Fund. He hopes to investigate the relationship between pigs and cropping.

Ryan Smart, from Keith in South Australia is sponsored by the Grains Research and Development Corporation and he will study ways of managing farm energy use to maximise efficiency.

Mark Swift, from Parkes in New South Wales is sponsored by John Deere and he will study the effects and cost of the precautionary principle.

Ray Vella, from Marlborough in Queensland is sponsored by Meat & Livestock Australia and he will study beef genetics and pasture management.

James Walker, from Longreach in Queensland is sponsored by Australian Wool Innovation and will study intensive breeding systems which maximise sheep production and fertility.

Richard Weston, from Brighton in Tasmania is sponsored by Impact Fertilisers and he will investigate white asparagus production for the gourmet market.

Natalie Williams, from Jericho in Queensland is sponsored by Macquarie Agricultural Funds Management. She will investigate research, trials and practical applications surrounding soil carbon sequestration in agricultural environments, particularly rangelands and semi-arid environments.

Media relations

A number of stories have featured in the media in the past six months that have focused on Nuffield Scholars. [Click here](#) to view some of the stories that have been published.

Do you use social media?

FOLLOW US ON 

[Click here](#)



Archiving and recording

Nuffield Australia has identified the need to digitize our current Nuffield records, particularly scholar's reports and we have included this as a priority in 2012.

In addition, we also see a need to commence recording our older scholar's memories of their scholarship experience and the influence it has had upon them. It will be an initiative we undertake in 2012.

In scholar news...

David Brownhill, 1998 NSW Scholar and past Nuffield Chairman, enjoyed rubbing shoulders with President Barack Obama at the recent government gala dinner in Canberra. He sat next to Mike Yeager who runs the BHP Oil business globally; "a top bloke" we're told. Dave was very impressed by the research BHP does on food production. Sources also tell us Dave was thrilled to meet a number of Labor factional warlords, plus John Howard and Tony Burke. He also said g'day to Kamahl. However, when it came to meeting the boss of the AFL, our friend Dave couldn't even remember Andrew Demetriou's name!



And our warmest congratulations are extended to Jane Bennett, (2008 Tasmanian Scholar) for her appointment to the ABC Board. She plans to promote the needs of Australians living in regional areas. It is an excellent achievement and we wish her great success in her role.



Nuffield Australia

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Patron in Chief

Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce
AC Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia