

# Thanks to our 2025 scholarship investors.















































## Message from the Chair.

2025 marks 75 years of Nuffield in Australia with the first two scholars Bert Kelly and Neil McNeil travelling on their scholarships the following year in 1951. For the next 36 years until 1987 scholars were required to commit six consecutive months to their scholarship with most of their studies undertaken in Britain.

Lord Nuffield established the philanthropic Nuffield Foundation in the UK in 1943. 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" and the Nuffield Farming Scholarship program emerged from that inclusion.

The charitable purpose of Nuffield Australia today still reflects the agricultural advancement objectives established by Lord Nuffield in 1947.

One of the strategic objectives achieved by the Board in 2025 was a rebranding and communication strategy. The rebrand work was a refresh of the heritage Nuffield brand to retain the Nuffield crest created by Lord Nuffield and adopt the colour scheme that reflects the brand and its traditional colours. A tagline of 'Advancing agriculture through global scholarships' has been created to simply describe what Nuffield does. The look and feel of this Yearbook reflect the brand refresh.

2025 concluded the most recent strategic plan for Nuffield Australia centred on three strategic pillars to improve governance, refresh the brand and communications strategy and to improve financial oversight of the company. Whilst we have achieved many of the strategic objectives over the past three years there is still a lot of work to do particularly in financial governance and management, as well as investor engagement.

The Board would like to thank Jodie for the work she has done for Nuffield Australia. Jodie's leadership of the scholars during the Covid years enabled Nuffield Australia to emerge from Covid with strength, and we look forward to continuing to work with her at Nuffield International.

The Nuffield Australia Board focus is to continue to deliver long term financial sustainability. Through the November strategy day, the Board is seeking to develop ways to make the scholarship program even stronger, deepen its impact, and continue to deliver exceptional outcomes for scholars, investors, and Australian agriculture.

The 75 years of international exchange created from the Nuffield program has resulted in one of the largest international agricultural networks and our greatest asset. Underpinning this network are the people who volunteer their time to supporting the application and selection process and those who contribute to assisting scholars through their scholarship journey. The Board wishes to thank all the members of our scholar alumni who volunteer at every level of Nuffield and contribute to the achievement of our charitable purpose. The strength of our organisation lies in the network of people who continue to share and exchange ideas. We encourage all the Nuffield alumni to continue to participate in State and local functions and to attend the annual conference, as well as to host scholars from other countries visiting your region, act as scholar mentors, edit reports or volunteer to host a GFP leg.

The Board thanks our small, dedicated team of employees Guy Hebblewhite who has stepped into the interim role of Executive Director, Tessa Dimond and Carol Millar for their hard work and commitment to supporting our scholars and the Nuffield network. Our staff and Board look forward to seeing you all at the 2026 conference in Darwin in September 2026.

Jane Bennett, (2008 Scholar) Chair of Nuffield Australia



#### Jane Bennett

2008 Scholar (External Director and Chair)

#### **Andy Clarke**

2015 Scholar (Chair: Finance and Investment Committee)

#### **Nigel Corish**

2014 Scholar (Chair: People, Culture and Care Committee)

#### **Guy Hebblewhite**

2013 Scholar (Interim Executive Director)

#### Kara Knudsen

2013 Scholar (Chair: Conference Committee)

#### **Don Madden**

2010 Scholar (Chair: Programs Committee)

#### **Donald McGauchie** AO

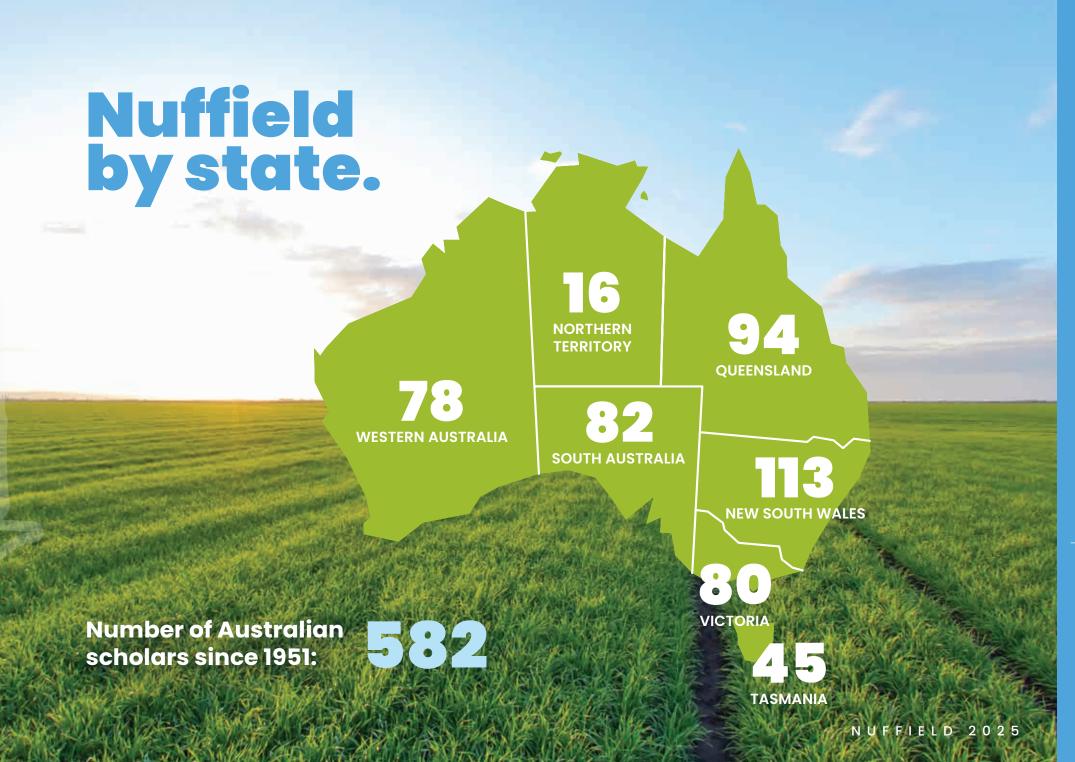
Honorary Scholar (External Director)

