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from the Editor:

'Who said there is Global warming?'

The way the weather has been treating us the last few weeks, tells me that we are doing the 'Winter Edition' newsletter! Some say it reminds them of the old times. I hope they are right, with maybe the start of better seasons.

Selections are upon us again and the management team are working hard to sift through all the applicants for this years' selection.

Queensland applicants will come together in Brisbane on the 23rd July to front the selection panel to strut their rural skills.

By all accounts the standard of applicants this year is very good and the judges will have their hands full making their selections. A dinner to follow will rekindle past scholars memories of their day, and they, I am sure, will share their experiences with potential new Scholars.

On a personal note, Anne, our family and I are slowly getting life back to normal after the peaceful passing of my Dad, Vic, on the 24th June. After having some health problems in the last few months he passed away at the age of 86. May he rest in peace.

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

Until next time, stay warm and watch out for those brass monkeys!

Phil Donges.

Chairman's Chat:

Giddy, how are we?

Queensland may have just come through one of our driest 12 months, but that hasn't dried up the appetite for our young farmers to put their hat in the ring for the chance of a Scholarship.

This year Queensland has 12 applicants that will be facing the selection panel on Monday the 23rd July in Brisbane. The applicants come from all corners of Queensland, being involved in anything from vegetables, sugarcane, cattle and grain.

With the increased amount of scholarships available this year and the broad spectrum of people that applied, Queensland could come away with a number of scholarships.

There is an open invitation to all Queensland scholars and their partners to join the selection panel and applicants for an informal dinner to be held at the Boat House Room at the Regatta Hotel, Brisbane, on Monday evening.

Please let Mike McKellar know by the 18th July, for bookings.

Thanks to all Queensland scholars by word of mouth so many people in this State farming or not, now know more about Nuffield, so give yourself a pat on the back for this outcome.

Derek Schulz (Chairman)

Update on current Scholars:

Jack Milbank is currently in America enjoying all the new experiences, (including acquiring a taste for crabs!), after a wonderful learning experience in China.

Look out in the next edition for Jack's news.

Camilla Philip is currently in Ireland. You can check out Camilla's travels on:

www.milsmoves.com

Ronald Thompson reports:

'An amazing tour is over after 32 plane flights 15 countries and 75000 air miles and 8000km of road travel.

Two round the world tickets have taken me to New Zealand, California, Mexico, Washington DC, Brazil, Frankfurt, France, England, Ireland, Wales, Scotland, Sweden, Singapore, Phillipines, Hong Kong and China. The 45 inch rainfall and 45 feet of topsoil made Brazil the biggest eye-opener. They are as advanced or ahead of us in just about every aspect of agriculture.

Canada has a similar problem of workers moving to the energy industry and so they have some strategies in place to combat the problem. Ireland was a land of development with extreme wealth in all areas. The Irish farmers are wondering what to do with all their subsidy money. Any one who has enough to invest offshore is doing well. The down side is that their land is worth so much they can't afford to buy extra. The UK is sourcing a lot of Polish workers and are struggling to find workers. I do approve of their new subsidy program that is land stewardship based so we see them moving out of production as it is not making money.

Sweden was clean and advanced. Farmers making top money from ethanol. China. What can I say, caught up with the second group including Jack and Camilla, did not see the sun due to pollution for 2 weeks. Manufacturing centre of the world. One factory we visited produced 90% of the worlds microwave ovens and 60% of the air conditioners. It covered 200 ha.

I am currently writing my report and present in October.

Ronald Thompson 2006 Nuffield Scholar

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Points of Interest:

I have been asked by some about the progress of our Co-op's drying plant. Following is a brief outline of the project.

3 Rivers Lucerne Co-operative is a collection of 24 local hay producers within the Inglewood Shire, who together, produce and market their hay production.

In an effort to progress value adding, we decided to install a drying and packaging plant.

After two years of planning the \$8 million project is underway with equipment being ordered from Holland and site work beginning shortly, with a start up date expected in late January 2008.

The process will involve the Co-op mowing the crop, leaving it to dry down to around 40% moisture and collecting with a loader forage wagon, then transferred to trucks and transported to the drying plant to complete drying and packaging.

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

Name: Robert & Ann Harrison
Year: 1964

After leaving school, Robert attended University and obtained a degree in Agriculture, and then came back to the Beaudesert area to work on the family farm.

1964 saw Robert acquiring a Nuffield Scholarship and inspired him to broaden his horizons. The late 1960' and early 70's saw the collapse of the cattle industry and in an effort to sustain the family farm as well as raise and

educate a young family, Robert, with the help of his Ag. Degree took on consulting work overseas on and off for the next 17 years. At the same time, his beloved wife Ann used her architect skills to also support the family.

In the early 1980's skyrocketing interest rates and the uncertainty of the dairy industry, the dairy farm was sold and Robert concentrated on raising beef cattle and also became interested in off farm investing, mainly in the share market. The knowledge gained in this area has seen him giving advice on the Australian Nuffield Finance Committee for many years.

In 1994, Robert and Ann sold the main part of the farm, leaving them with 200 acres of the original farm. Robert boasts that he is the only one in the valley who is still living in the same house that he was born in!

Today you could say Robert and Ann are semi retired, spending time between the farm and Brisbane.

Robert has always been an active and colourful supporter of Nuffield and they are both looking forward to the International Nuffield Conference in Ireland, from where Robert's ancestors from both protestant and catholic come from.

Look out Ireland, your 'downunder' cousin is coming!