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from the Editor:

Phil Donges.

'Isolated showers and storms, otherwise fine'.....

A forecast we have become too familiar with. Some people have fared OK while other areas are very deficient as far as rain goes. We all live in hope that we will soon receive drought breaking rains that are desperately needed. Farming has been a very frustrating business the last few years, in that we know what the land will produce and despite good management, the lack of rain holds the handbrake on production. Let's hope the new year will change things.

Nuffield forges ahead with 16 new Australian scholarships awarded this year, an incredible leap from the old days of only two Scholars per year. Tim Harslett of Amiens has done well and will keep the Queensland flag flying high.
Congratulations Tim.

Catching up!

During September, Anne and I had the privilege to catch up on a few 'Nuffields'. We visited South Australia and caught up with Andrew Johnson, Sally Morgan and Steve Jaeschke from the Keith area. We travelled with them last year on the China trip and it was great to visit them on their 'home patch' and also to meet baby Edward! Whilst in South Australia, we visited the Flinders Ranges and enjoyed the diverse scenery.

On to Alice Springs where we joined a tour group and visited Uluru, Kings Canyon and other

interesting places, as well as six aboriginal communities, including Hermannsburg. At the aboriginal communities it is pleasing to see the new Government incentives are being embraced by most of the communities. It will be a long slow process to implement the reforms, and it is hoped that it will give the communities ownership of their destiny and regain their self worth.

On the way to Uluru we called in to 'Curtin Springs' and were warmly welcomed by Ashley and Lyndee. Ashley, in his own 'Territorian' manner, was a real hit with the group as he gave us a run down of the Severin property and history of his family and the area.

Thanks Ashley!

Until next edition, have a happy and hearty festive season.

Chairman's Chat:

Derek Schulz

Boy hasn't the year gone quickly. The shops are full of Christmas items already. I hope the year has been as good as possible to you in our never ending drought.

In late July, Queensland Nuffield held its state interviews in Brisbane, with a good response from most aspects of farming from across Queensland. It is always difficult in these situations and in such short interview time to try and pick who would do their best for Nuffield. Eleven people were interviewed with three going on to national selections.

For those of you who might not of heard, Tim Harslett from Amiens near Stanthorpe was awarded a scholarship at the national awards held in Fremantle. Welcome to Nuffield Tim.

I would like to thank the people who gave their time to help with selections - Ian Buss from GRDC, Dianne Fullelove from Ausveg and Nick Quirk from MLC and also a thank you to Peter Kenny from Agforce who organised the venue for the day. And to those members of Nuffield that also helped on the day, a BIG thank you goes out to you. I think most of you who came to the dinner that night, would agree with me that the venue for tea was an excellent choice.

Planning has started for our February AGM next year which well be held in the Longreach area.

Will let you know as soon as they are finalised.

Merry Christmas to all.

Report on WA Tour & Presentations. **Submitted by Michael & Helen McKeller.**

Spring tour for Nuffield in Perth

A well organised and attended spring tour in WA from 4th to 7th October, 2007 was a great event in Nuffield's calendar.

After arriving on Wednesday in picturesque Perth, a short shuttle trip to Fremantle, reunion with old friends then we all met at Joe's Seafood restaurant on the fishing boat harbour for tea.

Thursday morning saw two tours, one tour to Kings Park and Botanical gardens in Perth's centre and the other group headed off to CBH grain handling facility and Joe White malting. CBH have a 250 000 tonne storage facility and handle up to 1 000 000 tonne a year. The malt factory was an interesting visit. Both tours met at Houghton's winery for lunch and presentations by Rob Kestrel on the WA chicken industry and the winery manager. That night we met for a semi - formal dinner at a local Fremantle restaurant on the well known Cappuccino Strip.

Friday saw Scholars gather at the Maritime Museum for a guided tour of the museum and trade display featuring 2000 scholar Sandy Forbes with her display of Samm and Dorper sheep.

We then had reports from 8 returning scholars including our own Qld scholar, Ronald Thompson. His passion and enthusiasm was infectious to those present.

Our key note speaker for the day was Richard Goyder connected with CBH. His stimulating address with facts, figures and graphs related to world food supply and production and wheat reserves was great. Take home message - Richard predicted that food prices would treble in the next 5 years.

The Awards dinner at the Fremantle Hotel was supported by over 200 guests. This saw the presentations to the 16 new scholars for 2007.

Queensland was represented by Tim Harslett, from Amiens who received a scholarship funded by the National Vegetable Levy and sponsored by Horticulture Aust. Ltd in partnership with AUSVEG. Tim will study mechanized harvesting and different methods of disease control.



Tim Harslett being awarded his 2007 Nuffield Scholarship by David Anderson.

Also the night included a special presentation to pre-1965 scholars with Queensland's Robert Harrison receiving the special plaque.



Robert & Ann Harrison - thrilled to be recipient of special award.

On Saturday we all set off in 2 buses for the trip out to Kulin for the annual Bush Races with some 4000 people in attendance. We were treated to an entertaining afternoon of horse racing and socialising in the marquee. We then headed for dinner at Terra Vista Italian restaurant near Hyden. Wave Rock resort cabins were the destination for the night (*find your own room mates, cabins & beds were the orders!*)

We were up early on Sunday morning for a tour of Wave rock, a popular WA tourist spot. Then onto breakfast at Hyillowah Feedlot with an informative presentation from owners Vern & Jane Mouritz.

