

**Nuffield**  
Australia



The story of

**Nuffield  
Australia**

and

**Nuffield  
International**

Peter Nixon  
(1990 Nuffield Scholar)

FROM LOCAL LEGACY TO GLOBAL FELLOWSHIP

## **ABBREVIATIONS:**

### **Australia**

**ANFSA** – Australian Nuffield Farming Scholars Association

**NA** – Nuffield Australia Farming Scholars, or Nuffield Australia (from 2005)

**RASV** – Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria

### **UK**

**UKFST** – UK Farming Scholarship Trust

**NFST** – Nuffield Farming Scholarship Trust (from 1980)

### **International**

**NI** – Nuffield International Farming Scholars

**GFP** – Global Focus Program

**CSC** – Contemporary Scholars Conference

*NOTE: Dates in brackets following a scholar's name refers to the year of their scholarship.*



Nuffield Australia wishes to warmly thank and acknowledge Ausplow for their long-standing support and for their generous donation which funded the publication of this book.

*First published: March 2026.*

[www.nuffield.com.au](http://www.nuffield.com.au)

# Foreword

I have been privileged to serve under, and with, every Nuffield Australian Chairman since my selection as a Nuffield Scholar in 1985. The organisation has been blessed with great leaders over our entire 75-year history. Without exception they have all added significantly to the program through their individual attributes. Their collective wisdom, vision, hard work and commitment to the Nuffield Scholarship Program has meant the scholarship has continually improved, expanded and added value by building capacity in the Australian agricultural sector.

However, the Nuffield organisation, although having a very rich 75-year history had, and has, a somewhat transient governance and management role which could lead to our corporate memory being easily lost over time.

So, it is very fitting that one of Nuffield Australia's Chairman, Peter Nixon, has painstakingly pulled together all the threads of our birth and development into a succinct and very readable background of the organisation as it is today.

But Peter's role within Nuffield did not stop when he stood down as Australian Chairman in 2007. He was subsequently appointed to Chair the fledgling Nuffield International organisation in 2008 at the Triennial Conference in Ireland. This three-year role was a precursor to Nuffield Australia hosting the Triennial Conference in 2011.

In the intervening period between 2008 and 2011, Peter was hard at work as Chairman of Nuffield International working diligently in making, what I regard as, the most transformational change to the global Nuffield program in the international organisation's 78-year history.

In 2008 he inherited an organisation that had no formal name, did not have a bank account or an agreed 'Set of Rules'. By 2011, at the Triennial Conference in Adelaide in September, he delivered an 'Agreement' and 'Set of Rules' for the future of the international organisation that was unanimously agreed to by all participating countries.

It is with this same doggedness, and some help from fellow scholars, that he has been able to compile the detail of how all these machinations transpired.

We within the Nuffield family, and all those others who have assisted us on our journey, now have our own chronicle thanks to Peter's energetic efforts.

## **Jim Geltch AM (1986)**

(NUFFIELD AUSTRALIA BOARD MEMBER 1996–2002, NUFFIELD AUSTRALIA CEO 2005–2016,  
NUFFIELD INTERNATIONAL CEO 2008–2020)

*July 2025*

# Introduction

Lord Nuffield established the philanthropic Nuffield Foundation in the UK in 1943 with a grant of 4,000,000 Morris Motors shares, at the time with a value of UK £10,000,000 — a vast fortune! Its charter was ‘the advancement of health and social well-being and the care and comfort of the aged poor.’ These objectives were later extended to include ‘agricultural advancement’. Under it the Nuffield Farming Scholarship scheme was launched in 1947 with the selection of three scholars, a woman and two men — Jane Bennet-Evans (later Kenyon), Edward Stokes and John Rowsell. The larger organisation is now approaching its 80th year with over 1,700 scholars world-wide and 15 countries involved. Few organisations have the resilience and longevity of this scholarship scheme and, with the expanding number of countries seeking membership, arguably the program has never been stronger.

In 2017, Nuffield in the UK produced a book *‘The Story Behind Nuffield Farming Scholarships’* (written and edited by Gill Bullock and Anne Beckett), a much-needed history of the scheme from its origins in 1947, and a valuable resource and source of information. The purpose of this history of Nuffield is not to replace it, but to add to and update it with the benefit of hindsight, and to record the story with a focus on Australia’s contribution before and, more importantly, during the most formative period of the international organisation’s development — the 20 years following 1995. Australia’s contribution to the evolution of the program both at a national and international level. Arguably this period, and Australia’s contribution, has had a fundamental impact on the evolution of Nuffield world-wide.

This history largely records events up 2015 in detail, and some events to the present day. It is for others to record the story since, when the passage of time has the benefit of sharpening our perspective. I have embarked on updating the story, not least because I have been in a unique position (with others I have consulted) to record the journey.

Often the reason decisions were made is as important as the decisions themselves, and where possible I have tried to comment on this.

**Peter Nixon** (1990)

July 2025

# Lord Nuffield

No history of the Nuffield Farming scholarship scheme should start without reference to its founder.

William Morris (Later Lord Nuffield) was born in Worcester, England in 1877 to a family of modest means. With a strong work ethic, and as a keen and successful cyclist, he entered the bicycle trade. In time he started manufacturing them, then moved to motorcycles and eventually founded, in 1913, the Morris Motor Company which went on to produce 25 different car models. He was the UK's equivalent to Henry Ford, earning him a vast fortune which eventually led him to philanthropy, one of the beneficiaries being the Nuffield Farming scholarships. The first UK scholars studied in 1947 — two men and a woman.



*Morris Oxford bullnose produced in various forms from 1913 to 1926. In total 154,244 were produced.*



*The Crest in use – signifying a Nuffield Scholar.*



*The ladies Nuffield brooch.*

# The Nuffield Crest

'Chinese Whispers' is a party game, which, by its very nature of passing messages down the line of party-goers both amuses and misleads, with the final participant proclaiming a message very different from the one whispered by the first guest! Something similar has happened in relation to the origins of the now widely familiar Nuffield crest, and perhaps a few comments may set the record straight.

In England in 1934 William Morris was created a peer in recognition of his major contribution to the motor industry, and extensive charitable works. His inclination was towards adopting the names of either Morris or Cowley to accompany his new title, but both these names already belonged to other members of the peerage so he settled for his further choice of Nuffield.

A Grant of Arms followed and it was Lord Nuffield's decision that the crest of his Coat of Arms should be adopted by the Nuffield Foundation, and later the Nuffield Farming Scholarship Trust.

In Heraldic terms the crest is described as being "*on a Wreath Or and Gules a demi Bull Gules armed and unguled Or resting the sinister hoof on a Winged Wheel Gold*".

In less pedantic parlance the bull in the crest is taken from the arms of the City of Oxford, and the wheel which it holds represents the motor industry in which this remarkable man left his footprint in history and bestowed upon us such a legacy of philanthropy.

## Caroline Nixon



# The Australian story



## The first countries

Outside the UK, Southern Rhodesia (later Zimbabwe) was the first country of the British Commonwealth to be invited to join the Nuffield program in 1948 with the selection of Tapson De Wet. Australia was invited to join in 1950, along with New Zealand, Canada, Kenya, Tanzania, and at some point, Zambia. However, through political and other reasons, Tanzania and Zambia were not able to accept the opportunity. Kenya did select scholars from 1962 to 1968, but following independence, they dropped out of the scheme.

Southern Rhodesia selected scholars from 1948 to 1969, went into recess from 1970 to 1981 and then selected scholars, as Zimbabweans, from 1982 to 2002. The Zimbabwe program was reinstated in 2019.

It seemed that in those early years countries were admitted via contacts made by the various British High Commissions in Commonwealth Countries, in Australia's case it was the late CW (Bill) Strutt who was the Agricultural Advisor in Canberra. Initially the scheme was managed by the Australian Advisory Committee of which Sir Colin Syme was Chairman along with Maurice Brown as secretary and Sir John Medley, Professor Sir Samuel Wadham, Mr Keith McGarvie and Mr G Coleman on the selection committee. Recommendations for scholarships were sent through to the Nuffield

Foundation for confirmation. Scholars were then required to arrive in London in early February where they were presented with their cheques.

The early program required the scholars to spend six months in the UK. Their bursary was paid for, and administered by, the Nuffield Foundation, which was the British organisation under which the Nuffield Farming scholars program operated, while also managing other recipients of Lord Nuffield's philanthropy.

In 1979 a visit to the European Economic Community (EEC) in Brussels by overseas scholars was escorted by John Cyster (UK Chairman) and John Stewart (UK Director). Cyster and Stewart visited all representatives of the principal European members seeking their interest in joining the Nuffield program. France was the only country that responded favourably resulting in the Credit Agricole (a French farmers bank) funding one scholar per year whilst agreeing that the UK managed the selection process.

France joined the program in 1982 with the selection of their first scholar.

At the first Triennial international conference of scholars held in Australia in 1980, the conference requested that overseas scholars be obliged to spend four weeks on the continent. It was agreed that, as part of their joint program they should visit the Paris Agricultural Show



*The first two Australian Scholars – The Hon. Neil McNeil (1951) and The Hon. Bert Kelly CMG (1951).*

and also visit French farms, before spending three days in Brussels being briefed at a high level in the working of the European Economic Community (EEC).

The admission of the Republic of Ireland (Northern Ireland was already included as it came under the UK) was in 1998. It resulted from discussions and agreement at the Triennial conference in Ontario, Canada when Matt Dempsey, Editor of the Irish Farmers Journal, spoke to the proposal having received the backing of his Board. The idea of joining arose sometime before, after a conversation between Matt and Steven Bullock, then UK Director, at the Oxford Farming Conference.

Jim McCarthy and Padraic Walshe, their first scholars, were selected in 1996 by the UK and this was the forerunner to full Irish membership.

## First Australian scholars and early program

The first two Australian scholars travelled in 1951 – being Bert Kelly (later The Hon. Bert Kelly CMG) and Neil McNeil (The Hon. Neil McNeil). Both scholars were elected to the House of Representatives in the Australian Federal Parliament and had a considerable impact, particularly

Bert Kelly. Two scholars were selected annually in following years, and were managed and funded by the Nuffield Foundation in London.

At the time of the early scholars, Britain was still suffering constraints and deprivations from WWII, so stories of long separations from families (even the birth of children during the scholar's absence) were an accepted part of the experience, and nothing unusual for this early post war generation. It is also worth commenting that the last of the food rationing in the UK was only lifted in 1954, some nine years after the war. In those early days, travel to the UK was by ship and, once there, using a bicycle and the train to get around was common. Letters, not phones, were often the only means of communication with home — and replies weeks or more away.

Upon arrival in the UK, scholars from the participating countries — New Zealand, Canada, Australia, and Southern Rhodesia were briefed in London and then matched with a farmer-host usually of similar interests. Early scholars were required to spend up to six months on their studies until in 1987 it was reduced to a minimum of four consecutive months with six weeks group travel in the UK. They looked at varied aspects of UK Agriculture — in the wider sense from policy through to processing and retail of food. In 1980, (after the UK had joined the European Economic Community (EEC) in 1972), this was extended to spending time in Brussels, the Paris Agricultural show and time in a French rural region. The EEC was the predecessor to the establishment of the political European Union (EU) of today.

Later, Robert Beggs AM (1970), recounts that 'my interview was conducted by the Australian Nuffield Advisory Council, which comprised George Wilson, Robert Southey (later Sir Robert), Professor Carl Forster, Sir Roger Darvall and three other people whose names I can't recall'.

