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**from the Editor:**  
**'Nuffield Growing' .....**

I have to admit that I was at first sceptical when the organisation went from sending overseas two Scholars a year to now twelve or more a year, however I can see how this strengthened the organisation and it is heartening to see all the 'new' Scholars experiencing the unique learning adventure and sharing it with fellow Scholars and farmers and in turn giving the rest of us such a wide variety of experiences and learning.

There may be a drought on, but the harvest from all our Scholars is so rich with knowledge. It always amazes me of the places we as Nuffield's have the opportunity to experience.

*A privilege to be a Nuffield!*

**Chairman's Chat:**

*This is my first word to my fellow Qld. Scholars and their families, as Qld. Chairman. I thank you for your support and trust and hope it will be in the best interests of each and every one of us.*

*With the tour of Gympie and Bundaberg just behind us, a thank you to Jack Milbank for his hospitality and Camilla Philip's managers, in her absence for the insight of their operations. To Graham Ramsey and his family a very big thank you for a fantastic tour, and exciting chopper ride – keep it up Queensland!*

*I would also like to welcome Brendan Kersh and Michael McKellar to our new look team. Thanks to Warren Drynan and Duncan McMaster for the time, effort and support they had given to their posts and a very big and special thank you to Neville Skerman for the many years (too many to count on fingers and toes!) of service as Treasurer and more so as an ear to bash. Thank you Neville.*

*With our 2008 tour coming around sooner rather than later, the team has decided to use the first weekend of February 2008 to plan a tour from Longreach to Winton.*

By now you may all be aware that we have a 'new Guard' in Queensland. We look forward to the new team's direction.

Autumn tour to Pt. Lincoln in SA saw 7 Queenslander's carry the flag. Another action filled experience!

Dry, Dry, Dry, what else can I say. We need to keep our hopes up while we wait for a break and support our fellow farmers. If NQ could send some moisture south, we would be happy!

PS. Keep the news coming so that we can share with each other.

*Phil Donges.*

'The new look Team'  
L-R Mike McKellar; Derek Schulz;  
Brendan Kersh.



*As time gets closer we will keep you updated.*

*The National Autumn Tour is also to be hosted in Qld in 2009, the team and some of our national friends has decided to plan a tour from Townsville to Cairns. Dates to be confirmed at a later stage.*

*As a result of the big numbers that just enjoyed the SA tour of Pt. Lincoln, we thought that nailing something on the calendar now, would give us some good long planning time.*

*Next event on our calendar is the opening of applications for our 2007 Scholars, so please if you know of somebody that is deserving of this award, don't just poke at them, shove them into applying!*

*Heaps more to happen as the year unfolds and we will do our best to keep everybody up to speed as quickly as possible.*

*Derek Schulz (Chairman)*

## Queensland AGM/Tour: 2, 3 & 4<sup>th</sup> February 2007.



QLD Group at Bundaberg

Friday morning 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb. approximately 16 Scholars and partners, and CEO Jim Geltch, departed on a mini bus from Kingsford Smith Museum Brisbane and travelled to Amamoor near Gympie for a farm visit of new scholar Jack Milbank. Jack gave an informative talk on he and Jacinta's venture growing passionfruit, nectarine and custard apples. He is also involved in setting up marketing and packaging of fresh fruits.

Jack & Jacinta also have a new addition to the family - 'Alexina Kate' - born 3 Feb.2007, the day after our visit! *CONGRATULATIONS to you both.*

Joe Mooney and Lucy Connop joined us for the day and great to have them both with us. Lunch at Gympie followed by a visit to the 'Suncoast Gold' Macademia Nut factory, where they shelled and packaged the nuts. An early awakening by 'Coach Captain' Malcolm had us departing from Gympie bright eyed and bushy tailed???, and travelled to Childers stopping over for smoko at a local coffee shop, where Don took a liking to the good looking shop owner, so much so we had to call again on Sunday's return trip to buy ice creams! Don's shout!! Thanks Don.

Onward to the Philip's property to inspect their tomato and mango packaging operation. New scholar Camilla had already departed for an engagement in America. The family have developed a national supply chain to support a 12 month supply of fresh tomatoes.

Graham Ramsey led us on to Bundaberg where we had a magnificent lunch with Caroline, his parents and family overlooking the Pacific Ocean at Bagara.

Graham then took us to their impressive potato and sugarcane operation, where we also had the opportunity to have an aerial view of the district from a helicopter which Graham contracts to do his corp spraying.

On to the evenings business where we gathered at the motel and held the Annual meeting and elections attended by 12 Scholars. Discussion was held as to the future direction of the Qld. Branch, followed by the elections which saw the changing of the guard, and electing Derek Schulz as Chairman, Brendan Kersh as Secretary and Mike McKellar as Treasurer. We wish the new team well in their endeavours and I know they will have all of our support. They have already been working hard planning future tours and meetings.

It was particularly heartening to have Brendan, Michael and Helen, Marc and Santina travel the distance to enjoy the weekend.

