



Nuffield Australia Farming Scholars

NUFFIELD UPDATE

June 2011

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



The Chairman writes

It is a great time to be a "Nuffield". With the global population ever expanding, being able to feed everyone requires continuous improvement to agricultural productivity and everything our Scholars learn and put into practice makes a meaningful contribution to this. It is a tragedy that the world still has a lot to learn about food distribution!

We are very proud of all eighteen 2011 Scholars and wish them well as they switch their businesses on to "remote control" while they participate in the Global Focus Program (GFP) and pursue their overseas studies. Of

the three GFP groups in 2011, the March/April Scholars have completed their program and commenced their private study, the June/July group have recently departed on their GFP and the September/October group will commence their program in Canberra on September 9th.

The survey of the alumni carried out over the summer confirmed what we already knew- that Nuffield Scholars are a very capable group of people and that their study helps make leaders in our industry and leaders in the community. The Board aims to strengthen its support of the alumni and encourage their contribution to the further development of the Nuffield program.

The survey indicated that many scholars were neither aware of the great resource that the Australian and International websites represent, nor of the potential to use the database to locate other Scholars around the globe.

We hope to be able to support at least 20 Scholars in 2012 (18 this year) and we need lots of applications from which we must choose the best. Please do your bit to encourage any promising candidates to nominate. Applications close at the end of June.

I am really looking forward to September when we will meet all the new 2012 Scholars, hear from the 2011 Scholars and host the International Conference immediately following our Awards Dinner. I'm certain our overseas guests will be impressed with the enthusiasm and energy that is characteristic of Nuffield Australia.

Good farming!

Terry Hehir

2011 International Conference

Preparations for the International Conference in South Australia and Western Australia from 25th September to 9th October are well underway and there's a full and exciting program.

The two conference days – in Adelaide on Friday 30th September and Perth on 5th October – include presentations by renowned industry leaders and Nuffield Scholars, focusing on the major looming challenges for agriculture worldwide – competing for human resources, land use and capital.

One of our keynote speakers in Adelaide is Julian Cribb of Julian Cribb and Associates, who will focus on the global picture of food and farming for the next 50 years in relation to our theme. A journalist since 1969, Julian became chief of the Australian Agricultural News Bureau and for 10 years was agriculture correspondent for The Australian. Other roles include Director, National Awareness for CSIRO from 1996-2002 and Director of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research. He has also written six editions of "Australian Agriculture".



We can also confirm Mick Keogh, Executive Director at the Australian Farm Institute, who will have a more contemporary focus on capital, land use and human resources issues here and internationally.

We promise visits to many Nuffield Scholar properties and major local agricultural businesses. Some are focused on value-adding to local markets whilst others are export-driven operations supplying south-east Asia and beyond.

All technical tours, with the exception of the Adelaide option, **will be located in the heart of rural Australia and have a mix of intensive, broad-acre, livestock and alternate industries in addition to local points of interest.**

Many technical tours will include a case study on a high-profile business with a partner program running concurrently. All technical tours are designed to be educational but not exhausting and delegates will be challenged and stimulated by the entire experience.



Unfortunately, the **Curtin Springs/Uluru transit option and the pre-conference tour to the Flinders Ranges are both full** and no further bookings can be taken. However, in transit between SA and WA there is still the chance to book the train trip along the vast open spaces of the ancient Nullarbor Plain to Perth or visit Kalgoorlie, the largest and most famous Australian outback city.

In addition, you are reminded that the board of Nuffield Australia has generously agreed to support the success of this event and has **cancelled both the Nuffield Australia 2011 Spring Tour and the 2012 Autumn Tour.** Consequently, both the 2010 and 2011 scholar presentations will be held over two days prior to the International Conference in Adelaide on **Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th September.** This event is not to be missed as it includes the annual awards gala dinner where the 2012 scholarships will be awarded. This dinner will be held at the magnificent SA Jockey Club at Morphettville Racecourse in Adelaide.

Please go to: <http://nuffieldinternational.org/2011/index.html> for more information about the 2011 Nuffield International Conference and details on how to book.

