



QLO. NUFFIELD NEWS.

NEWSLETTER NO.2

SPRING/SUMMER EDITION 2006

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New Nuffields.

Congratulations go out to the three 'new' Queensland Nuffield's for this year.

- ❖ Ronald Thompson of Chinchilla
- ❖ Camilla Philip of Bundaberg
- ❖ Jack Milbank of Amamoor

We wish you all well in your studies and hope you find 'Nuffield' a rewarding experience.

We look forward to meeting you all and hearing of your adventures in the coming year.

Tim Napier is finally getting both feet back on the ground after completing his overseas studies and giving an enthusiastic Report at the Melbourne Conference.

Chris Hogar. No Chris has not disappeared! Keeping the fires burning in the once famous tobacco town of Mareeba, Chris reflects on his 14 month escape to Thailand.

'In 2003 I went to Thailand to organize some post - harvest work to be done on lychees. I used a contact I had made through my Nuffield studies there to locate a university that could carry out studies I needed done. While at this university (Kasetsart, or agricultural science in English), I was offered a job there as an English lecturer because of my teaching qualifications as well as my agricultural background.

The following year, after the sale of my farm, I agreed to their offer and went to Kasetsart University, Kamphaeng Saen Campus, about 2 hours out of Bangkok. Here I taught conversational English to both graduate and under-graduate students of the horticultural department of the faculty of agriculture. The students were all in their 20's, and studying tree crops, agronomy, pests and diseases, post harvest technology etc to obtain degrees in agriculture. It was my job to teach them basic English but from an agricultural perspective.

The students were marvelous, and all really keen to improve their English. Most of them came from farming backgrounds, and were all keen to tell me about their parents farms, and learn about mine. I was invited to numerous farms on weekends by different students to see their farms, and meet their parents. Rice, prawns, mangoes, orchids, lychees, longans, asparagus, flowers, jackfruit, pomolo, and vegetable farms were all visited by me in my time there. In all cases I was accepted and made to feel most welcome by the farmers. The homes were usually very simple and poor by our standards, but the hospitality offered me was first class.

I lived on campus in my own apartment, and ate in the various restaurants and cafes on campus or in the surrounding township. The university had numerous sporting facilities, and even its own golf course, as well as doctors clinic, supermarket, bank, post office, and even a hairdresser. It covered an area of several hundred hectares, so that the students could grow various crops as part of their studies.

I made many close friendships there, and still keep in touch with both lecturers and students, who are all keen for me to return in the future. I certainly hope I can. All of this came about through my Nuffield scholarship studies in Thailand - it's so strange where a Nuffield can lead you!'

Well done Chris

Nuffield Delegation to China.

Early September 2006 saw 8 Aussies (Philip & Anne included!) and 3 UK Nuffield's take part in a 'Market' visit - part of Global Focus Program – to China. The group, lead by Angus Christian looked at regional areas of Guangzhou, Nanjing, Shanghai and Beijing.

In true Nuffield fashion we traveled to some amazing places and saw a variety of farming, marketing places and a look at Chinese culture. Our thanks goes to Angus who spent a year teaching English in Southern China a few years ago, and was able to speak the Chinese language and got us through a few sticky situations! Austrade did a fantastic job of organising the Industry venues of the visit.

Not knowing what to expect, we were amazed to see the huge amount of development going on, especially high rise buildings – Residential and Industrial. Road infrastructure was surprisingly good with main highways of a very good standard and city's with 'flyovers' everywhere. City travel becomes a little slow at 'knock off' time, but the people seem to tolerate the conditions, despite all the horn tooting that goes on everywhere! Travel inter city is easy and cheap by using the hundreds of taxis that get you around safely – (providing they have a meter (that is actually working!) – so you don't get overcharged!) A 45 minute taxi ride from Beijing to the airport cost only \$18.

We took a ride on the 'fast train; in Shanghai, which reached speeds of 431 kilometers per hour. Puts the Aussie rail to shame! – but then 1.4 Billion people must know how to do things?!

A few major highlights were the visits to two of the schools that Angus taught at. The enthusiasm of the children was fantastic; lunching and spending the day with a farming family in small and seemingly poor village was a humbling experience.

Visits to new Industrial Parks and Produce & Exchange centers, Meat and Fruit & Vegetable markets, and the amazing construction of the Great Wall of China that has to be seen to be believed.

The visit continued to reinforce the privilege of being a 'Nuffield', and having the company of a wonderful bunch of like-minded people and a visit that took us into areas which would not be experienced in any other way.

Silage Maize in
China



Duncan & Kym McMaster: – Talk about taking control!

Duncan is the new Chairman of the South Qld. Santa Gertrudis Breeders Association and Kym is the Secretary.

Does this mean that the Boss is 'fraternizing' with the Secretary??

Marc Jackson: Life is almost back to 'normal' for Marc & Santina & family after the devastating Cyclone Larry.

They have totally replanted 16 Ha of bananas and the rest are coming on good. Harvest is in full swing at the moment and prices are holding reasonably well.

Marc expects February will see a good supply of bananas on to the Australian market.

All the best guys and good luck bending those new bananas!!

Date to Note:

Chairman Warren is planning to have the AGM and visit around the Bundaberg area in February 2007.

Please 'watch this space' for the date.

We hope to meet and 'farewell' our new Scholars as well as catching up with you all.

Editors Desk:

The last 5 months have been a 'whirlwind' ride for Anne & I, with the dust only now settling.

In August, through some unexpected turn of events, we sold our irrigation farm to an organic dairy farmer and moved house to our other farm 8km down the road!

Sixty years of history to shift, setting up a new home, a trip to China and shifting house for my parents to Texas, has been full on for both of us!

That's life!

For the next Newsletter, I would welcome any news or items of interest to pass on to our fellow Nuffields.

Wishing you and your families a Blessed Festive Season and we look forward to a favorable season for 2007.

Phil Donges.