## Group travel

From 1979 Qantas provided Australian scholars with a return ticket to the UK and then by the mid 1980's a business class return ticket and, in the UK, the Milk Marketing Board supplied scholars with a car each for their use during their stay — a generous addition to the bursary of the day. The cars were supplied until the year before the Board was disbanded as a government supported authority in 1994 and following that for 3–4 years, as a kind gesture, and for a small charge, by UK scholar Alan Beckett. Qantas continued supplying tickets up until 1997 — and the demise of both left a significant gap in scholar bursaries.

As previously discussed, the program had developed significantly and the overseas scholars were spending up to six weeks travelling as a group after they arrived in the UK. It was this time travelling together, the international mix, the exchange of ideas and cultural outlook, which was becoming one of the defining parts of the Australian and overseas scholarships. It created lifelong friendships and a mutually beneficial experience. Interestingly, those scholars selected from within the UK were never part of this group travel, and rarely met overseas scholars of their year, and never experienced the camaraderie and other benefits of it. It was this group travel, and the experience and benefits of joint learning and interaction of ideas, which was the precedent to the later expanding scope of travel experienced by modern scholars in the Global Focus Programs (GFP). The modern ease of travel and communication in this age, has opened opportunities to explore the world of agriculture not even remotely envisaged by early scholars.

The scholars from overseas countries remember the contribution of the four UK Nuffield Directors. First was Captain John Stewart who ran the operation as a military campaign and whose home was sanctuary

to many scholars, and often their families, who were a long way from home. His strong advocacy for the scheme was matched by that of George Wilson from Australia — they together set the foundation for the modern organisation.

John Stewart was followed as UK Director by Stephen Bullock (1988–2001), John Stones (2000–2013) and Mike Vacher (2013–2024). All four Directors in their own ways became mentors to visiting scholars.

In Australia, two scholars were selected annually in a rotation around the six states with each State selecting a scholar every third year, (Vic & Tas, NSW & Qld, WA & SA). Between 1970 and 1974 inclusive, three scholars were selected, one from each state and one floating from either state. It then reverted to two scholars again, until in 1980, when on every third year, a scholar was selected from the Northern Territory (aligned with WA & SA) making three scholars in that year. Each state had to fund their own scholar as there was no national sponsorship support between 1976 and 1995, except for Qantas.

With a relatively small number of scholars selected annually, the program was not well known, but nonetheless, well respected thanks to the calibre and influence of early scholars. Many became leaders in industry and Government — The Hon. Bert Kelly CMG, George Wilson CMG, The Hon. Neil McNeill, David Asimus AO, Robert Beggs AM, Bill Casimaty AM, Sir William Keys AC OBE, Ian Macintosh AM, Harry Perkins AO, The Hon. Neil Andrew AO (later Speaker of the House of Representatives) and The Hon. Bruce Scott to name a few. Scholar numbers had reached a point where the total became static, earlier scholars were dying as quickly as new scholars were being selected, and this remained the case until the mid-1990s.

## A new beginning

George Wilson (1952) reported that Robert Beggs (1970), on returning from his scholarship approached him about forming an association for scholars and to assist in helping overseas scholars visiting Australia. He also foreshadowed the end to funding from the Nuffield Foundation which had already occurred in the UK in 1968.

The Inaugural Annual Meeting of the newly formed Australian Nuffield Farming Scholars Association (ANFSA) was held at the Royal Agricultural Showgrounds in Melbourne (RASV) on the 26 September 1972 with Professor HC (Carl) Forster being elected Chairman on the voices. Whilst not a Nuffield scholar, he was the first Chairman of the new organisation from 1972–1974 and is the only non-Nuffield to have held the position.

The meeting ‘had been called to consider ways and means by which the Scholarships might be continued and financed by Australian contributions.’ This was in response to the advice from the Nuffield Foundation in the UK that funding the Australian program would be phased out over the next three years. In attendance was Jack Maclean, Chairman of the United Kingdom Farming Scholarships Trust. Mr Maclean outlined how the UK Scholarship organisation had reorganised after facing the same situation in 1968.

This foundational meeting moved to form the Australian Nuffield Farming Scholarship Trust with the objective of raising funds for the scholarship program in Australia.

At the Second Annual Meeting of the ANFSA held on 25 September 1973 it was reported by correspondence that the Nuffield Foundation would grant UK£3,000 to support an initial fund-raising appeal. George Wilson (1952) informed the meeting the RASV would continue to provide secretarial assistance and a meeting room

as required. It was moved at this meeting that letters be sent to past scholars requesting a donation of \$150 over three years to assist in the fund-raising appeal.

The Third Annual Meeting was held on 24 September 1974 and was highlighted by the attendance of Lord Todd (Chairman of the Nuffield Foundation), Capt. John Stewart (Secretary of UK Farming Scholarship Trust) and his wife Mrs Stewart.

The meeting heard reports from Mr Woodful on the progress of finalising the draft constitution. Mr Bill Strutt reported on progress of the funding appeal using state-based scholars as intermediaries with possible sponsors. It is worth noting he recommended approaching the Taxation Department to request deductibility for donations to the appeal fund (it took a further 27 years before this request was achieved). Lord Todd and Capt. Stewart both addressed the meeting at various times with the appropriate suggestions and advice on the operation of the Nuffield program in Australia.

At a General Meeting of the Australian Nuffield Farming Scholarship Association on the 18th November 1974, Mr George Wilson (1952) was elected to the Chair, and became the second Chairman of the Association. There were motions to adopt the recently drafted constitution and that Mr Duncan Malcolm from the RASV to act as the Association's secretariat. It was resolved that Messrs. Wilson, Beggs and Hopkins along with a representative from each state comprise the Management Council. Lady Marigold Southey (nee Myer) was a slightly later, but notable, addition to the Management Council.

From 1975 the Nuffield program in Australia was funded and administered by the Australian Nuffield Farming Scholarship Association.

## The legacy of George Wilson CMG (1952)

George Wilson became the driving force of the early program in Australia as well as the second Chairman of the organisation in 1974, a position he held until 1989.

George was selected in the second year of the Australian scholarships and was instrumental in establishing the ANFSA and securing the assistance of the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria (RASV) who subsequently generously provided a base and administration for the new organisation. The Australian Nuffield Farming Scholarship Association (ANFSA) was born in 1972 and it had its home at the Showgrounds in Melbourne for some 30 years. For many new scholar hopefuls, this was the location of their first appointment with Nuffield as they nervously awaited their scholarship interview.

In effect the first turning point in Nuffield's global development occurred in 1972 with the announcement that Australia, along with the other National organisations, would cease to be funded from the UK and had to support themselves going forward. Fortunately, having already established a functioning organisation, Australia was prepared and consequently was rewarded by a UK £3,000 donation from the Nuffield Foundation to assist the new organisation.

It also heralded the demise of the centralised authority held by the Nuffield Foundation in the UK, as national bodies became effectively responsible for their own programs. It left a vacuum as there was still no overall co-ordination of the rules and conditions of the scheme for participating countries.

*Much of the information on these early days was obtained from the Beckett International Review and from the Minutes, from 1972 onwards, of the Australian Nuffield Farming Scholarship Association (ANFSA).*

At the instigation of George Wilson, scholar representatives from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the UK met in London to discuss the future relationship of participating countries. A week of discussions and 'considerable hospitality ... concluded with an agreed set of conditions'. We can assume that this was what became the Code of Practice (Appendix 1) for the early Nuffield International. The UK Farming Scholarship Trust (UKFST) would manage overseas scholars whilst in Britain and it was agreed overall authority be vested in a three-yearly meeting of participating countries to be held in rotation. It was further agreed the first Triennial International Conference would be held in Victoria Australia in 1980.

It could be argued that this meeting saw the first tentative step towards an international organisation, although with limited scope and purpose.

George, who had served in the AIF (Australian Infantry Force) from 1942 to 1945, was a forceful character with the drive and business and agricultural contacts required to advance the scholarships through the early difficulties of a new organisation. He was most adept at recruiting support, and raising money, to grow the organisation, along with organising Qantas tickets, essential to the viability of the program.

Interviews took place at the RASV headquarters at the Melbourne Showgrounds. The interviewers in those days were highly influential and an apt demonstration of the power of George's connections. Included among others were George Wilson, Robert Southey (later Sir Robert), Professor Carl Foster, Sir Roger Darvall, Sir James Balderstone AC (then Chairman of BHP, and who long after maintained an interest in, and attended many Nuffield functions).



*George Wilson CMG (1952)*

With so few scholarships awarded annually, George Wilson ensured that Nuffield Scholarships were not handed out lightly. George set the foundation for the rigour expected at the final interview for the scholarships. His powerful selection panels left no doubt in the mind of successful candidates of the high expectations associated with being a Nuffield Scholar.

George's mantra of 'once a scholar always a scholar' came with a full embrace of what George referred to as the 'Nuffield family'. His own family remembers their home becoming essentially a Nuffield open house most weeks of the year.

He died in 2003, and apart from Nuffield, he had served as President of the RASV, Council member of Monash University amongst others. He is honoured by Nuffield through the annual George Wilson Oration presented at the annual conference of Nuffield Australia.

Without doubt, George Wilson's contribution was pivotal to the future success of the organisation.

## Harry Perkins AO and the path ahead

The late Harry Perkins (1972) was chairman of ANFSA from 1995 to 1998 whilst, at the same time, Chairman of Wesfarmers which was undergoing a remarkable expansion and establishing itself as a leading national corporation. He was later Chancellor of Curtin University in WA and was the driving force in the establishment of the WA Institute of Medical Research, to be re-named the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research after his death in 2002. As with many others, he always said that 'if it wasn't for Nuffield I would still be farming at Bruce Rock' which explained his commitment and loyalty to the organisation. No Nuffield job was too menial for

Harry — he resigned his position as Treasurer to the WA Branch of Nuffield, along with his Chairmanship of Wesfarmers, just prior to his death.

As noted, Nuffield had only been selecting seven scholars across a three-year cycle. The total number of scholars was not expanding but the potential of Nuffield to have a beneficial impact on Australian agriculture through an expanding alumni was very apparent.

Harry Perkins understood this and initiated the first expansion in scholar numbers when he collaborated with Lady Southey AC who sponsored four 'women in agriculture' scholarships starting in 1996 with the selection of Jane Greenslade and Helen Armstrong. Not only was it the first expansion in numbers but it facilitated the first female Nuffield scholars in Australia — seven women out of the 15 scholars selected over the three years — 1996 to 1998. Women had not previously been excluded (a woman was one of the first three selected in the UK) but the early days of the scholarship could be fairly rugged affairs, with six months away from home, and practicalities not conducive to women with young children, applying. Greater time flexibility within the scholarship, coupled with modern developments in travel, communications, the internet and mobile phones have all contributed to enabling woman scholars to take their place in the Nuffield family.



*Harry Perkins AO (1972) Photo courtesy: Wesfarmers Ltd.*

## The External Review

Harry Perkins had a vision for Nuffield. To execute it, he made a substantial personal financial contribution by establishing a credible and professional approach which would have impact and influence at the highest levels of industry and Government. Having garnered support from leading Australian scholars, an external review of ANFSA was conducted by two highly regarded figures in the industry — Neil Inall and Dr. Geoff Millar AO. Neil Inall ran a communication company and had produced and presented programs on rural affairs for the ABC over many years, amongst many other roles. Geoff Miller served in numerous rural based organisations serving, over some seventeen years, at the helm of a number of Australian Government agencies including the Department of Primary Industries and Energy. He was also the architect of the world leading Rural Development Corporations (RDC) programs.

The resulting report was widely discussed and debated within Nuffield and was not without its critics. Should the alumni be kept small and exclusive? Could scholar quality be maintained with expanding numbers? Should scholarships continue to be restricted to practicing farmers. The report initiated a reflection and passionate discussion on the future course of Nuffield.