We can cater for specific events you wish to attend. To request an individual quote for your needs please contact Nicola Raymond, the event coordinator at conference@nuffield.com.au or 0406 761 798.

Rarely do Australian Scholars get the chance to attend a Nuffield International Conference in their own country – this will be only the third time since 1951 that we have hosted such an event. Accordingly, not only is it very cost effective to attend but the opportunity to mix with Nuffield's from across the globe for such a time is remarkable.

Brendon Smart (Chairman) and Nicola Raymond (Event Coordinator)
Ph: +61 (0) 417 820 301 or Ph: +61 (0) 406 761 798
Email: conference@nuffield.com.au



Event Co-ordinator
Nicola Raymond

Northern Territory

The Northern Territory has finally gone into the dry phase. The wet was a big one this year with above average rainfall in most parts of the Territory.

It's been a late start to mustering in the Top End. The cattle prices are high as some of the roads are still restricted, although the cattle weights have been down as the season has been too wet. Looks like a good season ahead for all with lots of feed to hay off, though that will lead to fire hazards as the dry progresses.

Central Australia is looking the best it has in living memory. Mustering is underway for the first time in 15 months as the country is finally drying out. Fire again is going to be a real hazard with

back burning commencing soon. The tourists are also starting to roll in.

The melon and pumpkin season has just started with good prices but yields are not good due to the big wet. But the season looks promising with good growing conditions now and plenty of backpackers to help out.

Lorre is still travelling on her Nuffield tour and Rob has just returned from the first leg of his journey.

Rob is planning to head off again in July. He has been generating a fair amount of media interest here and overseas and is planning a fundraising trip from Supplejack Station to Alice Springs. This is a huge task as 735 km across the Tanami desert is roughly 130 wheelchair hours. Rob is planning to pull this off in 24 days, giddy goat! If you would like more info, or to make a donation, go to: robcook.com.au.

It will be heads down for the next five months for all of us. Hope everyone else is travelling well and has a good season

Jon Shaw (Chairman)

By the way...

Rob and Fiona Kelly (2006 Scholar) had a baby daughter, their first. They named her Abbie Georgia.

Andrew Watson (2006 Scholar) married partner Heike on New Year's Eve!

Victoria

Victoria has experienced an early break to the season, following a mixed summer and high rainfall for many.

A number of the Victorian alumni gathered at the Mount Shadwell Hotel & Stables Motel, Mortlake on Friday 18 February for a dinner to officially welcome to the Nuffield community our two 2011 Scholars, Roma Britnell and Adam Jenkins.

Roma, from Woolsthorpe, received the 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 is studying agricultural cooperatives with an emphasis on dairy cooperatives.

Almost 20 scholars and partners attended the casual dinner event which also included sponsor representation from Landmark. We also welcomed two local potential new applicants, Steve Parker and Alistair Adams who joined us for the evening and mixed with scholars. A great time was had by all and after their official welcome by Chairman Michael Hastings, both Roma and Adam spoke about their travel plans and their hopes and expectations for the months ahead.



Adam Jenkins addressing the alumni

Roma travelled on her Global Focus Program back in March and recently returned to Australia. Adam will travel on his in September. We wish them both a successful year and look forward to their presentations next year.

The next event on the calendar is the Nuffield International Conference in SA and WA in September. A number of Victorian scholars have already registered to attend part or all of this two-week event

Nicola Raymond, Secretary

New South Wales

Firstly we'd like to welcome John Deere as our state sponsor. John Deere is well known to all as a progressive agricultural equipment manufacturer and we're confident that the partnership will bring great benefits to not only Nuffield NSW and John Deere, but the entire Nuffield Community.



The last 12 months have certainly been „interesting“ and somewhat challenging for agriculture. While we endured one of the longest and wettest harvests on record, the majority of the State is now eagerly awaiting rain

so that we can start planting this year's crop and get some winter feed for stock. According to the Bureau of Meteorology the La Nina we've just experienced was one of the strongest Eastern Australia has seen. Right now we seem to be experiencing one of our coldest starts to winter.