#### Johanna Tomlinson

2019 Scholar (Chair: State Chairs Committee)

## Nuffield Australia Charitable Purpose.

To advance sustainable and profitable primary production in Australia through the delivery of an outstanding global scholarship experience that builds a prestigious agriculture network.



## The accidental scholar.

By Katherine Seddon

When David Brownhill applied for a Nuffield Scholarship in 1998, he was convinced he wouldn't get it. In fact, he was counting on not getting it. The farmer from Spring Ridge on the Liverpool Plains had just bought two new farms, was drowning in work, and his wife Elizabeth had just found out she was pregnant with their first child. 'I applied thinking I was going to miss out and try again in three years,' he laughs now.

But it turns out, he was selected as one of three Nuffield scholars for NSW that year. And proved that despite the less-than-ideal timing, it was a life-changing experience, and one he doesn't regret for a moment. 'It's never the right time, you never feel that you have enough time,' he reflects.

Fast forward to September 2025, when David received his Life Membership of Nuffield Australia at the Annual Conference in Adelaide. It's a recognition that celebrates not just his 1998 scholarship, but decades of service including chairing the Nuffield Australia Board from 2007 to 2010, and his current role on the Nuffield International Board. David is honoured by the award, and grateful to Nuffield for the opportunities and experiences he has been afforded.

"So many things that have happened in my life feel like they just happened accidentally. You never know where you are going to end up," he reflects. "Nuffield opens up doors and sometimes you just have to stumble through."

The Brownhill farming story begins with David's grandfather, a 'wheeler and dealer' who started at Julia Creek in Queensland at the end of World War I.

By 1959, his grandfather bought 2,000 acres at Spring Ridge in north-west NSW. That property has since grown to 30,000 acres of wheat, sorghum, corn and cotton country.



When their father became a federal politician in the 1990s, David and his brother Gordon took over the family business. They have farmed Merrilong together successfully for many years, but the big change came in 2004 when they brought in a consultant to help separate business from family. At that point "we started to pay ourselves properly and make a ten-year plan," David says. "Since then, we've always run it as a family business, but with a corporate philosophy."

The separation of the business from the family resulted in a very successful succession plan. Achieving what so many struggle with, the Brownhill brothers put a structure in place to allow David's sons and nephews to gradually take over the reins from the two brothers. The younger generation currently lease all the farms, while owning the livestock and machinery. The lease is in place for five years, after which, they will own the land too, and the succession will be complete.

### **The Nuffield Scholarship**

Back in 1998, Nuffield Scholarships were rare beasts, with just one every three years in NSW. The process was prestigious and intensely competitive. But David decided to give it a go after encouragement from a neighbour. His first step was to fly to Melbourne for interviews. At lunch after the interviews, he was already planning his next application, assuming he would be unsuccessful.



ABOVE: Five Nuffield Australia past Chairmen at 2023 Triennial in New Zealand. (From L-R): David Brownhill, Brendon Smart, Andrew Fowler, Rob Bradley and Peter Nixon.

Then they announced the winners. He'd made it. But there was a complication: he'd be leaving on the overseas tour on 14 February, the exact due date of their first child. He and his wife Elizabeth were understandably worried.

However, their daughter Lucy arrived six weeks premature, so while the timing wasn't fantastic, David was able to embark on the 16-week program which began with a semi organised six-week tour. He recalls that things were a lot looser on the group tour back then, with a lot less planning and organisation. While they might have been slightly disorganised, David says he learned so much during that tour.





One visit that stands out was to Wiseman's Dairy in Scotland. Robert Wiseman's business was processing milk, but his focus was on his staff, employing a thousand people. "Robert was so personal with all his staff, he knew them all by name. Throughout the factory there were photos of Robert with his phone number saying, call me with any questions or if you have any problems. That commitment to people and getting the culture right really stuck with me," David explains.

He also learned that you can gain insights from any business, regardless of the industry.

"When I started my Nuffield Scholarship, I was all about improving our business. What I didn't grasp was just how much I would learn about myself and how my mindset would change"

## **Building beyond the farm**

David's topic for his Nuffield scholarship was weed spray technology. The farm had been no-till for a while, and they were starting to use precision weed spraying technology. With their fallow system involving spraying every six weeks, and research showing that fallows only had 19% of weeds in them, but they were still spraying 100% of the field, David wanted to understand what other options were out there.