Nuffield Australia was changing its focus. Traditionally scholars had come from the grain, beef, wool and dairy sectors, but there were many more agricultural sectors that could be included thus growing the potential scholar pool. There was untapped potential to strengthen the organisation further.

The debate was intense with exceptional insight from scholars. The report was ultimately accepted with overwhelming support, becoming the catalyst and the basis for the Program going forward. Some recommendations were not adopted, or were later modified.

During this period Harry Perkins also initiated a review of Nuffield International, or more particularly a review of the programs and management of the participating countries and areas of co-operation. This review was done by the late Alan Beckett (1957), a UK scholar and his wife Anne, and was released in 2001. It comprised a select committee including all national Chairmen. The report did 'not seek to give any recommendations for the international structure of Nuffield' but was a good summary of the status of the respective participating countries and a series of recommendations to improve the scheme at a national level.

During his chairmanship, Harry Perkins also initiated a study program in Asia for Australian and New Zealand scholars as part of their group tour and prior to them travelling to the UK. Up until then the organised part of the Scholar's tour was based in the UK and Europe and it was becoming increasingly apparent that Australia's and New Zealand's agricultural future was more aligned to Asia than Europe, and an increasing understanding and co-operation between us and our western Pacific neighbours was an obvious next step. We were also fortunate in that Michael Sheehy (1993), based in Indonesia, assisted in the building of contacts necessary for the inaugural tours through Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia which commenced in 1997.



*Fellow Nuffield Scholars: The Hon. Bruce Scott (1983) and The Hon. Neil Andrew AO (1975), former speaker of the House of Representatives.*

## The 'Harry Fund'

Thanks to George Wilson, a Capital Fund was established early on to manage and build a reserve for the organisation which had built up to a substantial sum by 2000 — approximately AU\$725,000. This had been ably managed by a committee under George and included Robert Harrison (1965) whose continuing oversight and guidance of the Capital Fund was integral to the financial foundation of Nuffield.

On 17th April 2001, The Hon. Neil Andrew (1975), who was then Speaker of the House of Representatives in the Federal Parliament, had been working for, and secured, the registration of ANFSA as a charity with tax deductibility status for financial contributions.

This was a seminal moment in the history of Nuffield Australia with DGR (Deductible Gift Recipient) status and with an increase in the capital base it was pivotal to the future success and security of the scholarship program.

Harry Perkins initiated a capital raising program having approached and received significant funding from Rural Press, Wesfarmers and the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA), additionally individual contributions from Nuffield alumni further boosted the underlying capital base, now called the Public Fund of Nuffield Australia. Under astute stewardship the Public Fund value rose to \$1.85m by the end of 2005.

Further recurrent funding was received from Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) for the employment of a full-time CEO, along with annual scholarship funding from the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) for three scholarships for grain growers in Australia. This funding was in addition to the annual sponsorship of scholarship awards.

Upon his death in 2002, Harry's estate contributed additional funds to the Capital Fund, along with a further grant from Wesfarmers. The Public Fund was renamed internally the 'Harry Fund' in recognition of the monumental contribution of Harry Perkins.

As an aside, The Hon. Bert Kelly CMG (1951), Geoffrey Giles (1957) and The Hon. Neil Andrew AO (1975), three Nuffield Scholars, served consecutively as the member for the South Australian Federal seat of Wakefield from 1958 to 2004.

## Consequential change

It is fair to say that the following decade tested the commitment and initiative of the leadership team within Nuffield. Harry Perkins' vision and initiatives had a profound impact. The adopted recommendations of the External Review required implementation, most particularly establishing a new corporate structure and employing a CEO to manage the burgeoning organisation effectively, as well as the expanding number of scholarships.

In 1998, Harry, having unleashed an inspiring vision for Nuffield, passed the leadership baton to the late Graeme Box (1973) and his board who then did the heavy lifting to install the first full time CEO, expand scholar numbers and the investor base, and manage the inevitable financial growing pains. Graeme shouldered the main role of drawing up the first constitution to enable Nuffield to become incorporated in 2000. To further exacerbate the problems, the new CEO did not last.

During Graeme Box's chairmanship, scholar numbers increased to eight scholars per year along with the establishment of new investors and the management of their expectations. As with all organisations relying heavily on volunteers, Nuffield required committed



*Ian Macintosh (1965) and Graeme Box (1973) – Nuffield Australia Chairmen 1989–1995 and 1998–2001 respectively.*

scholars to step up. The state branches were increasing their activities and an annual selection process at state level was now required, rather than every third year. Proper vetting of candidates was essential to manage the increasing application numbers.

The Management Council had run from 1976 to 2000. The robust debate through this period of growth reinforced the principle of ‘quality over quantity’ regarding the selection of scholars.

Graeme, with huge personal commitment (both physically and financially), was one of the organisation’s unsung heroes.

## The Global Focus Program and the Contemporary Scholars Conference

Brendon Smart (1990) followed Graeme Box as chairman in 2001 and continued to focus on expansion. It was under Brendon's stewardship that the group tour became known as the Global Focus Program (GFP), more accurately reflecting its intention. A further significant development was the introduction of the USA and other Northern Hemisphere countries into the GFP with the addition of a second group leaving Australia each year. This was a crucial period of building contacts around the world which enabled the success of the GFP. Further, the programs were encompassing Washington DC and Brussels, the decision-making centres of world agriculture, along with research centres, leading agriculturalists, and third world countries with unsophisticated agricultural systems. More particularly, scholars were receiving an experience that broadened their minds and gave them a greater understanding of world agriculture and the forces that impact agriculture in their own countries.

Nuffield was taking on a new complexion, more focused on the whole spectrum of agriculture and the issues and opportunities confronting it. It was becoming an international organisation looking to the wider world. The new GFP format was outstandingly successful, other Nuffield countries were starting to participate (including the UK), and the program was showcasing Nuffield to an ever-expanding audience. More particularly it was increasingly of great value in the personal development of the individuals participating.

In 2004 Brendon Smart travelled to New Zealand, France, UK and Ireland to lobby for a gathering of all Nuffield scholars world-wide in the year of their selection. He also lobbied the UK to send scholars to join the GFP. In



*Brendon Smart (1990)*

2005 Brendon and the then Nuffield Australia CEO, Bryan Clarke, travelled to the UK with the Australian and New Zealand scholars of that year and, along with the United Kingdom scholars, met as a group for the first time over a number of days in London, Brussels and France.

Such a gathering of all scholars had been a long-held ambition of Brendon's and he led discussions that resulted in the formation of what has become known as the Contemporary Scholars Conference (CSC), a name coined by Jim Geltch who, along with John Stone (UK Director), managed the first CSC which was held in Utrecht, The Netherlands in 2006.

The Utrecht conference itself was organised largely by Rabobank, who have remained a strong supporter of the Nuffield Program. A notable attendee was Barton (Bart) Ruth, a Nebraska corn and soybean grower and previous Chairman of the USA Soybean Growers association. Bart had been selected as an Eisenhower Fellow in 2005 and attended the CSC on an invitation from John Stone, the UK Director. Bart realised the benefit the Nuffield Program could have for US agriculturists. He has been a long-term supporter and is the current Chairman of Nuffield USA.

The success of the inaugural and the following CSCs has led to this annual event being the pre-eminent function on the scholars' calendar following Brendon's considerable dedication and input. It is arguably the step that has led to Nuffield taking on a greater international role. The CSC has been held every year since, and its impact on the scholars and host countries has continued to grow.

Scholar numbers within Australia were expanding and during the early 2000s numbers increased to 11 annually. With the ideal number for a GFP being 8 to 10 scholars, a second GFP was required to also accommodate scholars from other countries.

Along with the existing February GFP departure, a second program was introduced with a June departure, largely to provide for the summer croppers in Australia who found it difficult to manage an earlier departure. Also, more flexibility in the scholarship was being introduced, scholars were no longer required to do their

scholarship in a single block but could do it in several. This often assisted family and other farm relationships who were 'holding the fort'. The CSC was held in early March and all scholars world-wide were required to attend for that week. Some scholars continued on with their GFP, others returning home for later departures.

Increasingly, the expansion of the GFP also meant that many scholars were not even travelling to the UK which caused some consternation within the UK, but the rapidly expanding numbers globally would have been unreasonable burden for the UK administration every year.

Brendon Smart lobbied for, and was rewarded with the first female director being voted onto the Australian Nuffield Board. Bernadette Clarke (1997), a Lady Southey scholar, served on the Board for a number of years.

## Consolidation

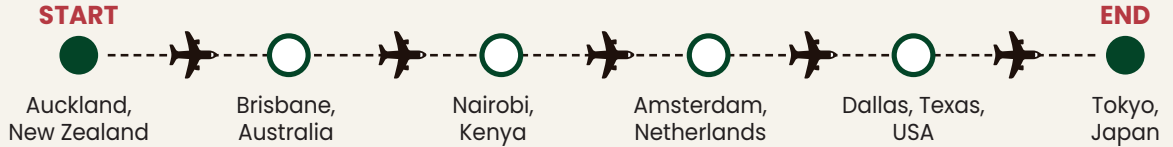
Bryan Clarke was appointed as part-time CEO in mid-2001. He brought a professional approach to the role and oversaw the consolidation of the Australian organisation during a rapid expansion of Nuffield. He managed an expanding number of scholars and the continuation of a second GFP.

Peter Nixon took over the Chairmanship from Brendon Smart in 2004 and scholarship numbers increased to 14. In late 2005, when Bryan Clarke's part time contract was up for review and renewal, Jim Geltch became available as a potential full time CEO. The Board took a most difficult decision and appoint Jim in preference to an excellent CEO who had served Nuffield well. Jim had intrinsic knowledge of scholar experience being a scholar himself in 1986 and also having served on the NA Board from 1996 to 2002.

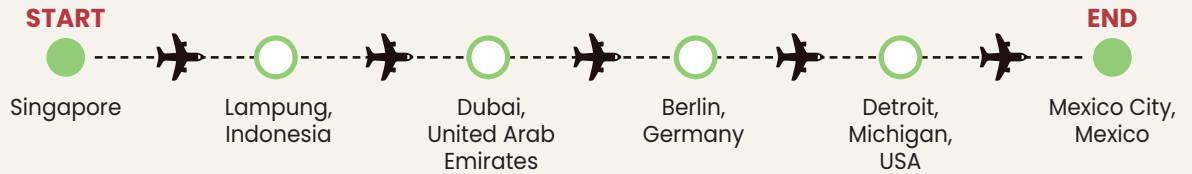
# 2025 Global Focus Programs

This diagram illustrates the evolving scope of the modern GFP with multiple countries participating.