NSW's 2011 scholars are progressing through their programs with characteristic enthusiasm. Michael Inwood has found the year so far to be busy and challenging but most of all enjoyable. *“Having previously met all the 2011 Australian scholars at national selections and the Spring Tour, it was great to catch up with them again at the Nuffield Contemporary Scholars Conference in New Zealand. We were also joined by the 2011 international scholars for a week of learning and bonding. It was a great initiation into the global Nuffield family. I am about to embark on the second Global Focus Program in June with a group of 2011 scholars. We will tour the Philippines, China, USA, Canada, France, Belgium and Ireland over six weeks. This will be another incredible opportunity to study many facets of agriculture globally. My personal study on the topic of regenerative agriculture with a focus on soil inputs will happen towards the end of this year.”*

James Male is also looking forward to the Global Focus Tour in September/October, which will take him to India, Bahrain, Syria, France, Ukraine and the USA. His individual study will commence in January/February next year and he plans to spend time in the USA, Japan, Middle-East, U.K and New Zealand. He will be studying feed-lotting of prime lambs with an emphasis on looking to the future in regards to our markets and maximising the margins of this industry.

Hearing the travel stories of our current scholars brings back fantastic memories of our own adventures and reminds me of the wonderful opportunities the Nuffield program offers. Needless to say, applications for 2012 are now open, so don't keep it a secret, encourage a fellow farmer to become a Nuffield Scholar.

James Hassall (Chairman)

Western Australia

The dry start to the year in Western Australia will, hopefully lead to us all receiving our annual rainfall in the winter, allowing not only a successful cropping and grazing year but runoff for the first time in two years.



It is great to hear that Michael Foss has returned from a successful six-week Nuffield GFP. He has jumped straight into dry seeding canola. We look forward to following his travels when he heads off in June and hope he has a safe and successful trip.

It is time to contact those potential candidates as 2012 applications are now open. Past Scholars are the biggest influence in finding new scholars so if you know any farmers may make excellent candidates, then give them a call and encourage them to apply.

We have a State Scholarship this year as well as the International Conference coming up in late September–early October. It will be a good chance for us all to catch up and it should be an interesting and fun couple of weeks.

Good Luck with the oncoming season, so send it down Huey!

Phil Longmire (Chairman)

International website

On the International website you can find an overview of Nuffield, links to all the national websites, details of upcoming Nuffield events and conferences, links to newsletters and more.



Scholar reports provide an immense amount of valuable information and no less than 19 new reports have been loaded since January. All Scholar reports from 2006 are available for download and there are a number of ways to search through them.

From the International website you can log into the Scholar database. You need your log-in and password for this.

It is recommended that all Scholars at least have a browse through the International website just so you know what is there. It really is a great resource. www.nuffieldinternational.org is not too hard to remember, or just click on the link.

Tasmania

During March we held a two day tour in the north west of Tasmania with the aim of visiting some scholars' businesses and promoting the organization with sponsors and potential applicants.



The tour began on Friday 25th at a Merseylea dairy farm, the home of 2011 scholar, Paul Lambert. Paul outlined how by growing as much high quality pasture as possible and converting it into milk as efficiently as possible he was able to expand the dairy business over numerous properties.

The Merseylea property was subjected to significant flooding during January and Paul described riding around the farm on his jet ski, much to the delight of Michael Bennet as he figured that would now be a justifiable tax deductible expense.

Then on to lunch at the Cherry Shed at Latrobe owned by Paul and Tina Badcock where Paul shared with the group his journey from farming to running a restaurant. The Cherry Shed site was purchased to allow a shop front outlet for the business which was operated on a seasonal basis initially but is now open all year, catering for locals and tourists by the bus load. Paul enjoys the close relationship with his customers and all his fruit is graded and packaged on site.

The next visit was Petuna Seafoods at East Devonport, a family owned business founded by Peter and Una Rockliff who have been involved in Tasmania's fishing industry since 1950. Petuna operate their own deep sea fishing vessels and raise ocean trout, Atlantic salmon and saltwater char at their aquaculture sea farms in Tasmania's southwest. The fish are trucked from the farming operations to the Devonport plant where they are processed and packed before being distributed throughout Australia, Japan and South East Asia.