That's when he found Weedseeker during his Nuffield travels. It was owned by a man named John Mayfield. They purchased the first Weedseeker system and imported it to Australia. "At first I was reluctant to think about distributing them in Australia, but eventually I did a deal with him to import them into Australia," David explains. He bought a shed in Tamworth and set up the distribution business.

Then came a fortuitous turn of events. China shut down many of their chemical factories due to a desire to reduce pollution for the Beijing Olympics, and Roundup prices skyrocketed, leading to massive demand for the Weedseeker technology. What started as an investigation into improving his own farming practice became a decade-long successful business.

But Weedseeker wasn't his only venture beyond the farm gate. In 1995, the Brownhill brothers had developed their own custom planter to suit the black soils of the area and ended up manufacturing and selling them through Spring Ridge Engineering. The planter was useful for those farming in black soil across the globe. Machines were exported to Africa, China and Europe.

Then in 2000, David helped set up AMPS Research, which provides agricultural services and supplies in northwest NSW. The AMPS model is particularly innovative. A percentage of the earnings from the retail business funds AMPS Research, an independently run research program. The scientific trials carried out by AMPS Research help local growers across north-west NSW build profitable and sustainable farming systems. "We take the margins from that business and put it into ag research, it's been a really successful model," David explains. The business has contributed over \$11 million to agricultural research and David sits on the Board of AMPS.

Nuffield gave him the confidence to do this. Running three successful businesses alongside a 30,000-acre farming

operation isn't just luck. It takes an eye for opportunity, the confidence to back yourself, and the business acumen to make it work. These are the qualities that Nuffield scholars tend to have, and that Nuffield experiences tend to sharpen.

### Giving back

David's involvement with Nuffield governance started, less by plan, and more by accident. "Back in the late 90s, there were hardly any scholars. When you came back from your overseas travels, you had to be the NSW secretary. There was no choice!" David jokes.

He found that he really enjoyed the role, meeting the Australian Nuffield community, attending conferences and talking with like-minded people.

He became NSW chair, and he was convinced to apply for the Nuffield Australia Board. David was chair of Nuffield Australia from 2007 to 2010.

"It's great to feel like you can make a difference and give back. At the time, our big focus was growing the program. We needed more scholars; we weren't even a self-replacing herd! Critical mass of scholars gets you a seat at the table both with government and industry organisations." This was Harry Perkins' vision, the Nuffield Australia Chair when David was awarded his scholarship.



RIGHT: David Brownhill on his farm in NSW. FAR RIGHT: The crew at Merrilong in team shirts.

During this time of growth, scholarships increased from four a year to a maximum of twenty-eight, and they diversified into different industries. David loved the grassroots aspect of serving on the selection panels, and he also loved the high-level opportunities.

David was offered a position on the Nuffield International Board in 2020. Eventually he said yes, and he's now been there for four years. "It can be so challenging, but everyone is there for the right reasons and that is really meaningful," he says of the complex task of coordinating programs across countries, cultures and languages.

"It's a great honour, you don't go into these things looking for recognition, you do it to make a difference and help," he says.

His advice to others sitting on the fence about getting involved? "Just do it. It's never the right time, you will never have enough time. You will never think your business can survive without you. But it can and the

ideas, and contacts will pay off in spades from the Nuffield experience – you just need to commit to do it."

"Nuffield has given me so many connections and so much personal growth, along with a never-ending stream of people I can call upon. I can talk to people about my business at such a high level without judgement and they understand and can offer great advice."

In the end, it all comes back to people.

"Farming can be so isolating. I'm very lucky to have the support of my wife and brother and his wife, and to have farmed together for so long and so successfully is wonderful. It's all about the people in this business." David says, "and you only get one crack at life."

"And sometimes, the best things happen when you apply for something you don't think you will get."

## 2025 National Conference report.

The 2025 National Conference was held in Adelaide, South Australia at the Adelaide Oval, a truly impressive venue. Over 30 scholars presented their findings as well as some very thought-provoking guest speakers. We are grateful to all our sponsors and exhibitors who contributed to the success of this event.

## At a glance









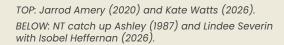
TOP RIGHT: Claire Taylor (2023 UK Scholar) as Master of Ceremonies.

BOTTOM LEFT: Claudia Benn (2024), Caitlin Herbert (2024) and Michael Taylor (2024) on a panel with Claire Taylor.

ABOVE: SA scholars Helen Thomas (2010) and Lucy Dodd (2025).





















CENTRE TOP (from L-R): Stuart Tait (2017), Simon Blyth (2026) and Dan Richards (2016).

CENTRE MIDDLE: Mikey Densham (2021) and Josh Maunder (2021).

CENTRE BOTTOM: Jo Kelly (2022) and Jade King (2022).

ABOVE LEFT: Brendon Smart (1990) – 'Where are they now?'

ABOVE RIGHT: Lachie Seears (2013) – 'Where are they now?'