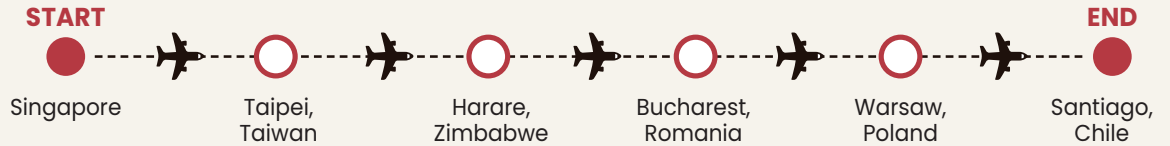
## Global Focus Program 1



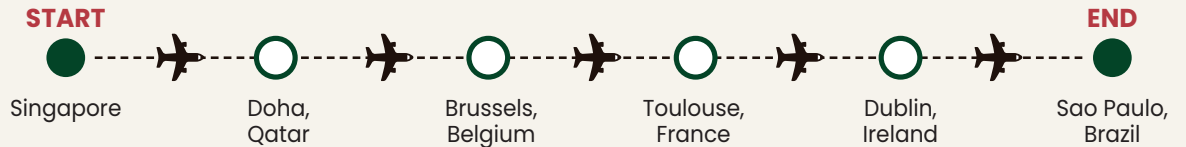
## Global Focus Program 2



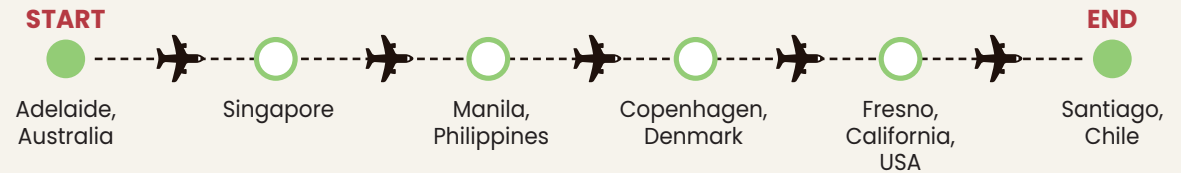
## Global Focus Program 3



## Global Focus Program 4



## Global Focus Program 5



## Global Focus Program 6





*“Having ten nationalities across a group of twelve people makes for a unique GFP.... The GFP has really embedded a sense of belonging in the Nuffield experience for me. The relationships forged over the five-week journey will be with me forever and have certainly challenged my thinking...”*

**Tyson Cattle** (2025)

Jim Geltch was appointed CEO in November 2005 which led to a close working relationship with Peter Nixon which continued over the following six years during a time of dynamic change within Nuffield.

With Jim Geltch's inexhaustible energy and drive, the Nuffield program continued to expand and, importantly, he was developing an impressive world network of contacts, not only to facilitate the GFP programs he was managing, but also the annual CSCs. He also did an outstanding job in the management of both scholars and investors and was highly respected by both.

During Jim's time as CEO, scholar numbers increased to 26, along with five or six GFPs per year before his retirement as Nuffield Australia CEO in 2016.

It was at this time, 2006, that the Australian Nuffield Farming Scholars Association (NFSA) had a name change to Nuffield Australia Farming Scholars (commonly shortened to Nuffield Australia or NA). Several other countries, including new Nuffield countries, followed suit also adopting this naming format.

## Voluntary effort

An organisation like Nuffield has survived because of the voluntary efforts of many of its scholars – too many to record here. However, there are a few, largely recognised by life memberships, who deserve mention. Apart from those already included in this story there is Ron Baillieu (1958), Hugh Fraser (1961) and Bill Casimaty (1967) who were great advocates and prime movers in the early organisation in Australia. Tim Hutchings (1983) meticulously reviewed scholar reports for many years as well as serving on the Board as Treasurer.

Ian Macintosh (1965) who was the third chairman of ANFSA for the six years from 1989 to 1995 had extensive contacts both in agriculture and politics which were

used to the benefit of Nuffield. He is also responsible for getting agreement in 1983 from then Governor General, Sir Ninian Stevens, to act as Patron of Nuffield Australia. Every Governor General since has fulfilled the role of patron.

Ashley Severin (1987), was the face of the Northern Territory and gave many years of dedicated service. Rob Henry (1991) a board member and many years dedicated to Nuffield in Tasmania and nationally, and Andrew Fowler (2000) who served as both NA Chairman (2016–2019) and International Chairman (2020–2023).

Terry Hehir OAM (1994) who was NA chairman 2010–2013 and was party to the formation of Nuffield International. His incisive analysis and verbal critique in any discussion or debate made him a valuable ally or feared opponent – a valuable asset in the evolution of Nuffield.

Max Jelbart OAM (1991) was not only a Board member for 12 years but also sat on the Finance committee and was part of a team that ably directed the 'Harry Fund' for many years. Max was a gentleman, fondly remembered by many in Nuffield as well as his community.

## The family back home

On departing upon their adventure, every scholar leaves behind their family, a property, and a business, an occupation that must be managed in their absence. Without the full support of those left behind, loved ones, an extended family, employees or team members – the success of a scholarship would not be possible. Those times apart are not easy – whilst one party is having an exhilarating experience, the others are experiencing the increased pressure and responsibility of an absent partner. One is undergoing what is most often a life-changing experience, the others at home counting the days for a return. Nuffield has always

encouraged wives, husbands, partners and families to join for part of the individual study so they too can share some of the experience.

Nuffield has recognised the emotional roller coaster ride associated with the Nuffield experience and has sought to prepare scholars and their families for what lies ahead. There is ongoing encouragement for those 'holding the fort' to contact others similarly coping.

At best, a Nuffield scholarship should be a great and life-changing experience for the whole family.

## Investors

While Nuffield was having a rapid expansion of scholarship numbers, it was only made possible through the generosity and loyalty of an expanding number of investors prepared to sponsor the cost of providing individual scholarships. This was, and remains today, a cohort of many organisations and individuals such as Lady Southey (Women in Agriculture scholarships), RIRDC (now AgriFutures who provided seed funding to engage a full time CEO), GRDC (Grains Research and Development Corporation (committing funding for three scholarships per year), along with many others. The full current list of investors can be seen on the Nuffield Australia web site at <https://www.nuffield.com.au/investors>.

The success of this fund raising is evidence of the respect and value that investors see in the program. Ultimately the value to the industry, and indeed the various countries involved, is that the Nuffield program moves beyond the value of individual scholar reports to, in the longer term, build on the intellectual capacity of the wider industry. Nuffield, through a worldwide network of countries, develops a unique global capacity to meet the ever-growing demand for food, and the increasing demands on the industry to fulfil such things as environmental responsibilities, stringent regulatory

requirements and the certainty of unforeseeable challenges ahead.

The investors underpin the program, and it is a collaboration that has been immensely beneficial to both individual scholars and the industry as a whole. With the number of scholars growing, the annual cost of running the program providing scholar bursaries has increased well beyond AU\$1,000,000.

## Scholar donations

Mention should also be made of the many scholars who have generously made financial donated to NA – both during their lifetime and upon their death through bequests. Their generosity has been part of the legacy that has sustained Nuffield and often reflects the value of the organisation to their own lives.

Some have devoted their time to the organisation in differing capacities, often at considerable expense to themselves. Board members and others accrue costs that are an effective donation to the organisation, but view it as a means of repaying the organisation that has given them so much.

There are many scholars that could be recognised for their financial support, and some already have been mentioned here – but most are unheralded. Amongst the most generous have been Harry Perkins (1972), Robert Harrison (1965), Peter Rose (1966), Dale Metcalf (1975), Richard Harvey (1966), David Asimus (1959), John Woodhead (1956), June Craig (wife of Frank (1957)) and others.

These tax deductible funds have been a vital factor in sustaining Nuffield across time and remain a crucial element, both for funding, and in demonstrating to investors the belief that scholars have in their own organisation.

## Changing times

It is worth recording that a new dynamic was occurring within Australia that was causing some concern amongst older scholars. There is no doubt that Nuffield had developed a culture, an ethos, which made it a unique organisation amongst others. It grew into a cherished fraternity that had benefits far beyond the scholarship itself, with a loyal alumni, the unique experience and benefits ongoing for a lifetime. However, in moving from two scholars a year to 20 odd a year, suddenly the existing alumni were rapidly being outnumbered by new scholars. Whilst the increase in overall numbers was highly beneficial for Nuffield, the balance was rapidly skewed towards new scholars who did not have the corporate memory that might help preserve core and fundamental values. Whether this was real or imagined, there was a conscious effort to maintain experienced scholars in the leadership at the same time as newer scholars were stepping up.

In 2007 David Brownhill (1998) took on the role of Australian Chairman. With a strong collaboration with Jim Geltch, scholarship numbers grew to 18 per year along with an equal number of investors to fund the program. Managing scholar expectations and issues was a growing part of the management challenge, along with the increasing complexity of building multiple new GFPs. Also, at this time, the first wave of younger scholars was taking up leadership roles at State and national level and maintaining a strong corporate memory an important part of the Chairman's role.

The Triennial Conference was due to be held in Ireland in 2008, to be followed three years later in Australia. Under established precedent, David Brownhill, as Australian Chairman, would have taken on the role as Nuffield International Chairman but due to other commitments he felt unable to fulfil this role effectively



*Dave Brownhill (1998) – Nuffield Australia Chairman (2007–2010).*

and instead proposed that his predecessor, Peter Nixon, should take on the position.

Australia went to the Irish Triennial Conference in 2008 with this proposal along with a request that Jim Geltch should take over the International Secretariat, a role traditionally filled by the UK Director – the positions were approved.

Dave Brownhill currently (2025) sits as an Independent Director on the NI Board.

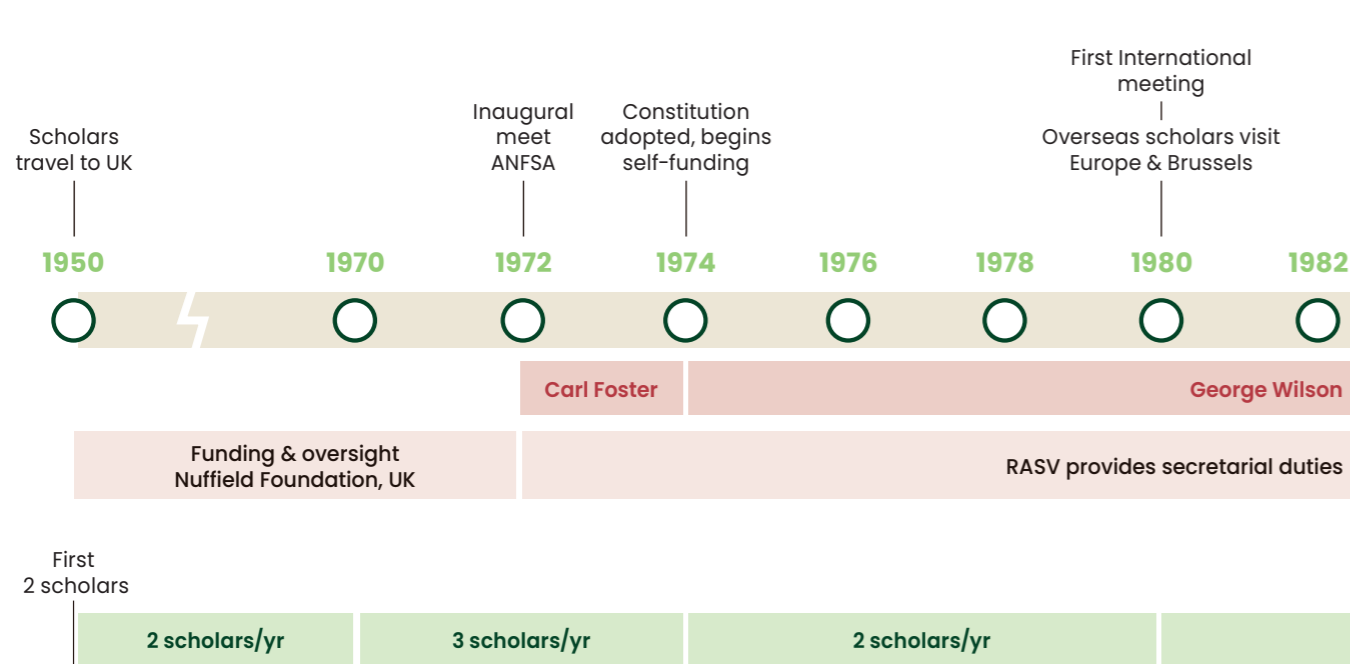
Terry Hehir (1994) followed as Australian Chairman from 2010–2013 and saw annual scholar numbers increase to 21. Andrew Johnson (2005) was Chairman from 2013 to 2016 and took scholarship numbers to 26 per year – a remarkable change from the two per year just two decades before.