Then on to Forth and a visit to Harvest Moon, Tasmania's leading fresh vegetable supplier. Here we were hosted by Mark Kable, Agricultural Director and part owner of Harvest Moon. The company grows, packs beans, broccoli, carrots, leafy vegetables, lettuce, onions, pumpkin and swedes and markets them to all parts of the globe. With around 100 permanent staff and up to 400 at peak times, labour is one of the big issues for the company and so they are constantly looking at ways to increase efficiencies by spending capital on automation, particularly for grading and packing vegetables.

Friday night's dinner was at the Axemen's Hall of Fame at Latrobe on the bank of the Mersey River. The dinner gave us the opportunity to present to our sponsors and prospective applicants the benefits of being involved in the Nuffield organization.

Jim Geltch spoke about the scholarships and the future direction of Nuffield Australia followed by impromptu presentations from a number of scholars discussing how their businesses and lives had changed since becoming Nuffield Scholars.

On Saturday morning we met at Turners Beach where we viewed the greenhouse operation of Anthony Brandsema and his brother Marcus. The hydroponic system focuses mainly on cherry tomatoes and premium vine-ripened tomatoes with an additional new line now purimo, grown under license. Anthony is very focused on plant health and is constantly monitoring "his girls" to ensure production is optimized.

The next stop was New Life Industries at Lillico where Johann Joubert shared with us his business model and the reasons for their existence. Johann is a minister of religion, psychologist and capsicum grower who started his life in South Africa. New Life Industries is a Christian not-for-profit organization, established to reach out to the broken hearted and demoralized in our community. The business was set up to employ people who struggle to cope in society, providing an emotionally safe environment where they can build self-confidence and life skills. The project grows hydroponic capsicums to fund the business, which has been so that they are set for further expansion.

House of Anvers Chocolate Factory was an ideal place for lunch and an opportunity to reflect on the morning's visits. The task of clearing the tables of a smorgasbord of gourmet food including of course a range of Belgian chocolates proved too great, although we certainly enjoyed trying.

The last visit for the tour was Ashgrove at Elizabeth Town hosted by Michael, Maureen and Jane Bennett. Jane outlined the changes over time in relation to product packaging and branding of Ashgrove cheese.

The progression into the liquid milk market has been anything but smooth when competing for market share with aggressive multinationals. An excellent example however of what can be achieved when you stick to your core business and use every opportunity for promote your brand rather than trying to compete on price. We also toured the construction site where another major expansion is well under way.

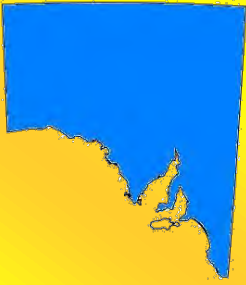
The beauty of touring this part of the State is easy access to such a variety of, quality places within very short traveling time. A big "thank you" to all who contributed to the very successful and enjoyable two days.

Please remember our AGM is set for 21st August at Ross.

Tony Barker (Chairman)

South Australia

South Australia, like all States has had a very interesting summer, although it is fair to say we haven't had the extremes of other States.



There has been a mixed bag of results with some areas having one of their best years while others can only be described as disasters. None the less we are all geared up for another go, and with the eternal optimism of farmers we are all looking forward to a great year.

We wish all those who have been affected by adverse conditions around the country all the best for the future knowing that the Nuffield family are all willing to help where possible.

South Australia postponed its Christmas show as a result of the erratic harvest period. Instead, we got together in late March and used the time to include a trial run of a case study that will be part of the International Conference. It was well attended and enjoyed by all, to the extent that a post-Christmas show may be a preferred option for the future.

Many of us in SA are very busy helping to organize the International Conference which is shaping up to be a great event. As a result we have decided to coincide our 2011 AGM with the this and to skip our usual Spring State Conference. This should help promote attendance at the Conference. We hope everyone makes a real effort to attend for all or part of the Conference and look forward to catching up with you there.

Once again good luck to all and let's hope for a normal year; whatever that may be.