BELOW LEFT: SA Chair James Stacey (2018) chats with Guilherme Oliveira (2025 Brazil Scholar).

ABOVE RIGHT: Neil Andrew AO (1975).

## Nuffield Awards Dinner.

### Presentation of the 2026 Nuffield scholars

The Awards Dinner was held in the William Magarey Room at the Adelaide Oval which provided a wonderful backdrop for the event. One highlight of the dinner was the local produce featured in all three courses kindly donated by SA Nuffield scholars.

All the new scholars were presented with their tie or brooch and the occasion was enjoyed by over 240 people.

TOP RIGHT: Bruce Scott AM (1983) and Neil Andrew AO (1975).
MIDDLE: Local produce from SA Nuffield Scholars.
BOTTOM: Abby Templeton (2026) (middle) receiving her brooch from Chair Jane Bennett (2008)(left) and Sheridan Ingold, AgriFutures (right).











TOP: 2024 Scholar catch up (from L-R): Marie MacCana, Dave Roberts-Thomson, Ash Wiese, Fiona Poschelk and Ben Poschelk.

BOTTOM: Richard Gardner (2003), Tracy-Lee McAlpine and Brian McAlpine (2003).

TOP LEFT: 1975 Scholars Peter Giumelli, Neil Andrew and Dale Metcalf.

TOP RIGHT: Michael Bennett (1979) presenting an alumni sponsored scholarship to Laura Davies (2026).

MIDDLE LEFT: David Brownhill accepts his Life Member Award.

ABOVE: Kathy Henry and Diane Farquhar.

LEFT: Michelle Lyons (2026) with husband Michael Lyons (2014) and her parents Joe and Angelina Leonardi.

## 2026 Scholars.

Presented at the 2025 National Conference in Adelaide, South Australia





Sally Bethune
Lake Boga, VIC
Keys to success in value-adding for
dairy farmers – Gardiner Foundation



Jessica Bidgood
Baralaba, QLD
Regenerative grazing systems
that are adapted to the Australian
environment – Future Drought Fund



Simon Blyth
Glenorie, NSW
Future farming systems: how IoT, Al,
automation and robotics can unlock
the next cotton frontier – CRDC,
Cotton Australia and AgriFutures



Jackson Boardman
Ravensbourne, QLD
Flying smarter. creating a framework for drone adoption in horticulture systems
- Hort Innovation



Sally Buck
Canberra, ACT
CSIRO Fellow participating in the
Contemporary Scholars Conference
and the Global Focus program



Uduc, WA

Stock handling to build resilience
in people, animals, businesses and
landscape – Future Drought Fund



**Yumeng Chen** 

Melbourne, VIC

Digital twins: the future of Australian horticulture – Hort Innovation



Douglas, QLD
Leveraging global techniques to enhance and expand Australia's freshwater crayfish production – FRDC



Sam Clothier
Lucindale, SA
Free range poultry systems: increasing
hen health, productivity and longevity –
Public Sector Pension Investment Board



**Laura Davies** 

Sydney, NSW

The importance of diversifying export markets to grow resilient primary production – Michael Bennett (1979) and Nuffield Alumni



**Jessica Fedorow** 

Lewis Ponds, NSW

From paddocks to profit: exploring
ROI and outcomes of farm
infrastructure investment – Nuveen
and Nuffield Alumni



Isobel Heffernan
Daly Waters, NT
Empowering communities to drive
climate resilience in grazing landscapes
- Future Drought Fund

## 2026 Scholars. (continued)



Kristen Hegarty
Cassilis, NSW

Adding value to livestock enterprises through improved climate resilience – Future Drought Fund



**Abby Templeton** Kybong, QLD

Bridging the gap between research and commercialization of a tissue culture program – AgriFutures



Penny Hooper Longford, TAS

Can livestock and dairy farming be profitable with a 40-hour week workforce? – JM Roberts Charitable Trust and Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture



Sally Turner
Trundle, NSW

The hidden backbone: recognising and reducing administration overload in Australian family farm businesses – Meat and Livestock Australia



Michelle Lyons
Charters Towers, QLD

Enhancing the social license of red meat through immersive educational experiences – Northern Pastoral Scholarship and Rabobank



Kate Watts
Toowoomba, QLD

Supporting smarter drought decisions in livestock with scalable technology – Future Drought Fund



Jock McNeil Woodleigh, SA

Innovative techniques and technologies to improve drought resilience in dry land cropping – GRDC



Callum Wesley
Southern Cross, WA

Opportunistic cropping and low rainfall break crops – CBH Group



## 2025 Pre-CSC in Canberra.

The 2025 scholars attended a packed week of events in Canberra 2-7 March in preparation before heading off to the Contemporary Scholars Conference (CSC) in Auckland, New Zealand.

It was especially fortunate that a small group of 2025 scholars from Netherlands, Japan, Germany and Romania was able to join their Australian counterparts for the week on their way to Auckland which lent a terrific international flavor to the week.

Without doubt, the highlight of the week occurred when the Patron of Nuffield Australia, the Governor-General Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC joined the group for dinner at Parliament House. The Governor-General was so gracious and generous with her time and attention to all who attended.