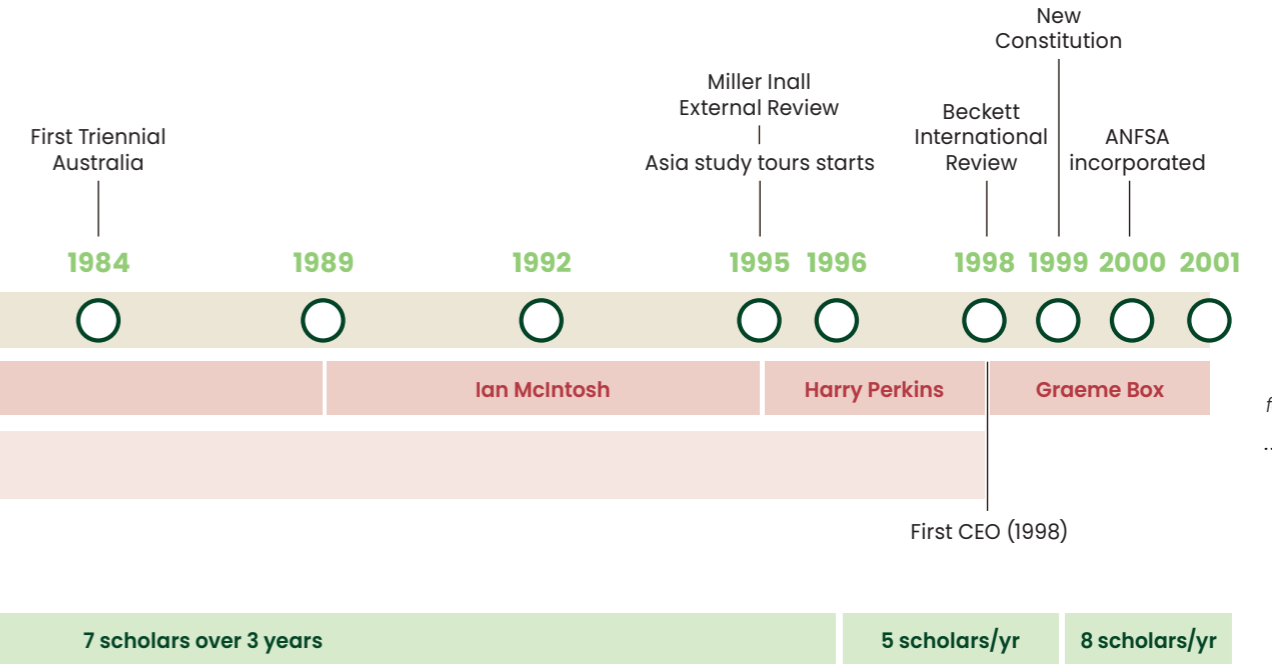
*Nuffield Australia has an annual National Conference to announce new scholars, and hear reports from returning scholars. Pictured, 2006 Conference, Melbourne.*

*Front row 5th from left: The late Major General the Hon Michael Jeffery, AC, AO (Mill), CVO, MC (then Governor General of Australia and Nuffield Australia Patron), Mrs Jeffery, Matt Dempsey (Irish Farm Journal) along with 2007 Nuffield Scholars and officials.*

# Nuffield Australia timeline



# Nuffield Australia timeline (continued)



Continued following page  
.....>

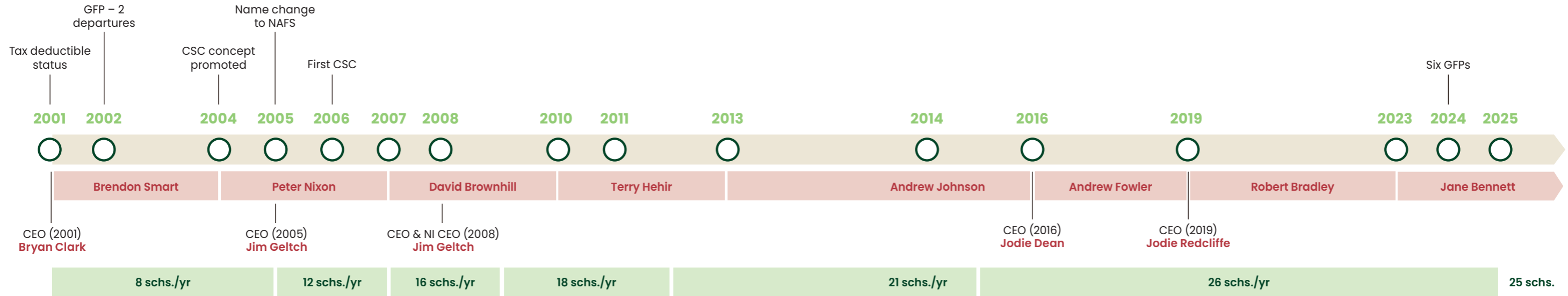
**Key**

- Period of chairmanship
- Scholar number duration

**Abbreviations**

- ANFSA** – Australian Nuffield Farming Scholars Association
- RASV** – Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria

# Nuffield Australia timeline



# Nuffield Australia timeline (continued)

**Key**

- Period of chairmanship
- Scholar number duration

**Abbreviations**

- CSC** – Contemporary Scholars Conference
- GFP** – Global Focus Program
- NAFS** – Nuffield Australia Farming Scholars (commonly NA or Nuffield Australia)
- NI** – Nuffield International
- RASV** – Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria

# The Nuffield International story



## In the beginning

Nuffield International had a slow evolution, starting with the decision in 1972 of the Nuffield Foundation to cease the funding of overseas scholars, after continuous funding since the inception in 1948. Outside the UK, four countries; Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Southern Rhodesia were then involved in the Nuffield program. At the instigation of George Wilson, then Chairman of the Australian committee, representatives from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) and the UK met in London to discuss the future relationship of participating countries.

It was also becoming clear that the interests of a number of overseas scholars were better served by a period of study outside the UK. (For instance, Southern Rhodesian scholars were given the option on occasion to study in the USA instead of the UK). It was agreed that the United Kingdom Farming Scholarship Trust (UKFST) – soon to be shortened to Nuffield Farming Scholarship Trust (NFST) would manage the scholars whilst in Britain which included four weeks group travel and later extended to six weeks.

As a consequence of the requirement to self-fund from 1972, overseas countries were also assuming responsibility for their own affairs, and scholar selection. The UK no longer had overall control. It was agreed at the London conference that decisions regarding overall authority be vested in a triennial conference of scholars, the first of which was to be held in Victoria, Australia in 1980 and, with two exceptions (because of foot and mouth disease and COVID), has been held regularly ever since.

There is no record of who drafted, or when the original 'Code of Practice' (Appendix 1) for the Nuffield International Scheme or when it was accepted, but most likely at the meeting in London, at the first International Conference in 1980 or shortly thereafter. Whatever the case it provided a basis and guide to countries involved and was a mechanism for decision making for the broader scholarship program. It was amended as required at the following Triennial Conferences and remained in effect until the Triennial Conference held in Adelaide, Australia in 2011.

The role of International Chairman was established within the first few Triennials. It was agreed that the role be filled by the Chairman of the country which was to hold the next Triennial Conference. That person would then be well placed to oversee the planning of that Conference and preside over it.

In practice, as the various countries only met every third year, any business of an international nature was raised at this triennial meeting of scholars, along with a report from each nation on the state and progress of their respective organisations. Given the size and nature of Nuffield at that point, there was usually little need or reason for anything other than an informal association. The International Chairman had a role that was little more than a figurehead for the international organisation which was in itself a casual and amateurish grouping without a defined purpose – but completely adequate for that time. There was zero

cost accrued other than any travel by the International Chairman who funded his own position.

Unfortunately, when important issues inevitably arose, it couldn't be guaranteed that representatives from the respective national leadership groups would be present at the Triennial Conference; Thus, even if authority was delegated to scholars attending, they didn't necessarily have the background knowledge to make informed decisions.

Interestingly, Alan Becket on p.23 of his International Review, rejected the idea of a more formal separate entity sitting above the national bodies, an International Secretariat and Director, on the basis of cost, 'best left as a loosely knit association'. Not an unreasonable position given the CSCs were still a few years away and the push for new countries relatively minor.



*Some of the delegates to the 2017 International Conference in the UK gather to inspect a Nuffield tractor.*

## Triennial Conference Host and International Chairmen

| Triennial Conference  | Year         | International Chairman | Term           |
|---|--------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Australia   | 1980         |                        |                |
| UK  | 1983         |                        | 1980 – 1983    |
| Canada  | 1986         |                        | 1983 – 1986    |
| UK  | 1989         |                        | 1986 – 1989    |
| Zimbabwe  | 1992         | Mike Butler            | 1989 – 1992    |
| Australia   | 1995         | Ian Macintosh          | 1992 – 1995    |
| Canada  | 1998         | Jack Rigby             | 1995 – 1998    |
| France  | 2002*        | Philippe Quignon       | 1998 – 2002    |
| New Zealand   | 2005         | Peter Jensen           | 2002 – 2005    |
| Ireland   | 2008         | Campbell Tweed         | 2005 – 2008    |
| Australia   | 2011         | Peter Nixon            | 2008 – 2011    |
| <i>From this point the Chairman was elected by the Board of Nuffield International.</i> |              |                        |                |
| Canada  | 2014         | Stuart Wright          | 2011 – 2014    |
| UK  | 2017         | Roger Mercer           | 2014 – 2017    |
| New Zealand   | 2023**       | Kelvin Meadows         | 2017 – 2020    |
| Ireland   | Planned 2026 | Andrew Fowler          | 2020 – 2023    |
|   |              | Chris Graf Grote       | 2023 – current |

\* Delayed due to Foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in the UK

\*\* Delayed due to COVID

## The drive for internationalisation

Nuffield was expanding globally and the advent of the GFP was taking the scholars to all corners of the globe, and the CSC had added a new dynamic to Nuffield. The scheme was expanding its reputation in the world of agriculture and other nations wanted to become involved.

Peter Nixon was Chairman of Nuffield Australia from 2004 to 2007 and had attended the CSCs in Calgary, Canada in 2007, and Victoria, Australia in 2008. These were inspiring events in terms of scholar interaction. The scholar numbers were increasing in Australia and the GFP program was expanding in scope and extent.

The International Chairman did little more than chair the meeting of scholars and oversee the Triennial Conference that concluded his tenure. However, with the development of the CSC, first held in Utrecht, Netherlands in 2006, the role required his attendance at each one, and increasing input into their planning. The costs and responsibilities were mounting.

Campbell Tweed, from Northern Ireland, was International Chairman 2005 to 2008 and presided over the first three CSCs. He was the first Chairman to experience the growing cost and commitment of the role – an issue he raised at the Triennial Conference of scholars in Ireland in 2008.

By precedent, David Brownhill (1998), then Australian Chairman (2007–2010), should have assumed the International Chairmanship at the Irish Triennial in 2008 as Australia had already committed to holding the 2011 Triennial. He felt, with other commitments, that he could not fulfil the job so he asked the immediate past NA chairman, Peter Nixon, to step into the role. Dave was a key ally and was integral to the evolution of events across following years.

Nuffield was quickly evolving, and the most capable person to fill the job as International CEO was Jim Geltch, along with his continuing role as Nuffield Australia's CEO. Jim was appointed Nuffield CEO in Australia, during Peter Nixon's Chairmanship, and was well equipped for an expanded role. Australia had negotiated the transition to Jim Geltch, a move, which would deliver a far-reaching impact on Nuffield globally. Jim served as the International CEO from 2008 till 2020, whilst also CEO of Nuffield Australia from 2005 to 2016.

It was clear that the current structure of Nuffield International was inadequate and discussions at the Irish Triennial, recorded in the minutes, give a hint to this. It also lacked formalised procedures or defined direction. There was a growing void in Nuffield that required a solution!