Damien Smart (Chairman)

Appointments

Steve Ball (2010 scholar) has been appointed a member of the Grain Growers Limited Agricultural Reference Group of Australia (ARGA).

Dennis Moon (2002 Scholar) has been appointed to the Murray Goulburn Water Board.

Ben Forsyth (2008 Scholar) has been appointed a Councillor on the Australian Rangelands Society Board.

Queensland

We recently held our AGM in Gatton. The day involved a tour to Grantham to inspect Derek Schulz and his neighbours' flood damage. Then we bussed to the eastern Darling Downs for a pub lunch and a debate on coal-gas mining verses agriculture in the region. In the afternoon we visited new scholar, Andrew Dewar's property and its associated flood damage.



The AGM saw some new committee changes. The Chairman is Tim Harslett (with Mick McKellar to cover Tim's absence over the next couple of months) the

Secretary is Tim Napier and the Treasurer, Camilla Phillip.

During dinner we got a run down from recently returned scholar Marty Phillips. Despite seeing the extent of flood damage, the day was relaxed with plenty of social interaction that was much appreciated.

The point of relevance to the rest of Nuffield to come out of our meeting was the agreement to trial a new selection process technique at state level. The basic concept is to short list the written applications to eight. Then start the day with 10 minute one on one interviews with all the panellists. A finger food lunch will provide an opportunity for social interaction and a brief presentation about the Nuffield experience. To conclude there is a short interview with the applicants in front of the full panel.

There are a couple of reasons why we saw merit in the concept. Most importantly, it makes it possible for the panellists to get to know the applicants more intimately so as to make a better personal judgement of them. Lunch presents an opportunity for social evaluation as well as an opportunity for the applicants to find out more about what is involved in Nuffield. The panel interview gives us an opportunity to mop up any aspect we may have missed.

If the process proves successful it would provide a format for the national selection process to interview more people in a limited time.

Our two latest Queensland scholars, Andrew Dewar and Aaron Sanderson, are both due to head off on their GFC trip in June/July. This is a credit to Andrew given the devastation from flooding that his farm suffered just a few months ago. We can only assume that the recent rain has also presented its share of challenges for Aaron up in the Burdekin.

Tim Harslett (Chairman)

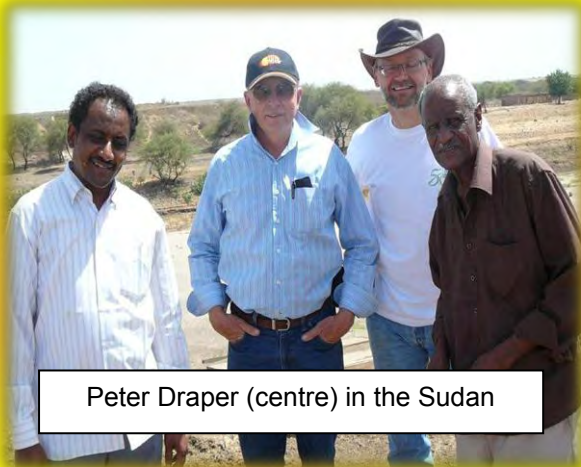
Opportunity in Africa

I am currently with a company that plans to grow 400,000 hectares of wheat under pivot irrigation in northern Sudan. Quite an undertaking!

They have asked if I could refer to them anyone who might like to be involved in the project.

I would be happy to provide further details upon request.

