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Queensland Branch

from the Editor:

Another financial year has come to a close and how is agriculture fairing? Will the farmer survive in our present climate? Is the government going to recognise the importance of food security for our nation, food that has truth of labelling and origin? Are we going to have a change of Government or more of the same?

Too many questions to answer, but if I had a crystal ball, maybe we could see the future more clearly. We as farmers need to use all the modern tools available to us to stay ahead of the pack, whether that be colour sorting of fruit or using GPS guidance in our ground operations and of course a bit of help from the weather. We as 'Nuffield's' are privileged to have been exposed to the best the world can offer, and we can use this access of knowledge to help the Australian farmer survive the future.

New Scholar selections are well underway. As this Newsletter goes to print, we now have 4 applicants selected to attend the National Selections.

Phil Donges

Chairman's Chat:

It is with a degree of optimism and excitement that I write this report. It is that time of year when applications for our scholarship program have closed. After 24 enquiries resulting in 10 applications I would suggest that this has been very successful result.

Thanks to all those people that have contributed in any small or large way to the total enquiry number. I know there have been many unsuccessful phone calls to individuals that have been approached who have stated that our program is either untimely or unsuitable. Through the process of contacting all the enquiries, I can assure you that there is no deterioration in the quality of those individuals applying. The State selections will be held in Brisbane, on July 30. The panel to host and conduct the interview process will consist of Tim Napier, Jack Milbank, Tim Harslett, Camilla Phillip,

Ronald Thompson, and myself. Also on the interview panel are Jim Geltch and sponsors.

Our current scholar, Martin Phillips, barramundi farmer from Innisfail is currently travelling and studying in Denmark, Netherlands, Scotland, and the USA. His wife Linda and family are meeting him in the USA.

Don Madden, our other current state scholar will be resuming his study tour in September.

A Nuffield scholarship is an amazing experience, one that we all value for the rest of our lives. The strength and quality of Nuffield comes collectively from its membership. I urge all past scholars to become actively involved and invite you to pick up the phone and start to talk to each other. Please don't leave it just to your state executive or a few energetic individuals, for together we can make a difference.

Regards

Michael McKellar-Qld Chairman

Round the Ridges:

Derek Schulz. Producing plenty of vegetables, but vegetable prices are currently below the cost of production. Broccoli holding its own. Eating habits of people are changing. With high input costs of fungicides, cartons and increasing power bills, farming is very tough.

Camilla Philip. The Editor spotted some well presented and packaged tomatoes heading west-they found their way to a Goondiwindi Supermarket! I must try the 'Caprese Salad' recipe found on the back of the pack. Master Chef here we come!

Duncan McMaster. Busy tending his Stud Santa Gertrudis cattle, as well as using his knowledge of farming and stock 2 days a week teaching young people practical farming skills at the Warwick TAFE. Some of his recent students include Afghans, Sri Lankan, and Asian. Duncan says these students have plenty of enthusiasm to work and learn about agriculture. With a pair of jeans, RM William's boots and a Stetson hat, they leave with a big smile on their face!

Graham Ramsay of Bundaberg. Still living a very busy life, running the family farm, growing potatoes. He and Caroline still operate a Child Care centre and bringing up their young family. Graham must be doing a good job of growing potatoes on three properties, and has been awarded 'Smith's Crisps National Potato Grower of the Year' for 3 years running. Keep up the good work Graham.

AGM Report from 'Yarnham' Chinchilla:

Turning off the busy Warrego Highway, across the railway line and down a bush track to the Thompson's quiet homestead setting on a cypress pine sand ridge surrounded by Australian native trees and a windmill to the side to decorate the beautiful country garden. Ronald & Sally, like so many other farmers has battled many years of depressed rainfall, but despite this the Thompson's have done a wonderful job of developing their farm layout including an on farm dam to supplement their irrigation. A crop of well established mung beans are giving Ronald hope for finally a decent financial return. Driving further around the farm we had a look at a paddock of Leucaena and silk sorghum over a metre high that will be used for grazing.



'Inspecting Leucaena at 'Yarnham'

Of late Ronald has taken on a Liaison role to advise the Mining Industry on rural matters. Using his vast experience in agriculture, Ronald is the ideal person to carry out this important role.

At the Homestead, Nuffield's, and the Thompson's family dog held a well attended AGM.



A delicious BBQ lunch, shared with Nuffield's and invited guests, all made for an enjoyable day. Many thanks to Ronald, Sally and children for a great Nuffield farm get-together which gave us all a golden opportunity to learn more about the Chinchilla area.

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

Name: **Jonathan Palmer** Scholar Year: **1988**

Jonathan, Jane and family, formally of Zimbabwe, grew tobacco, maize, soya beans, and cattle. In 2002 the family moved to Australia. Toowoomba became their home town where Jonathan was involved with the manufacture of irrigation equipment for five years. Since then Jonathan has joined the 'Croplands' team as a Service Technician. From his Toowoomba base, Jonathan travels all over Australia as a 'trouble-shooter', and advises on chemical technology and GPS Guidance Systems. Jane is heavily involved in Career Guidance and Vocational training as well as finding time to continue her University studies.



Jane & Jonathan Palmer