ABOVE RIGHT: The Governor-General Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC poses with the 2026 Scholars and board members.















A varied and interesting week of events including meetings at The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), field visits, the Australian War Memorial and Parliament House.

## **Inspiring speakers**









TOP LEFT: Paul Niven (2014) now CEO of Nbryo spoke about his scholarship.

TOP RIGHT: Fiona Simson, World Farmers Organisation.

LEFT: Su McCluskey, Special Representative for Australian Agriculture.

ABOVE: David Jochinke (2007), President of National Farmers Federation.

## **Dinner at Parliament House**









The Governor-General was very generous with her time and attention to all at the dinner.















We were especially thrilled to have Humpty Doo barramundi served at dinner in honour of Dan (2016) and Tarun (2025) Richards – a lovely Nuffield connection.

RIGHT: Tom Polkinghorne (2026) gives the vote of thanks to the Governor-General.

## Where are they now?

Jane Greenslade (1996 Scholar)

Nuffield Australia's first female scholar

Jane Greenslade doesn't like talking about herself much and she doesn't really see her achievements as particularly special, but in many ways, her work over the last few decades has been quite remarkable.

In 1996, Jane became the first female Nuffield Scholar in Australia, 45 years after the first Australian scholarships were awarded.

"It didn't feel like I was particularly special. I was in the right place at the right time. It was right for me, it was right for Nuffield Australia. I was lucky that they saw potential in me." Jane explains.

That understated response has defined her four decades in farming – from taking over her family property to transforming it through native vegetation regeneration.



"I always loved being on the farm and being outside and working with plants and animals," she says simply. "Like many farm kids I just wanted to go farming, like my Dad."But back in the late 1980s when Jane returned home to the Yorke Peninsula after gaining her accounting and economics degree, there weren't a lot of female cropping farmers.

She had the backing of her father from the beginning. He got her involved in the business side of the farm early on because of her accounting degree. "Dad and I talked all the time, we discussed everything, we challenged each other. There were definitely some robust discussions. But he was very supportive and thrilled to be able to hand the farm over to his daughter,"Jane says.

"We always made business decisions together, including off farm investments. For some people that was unusual but not for us."

"I grappled with the title of farmer for a while," Jane admits. "I would say "I farm", not I am a farmer, and I would never describe myself as a female farmer – why would I, who says they are a male farmer or a male Nuffield Scholar!"

Jane's 1996 Nuffield topic reads like it could have been written yesterday: To study farming systems which encourage long term improvements in productivity that are in balance with the local environment and biological conservation and diversity.

During her Nuffield travels, a research centre in Poland changed everything.

For 50 years, researchers there had been comparing mosaic landscapes with shelterbelts woven through crops, against conventional uniform farms. The data they'd collected on biodiversity, pest suppression, and ecosystem health was extraordinary.

"This visit has had an enormous and lasting influence on my farming practices ever since," Jane says. "There was nowhere else in the world where I encountered this thinking."

She came home fired up about reducing wind speeds, enhancing beneficial insect populations, providing wildlife corridors, and increasing biodiversity on her farm. Her father was very supportive of her passion for revegetation. Jane explains, "Dad was always very keen on trees. I think because our forebears cleared so much vegetation, he was eager to see native trees replanted."





TOP: Jane Greenslade alongside her father and nephew on the farm. BOTTOM: Jane tries out a vintage Nuffield tractor.

#### WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Shortly after returning home, Jane joined Trees For Life, an organisation that pairs city dwellers who want to plant native trees with farmers who want trees planted on their property.

Every winter, a group of friends from Adelaide makes the trek to Jane's farm for a tree planting weekend. What began with two people has grown to more than ten, spanning multiple generations and transforming Jane's property.

"To date we have planted over 20,000 trees and direct seeded more than 120km of local native species to this region," Jane says.

The annual gatherings serve a deeper purpose than revegetation. They are Jane's answer to one of agriculture's most persistent problems: the city-country divide.

"From their questions we gain insights into our consumers and how they think. And they learn the how and why about farmers, their operations and management and their ethics. There is a huge opportunity for two-way education across the board," she explains.

### An opportunity arises

In 2021, when a friend's family decided to sell their 60-hectare coastal block of pristine native vegetation with a small cropping block attached, Jane saw an opportunity to preserve an important landscape and for more bridge building between city and country.



ABOVE: Community tree planting day on Jane's property.

With her partner, they enthused 13 city-based friends to join together to purchase and conserve the block. The group leases out the small adjoining farm paddock for cropping, while drawing on their diverse range of skills and interests. They work together to protect and enhance the native vegetation.

"It has been an immensely rewarding undertaking, on so many levels, our city friends learn about food production and conservation," Jane says. The project combines everything she's learned: conservation, collaboration, sustainable farming practices, bridging city/country divides, and sharing knowledge.

### The next chapter

Last year, Jane handed over the cropping enterprise to three young farmers through share farming and leasing arrangements. She's sold her cattle and relinquished the hay-making operation.



ABOVE: South Australian Nuffields gather at Kym Green's (1993) orchard.

She is pivoting to focus more intensively on the environmental and ecological work that's always been central to her farming philosophy. There are shelterbelts to widen, degraded scrub to rehabilitate, invasive weeds to eradicate, and heritage listings to pursue.