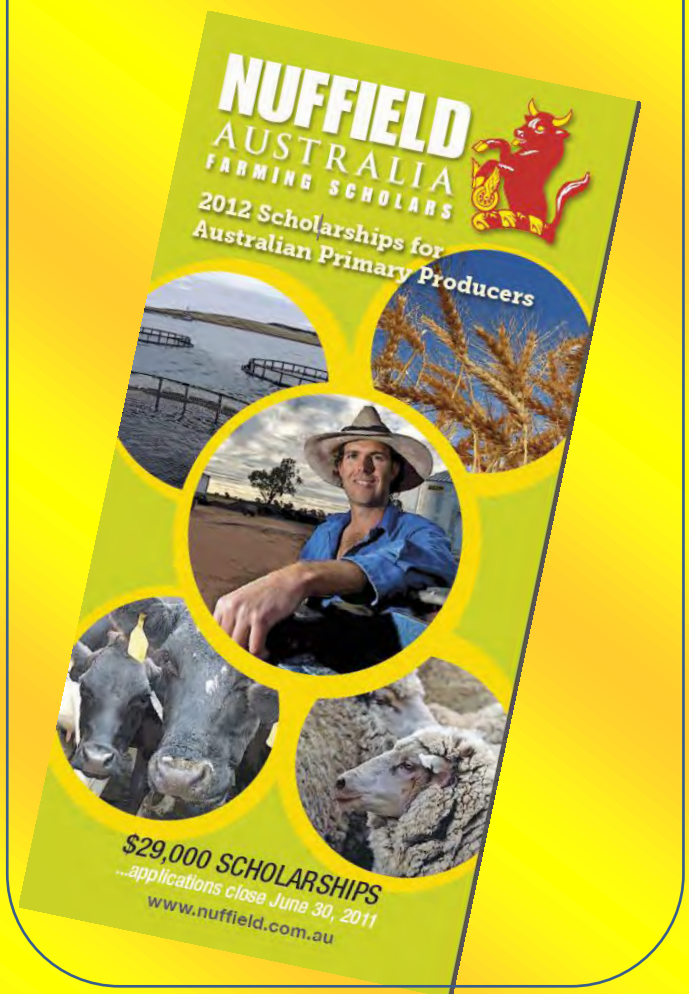
*Peter Draper (2003 Scholar).
willowpark@bigpond.com.
Mobile: 0427 556 436*



Peter Draper (centre) in the Sudan

Applications to close

Applications for 2012 scholarships must close at the end of June. Please bring this to the attention of any farmers that you think would make good "Nuffields".



Scholar reports

"The Australian Barramundi Industry - Addressing Cheap Imports" by Marty Phillips 2010 Nuffield Scholar

"Enhancing the Resilience of Dairy Farms in the high rainfall regions - Riding the volatility rollercoaster" by Graeme Nicoll 2010 Nuffield Scholar

"Responsible Pesticide Application-Droplet Delivery, Deposition, Uptake, Regulation and Testing" by David Gooden 2010 Nuffield Scholar

"Carbon Sequestration in Farming Systems - A direction for enhancing carbon sequestration and soil health in broad acre agriculture" by Alastair Starritt 2010 Nuffield Scholar

"Zero-Till Farming Systems - Investigation of Zero-Till Farming Systems (ZT) in high rainfall cropping zones (HRZ), and its impact on soil biology and nutrient cycling" by Stephen Ball 2010 Nuffield Scholar

"The Integration of Livestock and Cropping in High Rainfall Zones - Jack of all trades, Master of none" by Rowan Paulet 2010 Nuffield Scholar

"Integrated Livestock Cropping Systems - How Diversity decreases risk and increases opportunity in agricultural enterprises" by Robert Egerton-Warburton 2010 Nuffield Scholar

Capturing the “Nuffield Experience”

245 scholars took part in the Nuffield Australia survey over summer, being interviewed by Karen Nicoll.

From the findings it is clear that the Nuffield alumni are an impressive group of people who are making a significant contribution to our industry and to the nation.

Our database is now up-to-date which is greatly beneficial to the organisation and also to scholars who would like to contact each other. Please help us keep it that way by notifying any updates to Kate Stewart at katestewart@nuffield.com.au.

Valuable information was gleaned about what scholars have achieved following their study and this will be used to promote Nuffield to sponsors and potential sponsors.

All scholars now have access to the Scholar database as well as the Australian and International websites. If you have mislaid your login details, just e-mail Kate and she will be pleased to send them to you.



Karen Nicoll

Holistic Management Field Day

Turning deserts into thriving grasslands, restoring biodiversity, increasing food production and security, sequestering carbon and combating global climate change are just a few of the focus items of a field day to be held at Bokhara Plains, near Brewarrina on 2nd July.