This was apparent during Peter Nixon's time as Australian Chairman so in January of 2009 he circulated a Discussion paper to all national Chairmen to initiate further consideration of the issues.

## London CSC 2009

Peter Nixon's first official role as International Chairman was at the 2009 CSC in London, France and Belgium which included a tour of WWI battlefields, war graves, and wreath laying at the Menin Gate. (As an aside, Jim Geltch, who organised the tour, gave a masterly commentary on the history of that episode of the war as he toured in a bus with the scholars and was rewarded by being asked to read the Exhortation at the evening ceremony at the Menin Gate.)

There were four matters that became very apparent at this time. As the first engagement on a new scholar's calendar, the CSC was becoming a dynamic and life-changing event which has dramatically elevated the Nuffield experience. It was also broadcasting the Nuffield programme to a wider agricultural audience.

Secondly, except for a brief attendance by one other National Chairman, effectively those managing the respective national Programs were unaware of the empowering experience that they were providing their scholars, equally, the impact it was having on the agriculturalists that were now observing and engaged with these events.

Thirdly, as a consequence of interaction with Terry Hehir (1994) through the Global Dairy Farmers, the Netherlands was looking to participate in the program. The international program had no formal process to assess, manage and induct a new country – creating the potential for embarrassing mistakes.

And finally, the increasing realisation that the decisions impacting the greater Nuffield family could not be left to every third year when meeting at the triennial conference, when national decision makers could not guarantee attendance, and substitutes likely had little understanding of the relevant background or issues. The Code of Practice, which to date had sufficed, was no longer adequate!

## Washington DC/ Pennsylvania CSC, 2010

Reaction to Peter Nixon's Discussion paper had been positive and in February of 2009 he had discussions in London with some UK NFST Board members and later the NFST Board itself. The idea had been planted! However, there was considerable scepticism to the idea of a more professional approach at the international level and, understandably, the consequences for national bodies. Nuffield Australia had committed to, and had been paying, Jim Geltch's salary to act as the International CEO. The challenge for NA was that there was at least a further two years to fund, and then what was to follow?

There were certainly big financial hurdles to face, but Nuffield also faced a dilemma. The success of the GFPs and CSCs was undoubted, there were countries wishing to join. Nuffield, not for the first time, was experiencing a burgeoning new energy that needed management and direction. The only way forward was to establish an international body with the authority and agreement of National organisations to manage this. If Nuffield relied on the informal organisation, based on the then current Code of Practice (Appendix 1) it risked an ill-managed evolution, a risk to its reputation and with the potential to have unauthorised groups using the brand. Of greater importance, Nuffield's potential would be severely constrained!

There were key factors that drove following events:

- There was a sense of the importance of this moment of history – Nuffield was a mature organisation with a strong track record and a program that 'worked'. There was a realisation of the growing enormity of the world population and the demand that would place on food production (world population has tripled in our lifetime). The challenge to agriculture both in production and in the politics of food production would escalate – agriculture needs worldly advocates.
- Nuffield had the program and could potentially play a major role in building the practical and intellectual human capacity to meet these challenges. But the window of opportunity was narrow.
- There was a need for considerable diplomatic endeavour to bring everyone together – and the 2010 CSC could be a crucial path to further development.
- Key to all was the need to establish an enduring structure upon which the future role of Nuffield International could be built.



*The 2010 Contemporary Scholars Conference Scholars in the magnificent Harrisburg Capital, PA, USA.*



*Peter Nixon, International Chairman, Jean Lonie (Executive Assistant to the PA Secretary of Agriculture), Jim Geltch (NI CEO), Russel Reading (PA Secretary of agriculture). Pennsylvania, March 2010.*

## The challenge

Getting an agreement between the seven participating countries, as diverse as they were, was going to be a challenge.

Most national organisations were quite unaware of the experience they were providing their scholars, and the potential of it to develop influential participants engaging in the wider agricultural industry. To achieve a broad consensus, however, the CSC needed to be showcased to the leaders of all participating countries, to have them witness the energy and power of the event. A change of mindset was needed!

The 2010 CSC was thus organised to be based in Washington DC and Pennsylvania. Using Jim Geltch's extensive US contacts it was planned to have two days in DC, followed by time in Pennsylvania which was kindly hosted by the then Secretary of Agriculture, Russell Reading. Who would not want to attend?

It is important to note that Jim Geltch was developing an extensive network of contacts around the world that was the basis of success for the GFP and CSC programs. The extent and calibre of these cannot be overstated, and scholars who completed their GFP during Jim's time will vouch for it. Equally scholars since then will still be sharing that legacy.

These contacts were a crucial building block for this period of evolution of Nuffield.

Additionally, John Stones, then UK Director, Barry Cudmore the Canadian Chairman and Bart Ruth, 2005 Eisenhower Fellow (who had attended the 2006 CSC in Utrecht) all endorsed the 2010 CSC project. They assisted in the planning of the CSC, which was to become a watershed event for Nuffield internationally.

All national Chairmen were personally invited and encouraged to attend. Whilst there was some push back ('only this once') there was attendance by all but two participating nations, along with a representative from the Global Dairy Farmers (Netherlands), the Eisenhower Foundation (US), TEPAP (US) and USDA National Resource Conservation Council.

Not only was the CSC a great success, but all Nuffield leadership attendees were quickly united in their enthusiasm for the far-ranging benefit of the program. All leadership attendees met on a number of occasions and arrived at a consensus to move forward and formalise an international agreement with a scoping paper to be drawn up for discussion at the 2011 CSC in New Zealand. A final agreement was to be presented for signing later in 2011 at the Australian Triennial Conference in Adelaide. A tight schedule!

The value and impact of the CSC is demonstrated by a letter received from the Pennsylvanian Secretary of Agriculture, Russel Reading, following the event, (Appendix 2). Further his Executive Assistant, Jean Lonie, who was integral to the success of the event, went on to assist in facilitating a number of GFP legs in the US and later did her PhD for The Pennsylvanian State University. Titled 'Exploring the Public Value of the Nuffield International Farming Scholarship Program', she worked with and interviewed numerous scholars. As a consequence, and for her contribution to the program, Nuffield International awarded her a scholarship and she became one of the first US Scholars in 2018.

With only a broad outline from the US meetings, the task to scope an enduring structure for Nuffield International was significant, given the tight time frame. Further consultations within the Nuffield group were required, and the draft Scoping Paper needed to be circulated with enough time for each national board to discuss prior to New Zealand.

Simon Venus of Piper Alderman in Adelaide, Australia, agreed to draw up a scoping paper, as a precursor to a final agreement, and kindly offered to do a considerable part of the work on a pro bono basis.

## New Zealand CSC 2011

The New Zealand CSC was based in the South Island outside Christchurch. The conference coincided with two other memorable events as it was held not long after the Christchurch earthquake, and the tsunami that had a devastating impact on the north-eastern coast of Honshu, Japan occurred during the conference.

Also at the conference were delegates and participants from the Netherlands.

The official discussions, held concurrently with the CSC, were based on the Scoping Paper and resolving any issues outstanding, the key matter being the type of structure for the new entity. One difficulty was the registration of, and an agreement between, countries as members of an international body.

Three models were examined before deciding the final structure – the decision was based on simplicity of structure which was low cost, whilst providing a structure and rules to guide the program, and to set a process and standards for the entry of new countries. Importantly, the structure also safeguards the separate interests of member countries. The recommendation was an **Association by Contractual Agreement** for



*Reaching agreement on Nuffield International Scoping Paper – New Zealand CSC March 2011.*

*From L-R: Stephen Watkins (UK), Barry Cudmore (Canada), Jim Geltch (AU), Stuart Wright (NZ), John Stones (UK), Peter Nixon (AU), Terry Hehir (AU) obscured, Matt Ryan (Ireland).*

which there would be an 'Agreement' and 'Set of Rules' for each national body to sign, and future entrants would sign before becoming an authorised Nuffield country.

Whilst it was felt that the new 'Set of Rules' was largely a sound basis for the new organisation, the one area of concern was Board positions and their rotation. How to establish a rotation with a viable 'corporate memory' moving forward? The concern was that the various country Chairmen had differing tenures in office, some only two years. Potentially there would be little continuity within the Board as a basis for sound decision making, hence the challenge for the Board to maintain a viable corporate memory was a concern. It was an issue that was not resolved with full consensus, but given the time frame, it was considered a matter that future boards should address with the benefit of experience.

The new official name of the international body, it was agreed, would be 'Nuffield International Association Farming Scholars'. As with other national bodies, this was soon shortened to Nuffield International (NI) for everyday use.

It was further approved that the final agreed positions would go back to Simon Venus for legal drafting of the final agreement with a view to signing it at the Triennial Conference later that year in Australia.

## September 2011 Triennial Conference Adelaide Australia

The final agreement was drafted and circulated to each national Board, for final board approval, and received unanimous agreement from the then seven participating countries — Australia, New Zealand, UK, France, Ireland, Canada and Zimbabwe (although the latter hadn't been active for some years).

Funding was an ever-present challenge, however there was success in securing AU\$50,000 for the new organisation thanks to Origin Capital Group. Further, the Australian Triennial Conference profit of AU\$40,000. The latter, due primarily to the sponsorships achieved by the organising committee, was assigned to the new organisation by the Nuffield Australia Board who foresaw the need and immense potential of Nuffield International.

The Nuffield alumni met at the Triennial conference in Adelaide on 29 September 2011. The five country representatives present, with the approval of their Boards, signed the new 'Agreement' and 'Set of Rules' with France and Zimbabwe, who were absent, also approving and sending through their signed documents.



*Signing of the new International Agreement, Adelaide, September 2011.*

*Back row from L-R: Jim Geltch (NI CEO), Peter Nixon (retiring International Chairman).*

*Front row from L-R: Julian Raine (NZ Chairman), Steven Watkins (UK Chairman), Stuart Wright (incoming International Chairman), Terry Hehir (Australian Chairman), Barry Cudmore (Canadian Chairman).*

## Nuffield in the 21st Century

With the new Agreement and 'Set of Rules' in place, a new board was constituted and Stuart Wright from New Zealand was elected Chairman and served until 2014. Importantly, there was now a mechanism for decision making – the management of new countries, targeted NI scholarships and general management of the wider scholarship scheme. How that was to be used was at the discretion and good sense of the Board in the future.

Each country with full membership would have a representative on the board, along with two external directors, not necessarily scholars. (In fact, no external directors were appointed prior to 2018). The International Chairman was chosen by the Board itself. The board acted independently from the scholar membership, although scholars impacted indirectly through their national organisations.

Amongst other things, the protocol for the entry of new countries was agreed and resulted in the first of these, the Netherlands, being admitted three years later.

It further heralded the expansion of Nuffield into other countries which, subject to financial resources, NI could facilitate. Establishing a critical mass of scholars within a country has always been the challenge. With numbers, and a strong local profile, fundraising becomes easier along with management tasks. Engaging 'developing' countries is particularly challenging – attracting the national funding needed for a scholarship problematic. NI, in a limited way, has enabled this to occur.

The scheme expanded under the succeeding International Chairmen, 2011–2014 Stuart Wright (NZ), 2014–2017 Roger Mercer (UK), 2017–2020 Kelvin Meadows (Canada), 2020–2023 Andrew Fowler (Australia) and currently, Chris Graf Grote (UK).