The trip concluded with about a 4 hour trip back to Perth airport.

Update on current Scholars:

Jack Milbank is busy getting all his jobs completed before he travels soon to Dubai and India for 4 weeks. He will be looking at market opportunities. We wish you well on your travels Jack and look forward to catching up on your return.

Camilla Philip writes: *Study Topic - Supply chain efficiencies within Fresh Produce Category Management Process Travel Summary.*

After completing what I would say a very comprehensive 6 week Global Focus Program I was about to embark on my own private study for the next 10 weeks. The main focus for the next 10 weeks was to concentrate on visiting Marketing companies who supply directly into the retail chains, vertically integrated production and marketing companies and retailers.

The first several weeks I was going to concentrate my study in the UK. I had some very worth while companies to visit and for the first couple of weeks I was going to concentrate my study in southern England with different Marketing companies and fully integrated production and marketing companies. The visits and meetings were designed in studying category management process, establishing ideas on company structures, business alignments and strategies, marketing strategies, succession planning and threats and opportunities within the UK and Europe. During the last few weeks in the UK and Scotland I spent most of my time visiting retailers, for example I had several insightful day with one of the Project Development Manager for Tesco's who has been

heading up the Buy Local/Regional Product for Tesco's. I also looked at issues such as social responsibility, through to their localized and specialized programs, supplier / buyer relationships and their customer statistic buying habits, how retailers markets their fresh product, display habits, outlay, fair trade produce, and their price structure for each pricing tier.

I also had the opportunity to meet with international marketing specialists and professors of fresh produce marketing in both the UK and USA.

Needing to have a few days off here and there I took the opportunity in visiting some of the UK Nuffield Scholars which proved to be such a worthy exercise. Not only have I made many new friends but it was interesting listening to the different issues that they have to contend with in their respective industries. After leaving the UK I headed off to Washington State in the US. I had several weeks traveling and meeting with retailers, marketing companies and fully integrated production and marketing companies. Very similar visits like the UK however, extremely different positions within the category management supply chain. At this point of time my studies saw me looking at family succession issues as nearly all the companies I visited were 3-6 generations of family operations. Further visits with other marketing companies and retailers saw me travel to Prince Edward Island in Canada and Ontario, Canada where they have similar issues to Australia i.e.: Bio-Security, travel times to get to some major markets and labour issues. Finally I am now back at home in Bundaberg and our business SP Exports is currently in the middle of our tomato season. I will also be busy bringing all my learning's from my study trip together for completion of my report and presentation in February 2008

Around the Ridges: Michael & Helen McKeller-Morvan. Weather has been patchy otherwise OK and looking forward to summer rains. Stock OK.

Brendan and Sally Kersh - Cloncurry.

Spring is now well into summer! Some grass fires around the traps. Brendan has been repairing fences burnt out by the fires. Stock on agistment in other areas. Sally kept busy with home schooling the family and keeping the 'home fires' going while Brendan is away contracting.

Warren & Carolyn Drynan - Rathdowney

The season has been very patchy and supplementary water the uncertainty of farming in the district and urban pressure have the family reviewing their future farming direction in this district.

'Where does Don live?'



Anne Donges getting directions from a farmer - aka Warren Drynan!

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



Name: Don Macfarlane
Scholar Year: 1961

In a picturesque little community not far from Boonah in South East Queensland - *Munbilla* is a farming area growing crops and pasture on the rich alluvial creek flats.

As we travelled from Peak Crossing we approached Macfarlane's Road and travelled about 2 km's to the end of the road - destination - 'Kilbirnie' - Macfarlane's farm.

On arrival at the homestead, we were greeted by the always cheery 80 & 1/2 year old Don, who welcomed us inside where we sat around the kitchen table to talk of old times.

'Kilbirnie' is where Don and his beloved Glenice (sadly now deceased), reared their 6 children - (5 sons and 1 daughter). The children are all doing their own activities but some of the sons still run the farm, with Don taking on the observer roll and proud of the achievements of all his family.

Don recalls the dairying days with his brother in the days of hand milking and cream cans. There were 3 railway stations within 2 miles of Munbilla some 75 years ago. How things have changed!

Twenty years ago Don introduced organic farming practices which are still carried out today.

The farm still grows corn and soybeans and has some cattle as well. The last 2 years have been very dry and production is down on normal.

In 1961 Don was privileged to do a Nuffield Scholarship and studied among other things organic farming in the United Kingdom and later in Europe and USA. (He quietly admits that he still hasn't submitted a written report!)

These travels have led Don to have a profound interest in organics and biodiversity and he has headed 19 tour groups overseas to look into organic farming practices.

Don's interest in this area saw him as Director of Biological Farmers of Australia for 12 years and on the Council of Greening Australia (Qld.) for the last 18 years.

Those of us who have experienced some of Don's immense knowledge of the 'organic gospel' know how passionate he is on the subject and how it excites him to no end.

He is disappointed though that the Government does not aspire fully to the organics industry.

While Don has embraced organics for the land he has also taken a keen interest in herbal medicines. He suggests that he will be around for another 60 years. I think we all may need to consult him on the special brew!

For all your different views and opinions, we thank you Don for giving us the time to share your life experiences.