Founder of Holistic Management and Holistic Decision Making, Allan Savory will be the keynote speaker at the field day which is being hosted by Graham Finlayson (2008 Scholar), and Cathy in conjunction with Western Landcare NSW and the Western Catchment Management Authority.

There is also an opportunity to share a dinner with Allan Savory on the night.

Contact Graham Finlayson on 02 6874 4921 or grahamfinlayson@nuffield.com.au

Incredible!

As everyone must know by now, 2001 Scholar Rob Cook is quadriplegic following a helicopter accident and needs the support of two carers. To raise funds to pay for this care during his Nuffield study tour he has challenged himself to drive the 730km Tanami Track in his 4x4 wheelchair.



There is more information on the Nuffield website or you can log onto robcook.com.au to make a donation.

Some people will be travelling to Alice Springs to greet Rob at the conclusion of his marathon.

An invitation to dinner with Allan Savory

6.00 pm
Sat 2nd July 2011
At “Bokhara Plains”,
Brewarrina

\$200 per person
*(numbers are limited and
ticket includes three course meal & drinks)*

Dress: Semi-Formal
Please RSVP by 31st May

0268744921
or email
grahamfinlayson@nuffield.com.au

Congratulations

Ronald Thompson (2007 Scholar) has been accepted by Charles Sturt University for a study tour to Argentina.

Elizabeth Riley (1997 Scholar) was chosen as the 2011 Viticulturist of the Year at the Hunter Valley Legends and Wine Industry Awards

2011 Nuffield Events Calendar

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	HOST
June 2-3	2011 Scholars GFP briefing	NFF House, Canberra, ACT	Nuffield Australia
June 4 - July 17	Global Focus Program	Philippines China Virginia Washington DC Maritime States Ireland France	Nuffield Australia
June 30	2012 scholarship applications close	National	Nuffield Australia
July 25	Tasmanian State selection	Launceston, Tas	Tas. Nuffield
July 26	Victorian State selection	Melbourne, Vic	Vic. Nuffield
July 27	NSW State selection	Sydney, NSW	NSW Nuffield
July 29	Queensland State selection	Brisbane, Qld	Qld. Nuffield
August 1	SA State selection	Adelaide, SA	SA Nuffield
August 3	WA State selection	Perth, WA	WA Nuffield
	SA Tour/AGM and dinner	Cancelled in 2011 due to the Nuffield International Conference	
August 29-30	National selection	Melbourne, Vic	Nuffield Australia
September 8-9	2011 Scholars GFP briefing	NFF House, Canberra, ACT	Nuffield Australia
September 10-October 23	Global Focus Program	India Bahrain Turkey Syria Ukraine France Washington DC and Penns.	Nuffield Australia
September 23	2012 Scholar brief/2011 Scholar debrief	Adelaide, SA	Nuffield Australia
September 24-25	Scholar presentations	Adelaide, SA	Nuffield Australia
September 24	Nuffield Awards dinner	Adelaide, SA	Nuffield Australia
September 25-October 9	Nuffield International Conference	Adelaide South Australia and Perth Western Australia	Nuffield Australia

For more information on the events outlined above, please visit: www.nuffield.com.au or contact Jim Geltch on (03) 5480 0755 or 0412 696 076.



Start earning 4.8% p.a.* now with our new Cash Management Account

Our Cash Management Account is a flexible, 'at call' savings account that offers a competitive interest rate, combined with day-to-day access to your funds and full transactional capabilities.

To find out more call your local branch on 1300 30 30 33.

www.rabobank.com.au/CMA



Rabobank

* Rate applies to Cash Management Accounts with a balance between \$100,000 and \$249,999. The issuer of the Cash Management Account/Premium Cash Management Account is Rabobank Australia Limited ABN 50 001 621 129 AFSL 234 700. You should consider your personal objectives, financial situation and needs as well as the full Terms and Conditions relating to this product in the Conditions of Use document (available by calling 1300 30 30 33 or visiting a Rabobank branch) before making any financial decisions. Fees and charges apply. Rates are subject to change.

RAB0511-4025