## The Netherlands, Brazil and USA become members

The Netherlands were the first country to seriously look at joining the Nuffield Family after their presence with observer status at the Utrecht CSC in 2006 thanks to the introduction from Terry Hehir (1994) in the Global Dairy Farmers (GDF). This was followed by them sending two representatives (Bram Prins and Alfons Beldman) to observe the 2010 CSC in Washington DC and Pennsylvania (PA). Both Bram and Alfons also attended the 2011 CSC in New Zealand along with three delegates, two who subsequently became Nuffield Scholars. They participated in 2011 as an Associate Country, then having fulfilled the criteria as required by the NI 'Agreement' and 'Set of Rules' they were admitted as a full Member in 2014. Ten years on, the Netherlands has now selected over 50 scholars, a credit to their organisation.

Brazil was included in the 2007 GFP for the first time. This was an attempt at encouraging participation in the Nuffield program. Milton Suzuki, who had organised and managed the 2007 and subsequent GFPs in Brazil, also made a presentation at the Melbourne CSC in 2008. Other Brazilian agriculturalists were regularly invited to attend and participate in the CSCs that followed.

However, the connection with Brazil took a giant leap forward with Sally Thomson's (the sister-in-law of an Australian Nuffield Scholar, David Cussons (2009)), involvement in facilitating Nuffield's participation and engagement in Brazil. She spoke fluent Portuguese, and Sally's enthusiasm and connection within Brazilian agriculture ultimately led to the first Nuffield International scholar, Cecilia Fialho, being selected from Brazil in 2015. Brazil successfully hosted the 2017 CSC under Sally's very capable guidance and management.



*Nuffield International Chairmen (NZ Triennial Conference March 2023).*

*From L-R: Peter Nixon (2008–2011), Stuart Wright (2011–2014), Roger Mercer (2014–2017), Kelvin Meadows (2017–2020), Andrew Fowler (2020–2023), Chris Graf Grote (2023–present).*

Brazil applied for full country status in 2017 and was ultimately granted this honour in 2021.

The first organised and official GFP to the USA was in 2001. Every GFP thereafter included a visit to a USA State and Washington DC on their itinerary until 2020 (COVID).

Participation by US agriculturalists in the CSC was initiated by Barton (Bart) Ruth. Bart, a Nebraska corn and soybean grower had attended the 2006 CSC in Utrecht and had been selected as an Eisenhower Fellow in 2005. He subsequently managed and hosted numerous GFP visits in Nebraska and assisted in organising the Washington CSC in 2010.

Following the momentum gained from the 2006 Utrecht CSC, continuing US involvement was achieved with guest participants, mostly Eisenhower Fellows, in all of the following CSCs. Jean Lonie, who assisted in organising and managing the 2010 CSC in PA, became an important part of the development of US engagement with Nuffield by attending and moderating a number of CSCs.

However, the big breakthrough in the US occurred when Ed Kee, then Secretary of Agriculture for Delaware, became involved with Nuffield in 2015 through a NZ Scholar's recommendation. As a result, Jim Geltch visited the US and Ed Key once or twice per year from 2015 to 2019 to explain the meaning of Nuffield and its potential in the United States. Ed's amazing network of leaders in US agriculture led to sufficient funds being raised to select a Nuffield International Scholar in 2017. His passion and drive for Nuffield to succeed in the USA has led to a total of 25 Nuffield Scholars being selected since then.

Ed must take most of the credit for Nuffield USA being admitted to the Nuffield family and achieving full country status in 2024.

## Emerging opportunities

An example of the emerging international influence of Nuffield became evident in 2014 when Australian scholar Wayne Dredge (2014) came in contact with a consultant, Robynne Anderson, who arranged and managed corporate participation at the Committee for Food Security (CFS) Conference held each year at FAO headquarters in Rome. This conference was a talk-fest that was largely represented by the civil society (such as Greenpeace) with little representation by agricultural related corporates. They had developed 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) <https://sdgs.un.org/goals> with little reference to practicing farmers.

Wayne was encouraged to attend the conference and spent the next five days listening to it all. He noted he was the only primary producer among the 500 plus people attending, discussing the future of our industry. On the final day Robynne asked what he thought. In essence his response was – 'yes very interesting but did not see much relevance to me or my industry'. Robynne's responded – 'Wayne, farmers have to be in the room or all the big decisions will be made by opponents to modern agriculture'. This had a profound impact on him and he subsequently took up the opportunity to attend the events annually and with the support of Jim Geltch, invited other scholars who subsequently attended, and are still doing to this day.

Jim Geltch noted that the value of the CFS is:

- In gives scholars an opportunity to be in the room and make a contribution to their industries at a global level. It thus constitutes a huge capacity building experience.
- Exposed Nuffield scholars to global ag corporates like Bayer, Rabo and others who can then be encouraged to support the NI program. This is already happening.

## Corporate and scholar contributions

Nuffield International relies on three elements for its financial survival.

In addition to the management from a few part-time staff, of great importance, it is the voluntary effort and commitment of dedicated scholars who give their time on the board and the organisation of various programs and events that make the whole organisation possible. This usually includes significant travel costs to themselves.

The second element is the contribution of investors, those organisations, largely involved in agriculture, who see the value of the scheme in developing the capacity of the future practitioners and leaders in the industry. The funding of scholarships would not be possible without their support. They are numerous and growing in number. Current investors are best viewed on the website, [nuffieldinternational.org](http://nuffieldinternational.org).

Thirdly, a number of scholars have given most generously to NI. The late Chris Reichstein, a 2014 Australian scholar left a substantial bequest to NI specifically to develop scholarships, and a Nuffield presence, in new countries. A group of 'Founding Patrons' have made substantial contributions and include the Mercer family (UK), Meadows family (Canada), the late Jill Willows (UK), Davison family (UK) and the Nixon family (AU).

Additionally, NA covered the cost of Jim Geltch's time as part-time International CEO until until 2016, then he went full time and his costs were then covered by NI. The UK, along with a grant to NI, covered the cost of Mike Vacher (UK Director) who acted as NI CFO.

## New Countries

Countries added as full members to the original seven in 2011, up to 2025 are:

- Netherlands, 2014
- Brazil, 2021
- USA, 2024.

Associate Countries with scholars, but not yet full members are:

- South Africa, 2017
- Chile, 2019
- Japan, 2019
- Germany, 2021
- Poland, 2023.

## The future

One of the most remarkable features of Nuffield, a largely voluntary organisation with no great financial reserves, with a minimum of staff, without an expensive bureaucracy and no highly paid advisors, has managed to grow and flourish and is approaching its 80th year. In the process it has delivered a program that has changed the lives of thousands, including scholars and their families.

Whilst the United Kingdom gave birth to Nuffield, its rapid international growth in recent years could see it outgrow the original members countries, something that has been discussed, even viewed as a concern, among a number of those who set Nuffield on this latest journey.

The nature of farming and the complexity of integrating a multitude of disciplines – from genetics to mechanics, financial management to soil science, management of the environment to animal husbandry – gives us



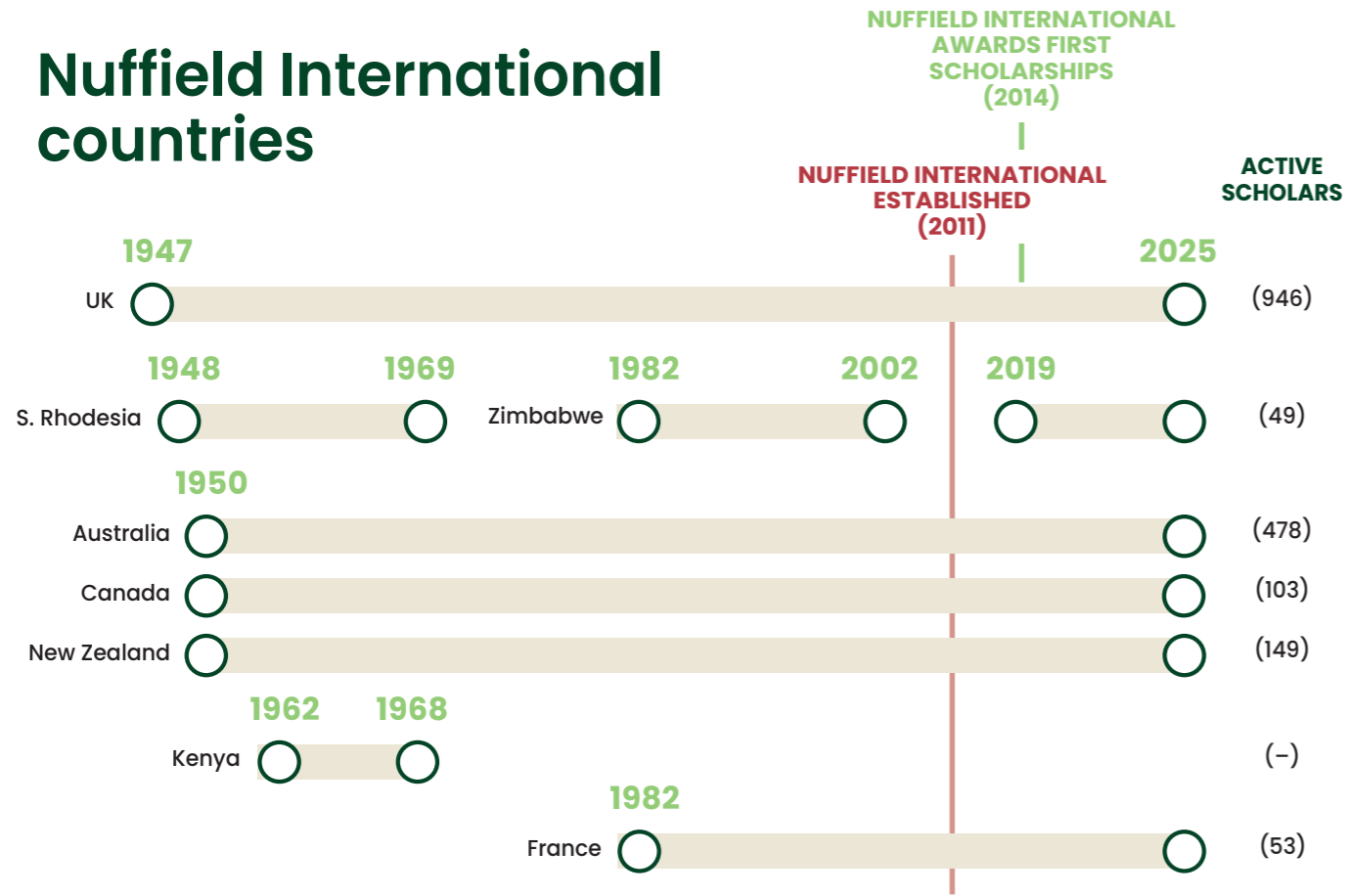
*Peter Giumelli, Dale Metcalf & Neil Andrew celebrate 50 years since being awarded their scholarships, Adelaide National Conference, September 2025.*

unique problem-solving skills, and gives us confidence that Nuffield can meet the problems and challenges that lie ahead for it. Farmers may well be the last of the generalists in this modern age!

World agriculture has significant opportunities and challenges in the years ahead. Its capacity and capability is determined by the individuals who participate in the industry. Nuffield, already playing a significant role in capacity building and the personal development of its scholars, has the potential to expand this greatly, and extend its role as the world's best farming network. The evolution of NI is a critical step in achieving this.

It is hard to know what Lord Nuffield would have envisioned for the scholarship scheme he initiated, he certainly couldn't have foreseen the technological advances in the motor industry he was so instrumental in developing, nor in the agriculture industry. In his time, he did not lower his sights, baulk at problems or pause his progress — but rose to meet every challenge. Hopefully he would have been proud of the contribution his agricultural scholarship program has made, equally he would not expect us to lower our sights as we face the future.