"I can now concentrate on and elaborate on my ecological and environmental passions especially those related to the farm landscape and my dream of making it more of a mosaic landscape."

She's concerned about the future – genuinely concerned. She points to the recent algal bloom in South Australia, the drought of the past two years, the trend toward ever-tighter crop rotations driven by necessity.

"I think we need to pay more attention to our reputation as farmers. We need to take a holistic approach. I think there is plenty of room for more emphasis on soil health and judicious use of chemicals, and generally asking more questions," she says.

In an agricultural sector where environmental concerns can be perceived as anti-farming, Jane has spent four decades quietly demonstrating that production and conservation aren't opposing forces.

"I think essentially most farmers are really interested in their environment. Most want to provide a business that they can pass on to the next generation, that is sustainable," she insists. "They go hand in hand."

Her approach has been to lead by example rather than preach, to ask questions and build on the answers, to collaborate rather than criticise.

"What if every corner of every farm paddock was planted with local native vegetation?" she asks. "How do we balance optimal production and viable native vegetation? How can we balance convenience with environmental responsibility?"

"My Dad taught me two important lessons: we are all observers and there's no such thing as a stupid question," she says.

For young women considering agriculture today, Jane's advice is straightforward: 'Never be afraid to ask any question. You won't learn anything if you don't ask questions. It won't be a silly question, because you can bet someone else is thinking the same but too afraid to ask.

She pauses, then adds: "And if you haven't already convinced them, eventually your family will come around!"

## 2025 Scholar update.

During the past year, the 2025 cohort of scholars have all been in 'peak' travel mode. They have all attended the pre-CSC in Canberra as well as the CSC in New Zealand. All 2025 scholars have completed their GFP and most have done, or at least planned, most of their individual travel. Reports are starting to be written. We spoke to two of them in more depth to get an idea of what they have been up to.



## Claire Catford, 2025 Nuffield Scholar update

## Searching for the secrets of farmer wellbeing

As an agronomist turned farmer, Claire Catford has "seen all facets of the strain and stress that farming puts on people." Her search for a pathway towards improved wellbeing for Australian farmers and their communities took her (and her family) around the world.

Driven by a desire to improve wellbeing in her own community and model purpose and courage for her children, Claire applied for a Nuffield scholarship to explore strategies that bolster the physical and mental wellbeing of farmers and strengthen rural community. "I wasn't sure how it would be received – but it's been absolutely incredible how every single sector of industry, and every level or person within the supply chains, has been interested in my work." Nuffield didn't just open doors for her research, Claire says. "It was more like an elevator up a high-rise to the networks of people I needed."

Travelling overseas provided a 'balcony effect' that heightened Claire's perspective. "It makes you really appreciate what you have. It's easy to look at the issues that we face here and feel that they're insurmountable. Stepping outside of the country allows you to see and appreciate Australia's strengths. Our farmers are feeding the world – unsubsidised – in one of the harshest climates on earth. We're doing it in innovative ways, with an environmental and social conscience, and with a degree of trust that you don't see anywhere else." These strengths, Claire believes, could become the foundations of actionable community and wellbeing strategies.

Alongside attending conferences and interviewing experts, Claire visited farmers to see local wellbeing programs in practice. In New Zealand, programs like Surfing for Farmers encourage people to get off the farm and into the ocean to connect. In Chile, they hold



### 2025 SCHOLAR UPDATE

meetings that focus on "resigned problems – those the businesses had subconsciously accepted." The takeaway? "Once you recognise the need to address a problem, you're halfway to solving it."

"In Zimbabwe, I was amazed to see how people can thrive in so much uncertainty by working together, supporting one another, and finding a purpose beyond themselves. We stayed with Nuffield Scholar, Helen Goodwin, who said, 'my grandmother told me to always look for the current in the bun'. It was such a powerful message: always look for the positives."









LEFT: GFP 3 in Zimbabwe.

TOP. Claire and her husband Dylan on their farm, South Australia.

BOTTOM LEFT: Sorting oysters in Chile while on GFP 3.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Individual travel to Mt Cook in New Zealand.

But, Claire adds, these attitudes aren't accidental. A common quote in Zimbabwe is 'make a plan'. "I was constantly told that to deal with uncertainty you need to make a plan and hold a hopefilled vision for the future."

Claire didn't stop at setting an example for her children. She and her husband took them along to Canada, where the couple had met on farm exchange over twenty years ago. "It was an incredible opportunity for them. They may not have seen my interviews with academics, but they were present for farm visits and dinner table conversations with our hosts, and I've been so proud to see how much they've learned and absorbed."

Claire has lived the lessons of her research: by putting herself out there, she's made connections that have changed her perspective, her business, and the community around her.

"The humble stoicism we so admire in Australian farmers can also contribute to poorer wellbeing because if you're not willing to talk about the good times, you're not likely to talk about the tough times."

"For me, this past year has taught me about valuing authenticity, being curious, embracing things that light you up – but also embracing imperfection and the learning process. We don't have to be perfect to do better."

TOP RIGHT: 'Surfing for Farmers' group activity near Raglan in New Zealand.