Other business centred around the incorporation of our organisation with Queensland becoming 'Nuffield Australia – Queensland Branch'. CEO Jim Geltch gave a talk on national issues. Following the meeting all joined together for evening dinner where guest speaker Joanne Rogers spoke on Future Farmers Network and how they are helping young people become farmers of the future, and Tim Hill spoke on the affects of evaporation losses in dams and how water can be saved by covering them with floating plastic sheets. Sunday morning had the Scholars departing and going their separate ways. The mini bus returned to Brisbane with it's travellers. In all the weekend lived up to the true Nuffield of seeing a variety of businesses and enjoying each others company & fellowship.



L-R Derek Schulz, Don Macfarlane & Joe Mooney.

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## **Australian Autumn Tour – Eyre Peninsula, SA: 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> March**

Wednesday afternoon Scholars and partners gathered at Pt. Lincoln.

Pt. Lincoln lies on the southern tip of the Eyre Peninsula and has a port where large grain ships were loading grain from several large banks of silos that stood out like high rise buildings as we approached. The Port is also home to a thriving fishing industry of prawns, abalone and crayfish and bluefin tuna. Their success has given Pt. Lincoln the distinction of having the highest number of millionaires per head of population in Australia.

Thursday am Peter Treloar welcomed approx. 80 Nuffield Scholars and partners to the Eyre Peninsula Autumn Tour. First stop was to 2004 Scholar Mark Modra's farm growing cereals of wheat, oats, canola and meat sheep. They are also experimenting with deep ripping to open up the lower soil structure. A visit to their workshop left machinery buffs fascinated by the array and collection of old machinery, bits and pieces. Anything could be manufactured out of that shed! Mark's dad Theo has restored several old engines to their former glory and to hear them run so sweetly brought tears to the petrol heads.

The front yard of the homestead provided entertainment for the guests who wanted to test their physical skills on the homemade 'theme park type' amusements!.

Dutton Park historical woolshed owned by Craig Brown has been restored to it's original condition, made of local limestone rocks and cement and was full of local relics of the past. Wool bales were taken approx. 50 meters to a jetty to catch a ketch for transport to Adelaide.

On to Lester Marshall's oyster farm at Coffin Bay, where they produce 350 ton of oysters annually and sold for \$5000 per ton to markets all over Australia. Due their location their oysters are produced in very clean water and deliver a flavour of their own to which they are developing a Coffin Bay brand.

A visit to the Cummins area took in the local flour and stockfeed mill producing 2300 ton of flour and 4000 ton of stockfeed annually.

An interesting Grain and Graze presentation at Edillilie Hall was given over afternoon tea courtesy of the Treloar family.

The scarred countryside could be seen south of Edillilie where fire raged some 18 months ago. The speed and voracity of the fire must have been a very frightening event for the locals with the loss of life, buildings, machinery, stock and fencing.

Friday morning saw a visit to the Australian Barley Board grain storage and ship loading facility led by past Scholar Trevor Day who is current the ABB Chairman. A birdseye view from the top of the grain silos gave an overview of the town and harbour. A walk along the wharf and up to the grain loader which was busy loading canola onto a Japanese ship proved very interesting. Scholars and partners, sponsors and guests were hosted to a pleasant luncheon at Boston Bay winery where very informative presentations were given by returning scholars David Fulwood, Caroline Brown, Anthony Brandsema, Andrew Watson Leigh Vial and Garry Hannigan.

Saturday morning took participants on a refreshing??! walk to the Marine Science Centre to learn about the local fishing industry and sample some fresh tuna. A dockside lunch was followed by a boat journey to a tuna farm enclosure where those who wanted were able to swim with and feed the lively fish. This was a unique experience. The boat ride also took us to visit Boston Island 7km's off shore. A 1600 ha working sheep station owned by local Mayor Peter Davis, who is passionate about the environmental development of the property.

A scenic visit to Whalers Way led by tour guide Mark Modra saw the completion of 4 days of true Nuffield learning and fellowship. A special thanks goes to Peter Treloar and his team for a wonderful action packed few days of Nuffield.

One of the attractions at Modra's 'Amusement Park'!



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## Update on current Scholars:

Jack, Camilla & Ronald Thompson joined the 'Global Focus Program' of Scholars in Canada. Camilla reports that 1985 Canadian Scholar Marilyn Sharp did a fantastic job of organising tours and activities.

Jack & Camilla are looking forward to their 'China leg' in June.

Ronald has just completed a tour with other Scholars to South America - and from all reports a fascinating trip and we look forward to hearing more on his return.

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## Where are they Now??... Segment looking at the life of past Scholars.

*Name: Neville & Alison Skerman.  
Year: 1970*

Neville & Alison are now living in semi-retirement in Dalby, having lived most of their life in the Kaimkillenbun district where Neville's farming operation consisted mainly of growing sorghum and forage, winter cereals and Lucerne and hay making.

Neville has served many years on graingrower organisations and has been involved with conservation farming.

Whilst slowly heading for retirement Neville is still doing some farming.

At present they are in China visiting their son and family who are working there.



Neville & Alison Skerman