# Nuffield International countries

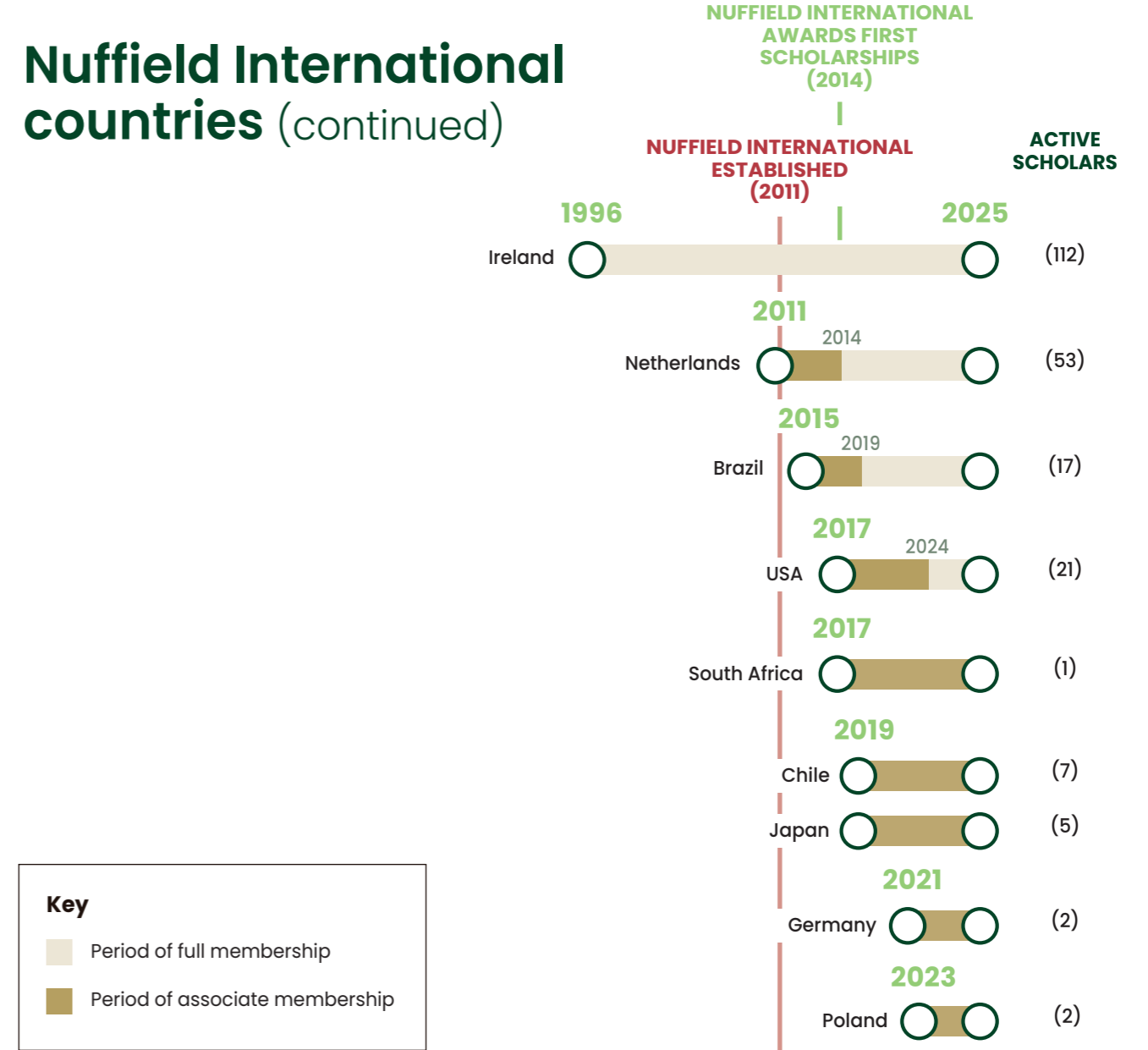


**Note:** In 2011 the new 'Agreement' and 'Set of Rules' established a protocol for the granting of Full Membership to new countries. New countries, under the management of NI, select scholars for a few years as an Associate Member and once a viable alumni is established that country can apply for Full Membersip.

**Key**

- Period of full membership

# Nuffield International countries (continued)



**Key**

- Period of full membership
- Period of associate membership

# A final thought – our ethos

It is the underlying ‘ethos’ that is at the heart of the success of Nuffield – it is this sense of belonging, of shared values and experiences, the spirit that bonds and strengthens this organisation.

Farming can be a lonely task; it demands dedication, a long-term view, and a discipline that few in the modern world understand. In bad seasons the outcome of our labours can be cruel, in good seasons – exhilarating! We are inspired by our surroundings, ennobled by our ability to bring order to nature and at the same time provide the needs of our community.

We instinctively understand what Jonathan Swift described three centuries ago when he wrote:

*“And he gave it for his opinion, that whoever could make two ears of corn, or two blades of grass, to grow upon a spot of ground where only one grew before, would deserve better of mankind, and do more essential service to his country, than the whole race of politicians put together.”*

Farming is one of the truly great and worthwhile occupations. With this background, our scholars have a shared and unique international experience that challenges them physically and intellectually in diverse locations across the world. This is the factor that unites our scholars.

Farming is one of the last professions with true independence, you are your own master. With this independence, you are judged by your performance, succeed or fail. Scholars have the flexibility to follow their instincts in their study – and then apply their findings, and suffer the loss or gain accordingly, costing no-one but themselves. Nuffield just facilitates its expression.

Those amongst the earliest to receive the scholarship, with far less a program than today, feel just as passionate about the organisation as the most recent. This ethos shines just as brightly with the first, as the last.

# Acknowledgements

With thanks to my wife Caroline, Jim Geltch, Terry Hehir and Tim Hutchings for their substantial input, and to a number of others for their assistance in reviewing the details of this short history of Nuffield and adding valued observations and encouragement.

Whilst all efforts have been taken to ensure details are correct, any additional information or corrections would be welcome.

**Peter Nixon** (1990)

*July 2025*

# Appendix 1.

## The Nuffield International Scheme

### Code of Practice

#### 1. Object

The objectives of the several Nuffield Farming Trusts and Associations coming together in the International Scheme are broadly:

By the giving of Travel/Study Awards; to promote agricultural, horticultural, forestry, countryside management and education, and to advance these disciplines by the application of new knowledge and experience introduced by returning Scholars. To encourage those who receive awards, by example, to play an active role in their industry and community.

By meeting together each three years the Participating Countries have in mind:

To review the working of the International Scheme and agree such amendments as are from time to time necessary to keep Nuffield Scholars as leaders in their field.

To provide an opportunity for participants to study aspects of rural industry wherever in the world should be agreed to be most appropriate between the Scholar and the Scholar's selectors.

To provide a forum for the participants to meet together and debate current matters and engender a spirit of progress and renewal.

#### 2. Mode of Working

To award Nuffield Farming Scholarships to citizens of Australia, Canada, France, New Zealand, Rep. of Ireland, United Kingdom & Zimbabwe, and such other countries as may be invited to join the scheme and that rule nine below.

These countries shall be called the Participating Countries

Any country wishing to withdraw from the Scheme shall give three years notice of their intention at the Executive Meeting.

#### 3. Selection

Candidates, who shall be broadly connected with agriculture, horticulture, forestry and countryside management, shall be selected by Selection Committees appointed by and directed by the Governing Bodies in the respective countries.

# Appendix 1. (continued)

## **4. Awards**

Finances within each participating country must dictate the amount of each Scholar's award and the length of time that he or she shall be required to serve, but every effort should be made to co-ordinate awards.

## **5. Study Areas**

All scholarships awarded under the Scheme shall be tenable at a date to be mutually arranged so that all nations' Scholars spend a period in joint study. There after the Scholars' wishes, the subjects being studied and the opinion of their Countries Selection Committee shall dictate countries to be visited and subjects covered.

All Scholars shall be required to submit a written report. Such reports will be circulated to every other country as soon as possible so that the value of the report is not lost, and its comments are still current and relevant.

## **6. Governance**

The Governance of the Scheme shall rest in the hands of the Executive Meeting, which shall be held during the triennial Conference. To ensure continuity and co-ordination the director of the Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust in the United Kingdom will be the Executive Secretary. All major decisions of policy, which require a change in existing principals, will be required to be laid before the subsequent Conference (see rules 7 & 9)

## **7. Conference**

There will be held a Conference in every third year, as far as possible to be held alternately in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, which will be organised by the Host Country. The Conference will be based on the Executive Meeting of representatives of all participating countries, each country's Governing Body being represented by three persons.

Under normal conditions these will be the Chairman, and two other persons holding responsibility for the management of the Scheme in their own country, but this will naturally depend on these persons ability to travel to the meeting.

Whenever possible the Conference shall be open to all Nuffield Scholars worldwide and their families and such scholars may attend the Executive Meeting as observers but without a vote. A programme of general interest may be arranged for all those attending and should be financially self supporting. The venue of the Conference shall be decided and announced six years in advance by the current Conference.

# Appendix 1. (continued)

- 8. Agenda** The agenda for the Executive Meeting shall be co-ordinated by the UK director in conjunction with all countries wishes. The agenda shall include reports upon the organisation, financial position, selection policies and other relevant matters by each country, and an assessment of the efficiency and suitability of the programme laid on for Scholars during the period of joint study.
- 9. Minutes** The minutes of the Executive Meeting shall be taken and produced by the UK Director, who will in the first instance submit them for approval to the Chairman of that meeting. After his approval they will be promptly sent to all countries. Minutes will be finally signed and approved by the following Executive Meeting.
- 10. Voting** Each representative at the Executive Meeting shall have one vote with the Chairman of the meeting having a casting vote should this be needed to resolve any quality of votes.
- 11. Quorum** One member from every country shall constitute a quorum save that any country unable to provide a representative may be properly excused if a communication in writing is received by the Executive Secretary prior to the meeting and the remainder concur.
- 12. Other Countries** Any additions to the list of participating countries may be proposed by any country and seconded by any other country at an Executive Meeting, and the proposal may then be debated, but shall lie on the table until the following Conference before a final decision is taken
- 13. Directory** In order to improve communications and assist scholars visiting their countries, each country shall provide a Directory of its Scholars with the addresses and telephone numbers as well as the subject they studied and broad details of their current interests.
- These lists should be kept up to date and copies lodged with the UK Director who will make them available on request and at a reasonable charge to all Scholars worldwide.

# Appendix 2.



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
RUSSELL C. REDDING  
March 30, 2010

Mr. Peter Nixon  
Nuffield International  
PO Box 69  
Moora, Western Australia 6510 Australia

Dear Peter

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was proud to serve as a host location for the 2010 Nuffield Contemporary Scholars Conference. Hosting this once-in-a-lifetime event provided us with a unique opportunity to not only showcase our agriculture industry, but to build relationships with the emerging leaders from around the globe.

In the months leading up to the Conference I was able to learn more about the Nuffield program and the great work this organization has done over many decades. That being said, the true value of the Nuffield program crystallized when I met the scholars. These dynamic, engaging men and women will drive our industry for years to come and were an inspiration to my team and to me personally. As one of the groups that hosted a tour so eloquently put it, "the group was interested and interesting." Please know that these scholars did your organization and your country proud.

Understanding well the work that goes into a limited term project like the CSC, I have a huge appreciation for your work on behalf of Nuffield International and Nuffield Australia. Please accept my deepest thanks for your commitment and leadership.

I am enclosing some photos from the Contemporary Issues in Agriculture Forum that was hosted in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. This was an event that we wanted to host for many years; in hindsight I cannot imagine having the inaugural Forum with any group other than Nuffield.

Again, thank you for your good work and your outstanding leadership. Both are invaluable to the future of agriculture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Russell C. Redding".

Russell C. Redding



[enquiries@nuffield.com.au](mailto:enquiries@nuffield.com.au)

**Nuffield**  
Australia