RIGHT: Visiting Tim and Sharon May at Kingsclere Estate in UK during individual travel.





## Dave Woods, 2025 Nuffield Scholar update

## **Rethinking Rural Mental Health**

When major investment and growing awareness failed to improve mental health outcomes for rural Australians, Queensland farmer Dave Woods applied for a Nuffield Scholarship to search the globe for solutions.

Dave Woods has spent many years researching and volunteering in the rural mental health space. While the prevalence of mental illness is similar between rural and urban Australia, rural areas have double the suicide rate. "My research examines why rural mental health outcomes aren't improving," Dave says. "I'm looking into the support model to find why there is so much resistance and how this could be improved."

Dave has been surprised to find that, while stressors vary around the world, "the underlying drivers of mental illness are remarkably similar. The root cause sits deeper than service availability. At its core, its driven by disconnection



from the self, from genuine community, and from a sense of meaning or purpose."

Dave's scholarship has given him direct access to people who share his purpose and challenge his perspectives. "Nuffield offered me the chance to investigate different models internationally and to test my own assumptions against global best practice. The network of Nuffield alumni granted me the opportunity to understand my topic from many different perspectives and consider why this problem is so significant in so many different countries."

Dave's research travels are taking him to the UK, New Zealand and the USA. Each destination offers a different lens on how rural communities engage with mental health support. "In the UK and NZ, I'm using the Nuffield network to understand how farmers themselves view current mental health support, and to assess whether peer-led, horizontal models create better engagement and cultural fit than the traditional vertical approach."

His US travel focuses on approaches that look deeper than symptom management. "In the USA, I'm studying emerging integrative models that work directly with identity and self-image; going deeper than many conventional systems which tend to focus more on symptom management rather than the underlying drivers." These comparisons will help Dave identify what could translate into a stronger, more culturally aligned model for rural Australia. "Some countries are now shifting focus from purely vertical, centralised models which often struggle to engage rural communities, towards more horizontal, community led, lived experience approaches. These frameworks seem to face less resistance and achieve stronger engagement."

We are Farming Minds in the UK is one such example, engaging volunteers who have faced similar challenges themselves." Dave says. "Their lived experience creates trust and cultural resonance that formal services often struggle to achieve. People are speaking with an equal, not a professional who is assessing them, and that gives [volunteers] the advantage of instant credibility with greater trust and relatability. Conversations feel much safer, more open and authentic."

Australia has promising examples too. "Sober In the Country (SITC) in Australia is using a similar model with their online platform 'The Bush Tribe' and it's making a big difference with engagement. The opportunity for Australia is to understand how horizontal, peer-led models can be integrated alongside the current vertical system to improve engagement and outcomes."

The right model offers hope for those currently struggling. "I've been surprised by how quickly change can occur when approaches work at the level of identity and self-image rather than just behaviour," Dave says. "It introduces a dimension to treatment that's rarely covered but clearly matters."

For others considering the program, Dave's advice is simple: "Don't hesitate. You don't realise how much your environment shapes your thinking until you leave it. Nuffield exposes those blind spots in a powerful way. I've been fortunate to have people trust me with their stories, including how they've faced and overcome difficult periods."

"Those conversations have been inspiring and have given the research a depth I wouldn't have reached otherwise."

## 2024 Scholar update.

For most of the 2024 group of scholars, they are nearing the end of their formal scholarship journey. All 2024 scholars have completed their GFP, most have almost finished their individual travel and the National Conference in Adelaide saw the majority of 2024 scholars present their findings. Many reports have already been published in 2025 or are due to be released soon. We picked two of the 2024 scholars to tell us a little more of their experience.



## Laura Bennett, 2024 Nuffield Scholar update

## Personalising policy for Australian farmers

Laura Bennett is a dryland grain farmer in Esperance, WA, who has felt the impact of ill-informed policy on her business and community time and time again. "You're often left wondering 'what data, if any, informed this policy? Who provided advice?' I know so many fantastic farmers who love what they do, they're passionate, intelligent, humble – and they'd never want a career in politics. So, what modern tools or pathways would allow them to inform policy?"

This question drove Laura to change her research topic during her Nuffield scholarship travels to explore how farmers across the globe successfully influence the policies that shape their livelihoods and communities.

Laura's scholarship has taken her to Costa Rica, Brazil, Argentina, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, UK, Ireland, Georgia, and Zimbabwe. "The generosity and hospitality of people around the world has been incredibly special," Laura says. "Their openness and vulnerability are almost overwhelming, and a real privilege. When you're not in direct competition, people are willing to let you get a view of – and learn from – the intricate details of their business."

While Australian agriculture is leading the world in many areas of innovation and management, Laura found that despite the unique challenges we face, we have a lot to learn when it comes to effective advocacy. "Because of the subsidies and levels of reporting that European farmers are obliged to do, they have deeper connections to their policy makers, and good data to showcase how they manage their land. They also don't have the tyranny of distance to overcome like so many Australian farmers do." In this context, Laura saw how policy development could be a genuine two-way street. "Denmark was a real masterclass in collaboration and compromise.

Farmers aren't always fighting against new regulations.

#### 2024 SCHOLAR UPDATE

Instead, they say 'well, this is part of progress. How can we make it work for us?'. The politicians welcome their input. Both parties are trying to reach mutually beneficial outcomes."

For Australian farmers to foster fruitful long-distance relationships with policy makers, Laura believes we need to overhaul how local advocacy groups are administered. "Advocacy groups would be far more effective if they worked together on the issues that matter, resolved conflicts behind closed doors, and offered clear, constructive messaging to policy makers.

Some groups are doing a great job already, but we want them all to be effective. They need better governance and strategy, higher levels of professionalism, and a shift away from reactive advocacy to proactive relationship building and data-supported positions. Data, Laura emphasises, was key. "Data is how we demonstrate productivity, sustainability and benchmark ourselves globally. It's evidence, and it gives us more influence."





ABOVE: Laura Bennett on her individual travel in UK with soon-to-be husband, Brad Egan.

LEFT: GFP 5 (2024) group in UK.



don't assume someone else will do it. Make sure you're part of the discussion and influence however you can."

Canberra, then we need to be creative. Send a policy maker or a local MP an email or a two-minute video on an issue,

The next step, Laura says, is to embrace the convenience of technology. "If we can't physically be there in

Laura encourages those considering a Nuffield Scholarship to leap at the opportunity.

"It's such a special thing! My advice is: immerse yourself in the journey, allow yourself to be open-minded and feel uncomfortable, question your biases, and have people question you."

"I developed so much as a person not just professionally but also personally – it's been such a gift. I've gained a sense of myself as a member of a global community and truly believe that the currency of life is relationships. I'm richer for having done this experience."



TOP: Laura during her GFP 5 (2024) in Zimbabwe.

TOP RIGHT: Laura in hi-vis with fellow scholar, Catherine Marriott.

RIGHT: Short break during harvest at home in Esperance, WA.

#### Tom Cosentino, 2024 Nuffield Scholar update

#### An interest in succession

Thomas Cosentino is an accountant by trade, who always dreamed of being a farmer. "When I was a kid, I was obsessed with farm animals. I always knew this was what I wanted to do with my life." Now a successful beef farmer and industry consultant, his Nuffield Scholarship research project combines his passion and his practice.

Tom, like many Australian farmers, has more than one job. Alongside his South Australian beef operation, he acts as Executive Officer for Southern Rock Lobster Ltd and consults for the strawberry and blue economy industries. As a business owner and advisor, he's seen first-hand how Australia's out-of-date policy frameworks and financial products are sabotaging the next generation of would-be farmers.

So, he decided to do a deep dive into the issues through a Nuffield Scholarship. "It was recommended to me by



two fishermen and Nuffield scholars, Wayne Dredge and Dennis Holder, and it's been a life-changing experience."

Tom is looking at succession planning policies around the world in the hopes they can inform much-needed improvements here in Australia, with a focus on two target demographics: new entrants into the industry, and the next generation of established farming families.

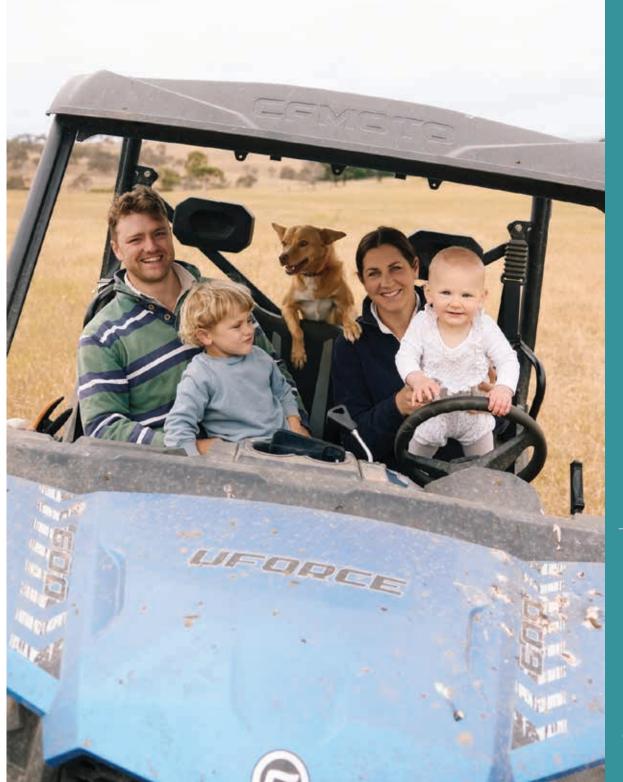
"It's not that you can't get a job in ag right now. There's an infinite number of farmhand, shearing, and fruit picking jobs going around. What's extremely hard is to be a young person in farm business ownership, because the values of farmland are so high, and the financial supports so inadequate." It is this skyrocketing cost of entry that is the limiting factor for the next generation. "My project is really about helping 'young people in agriculture' become 'young people in food production asset ownership'."

With the massive transfer of intergenerational wealth looming in the next few decades, this is an issue that needs addressing ASAP. "Right now, every farmer runs off to their accountants and lawyers to create a patchwork of band-aids to address their individual succession needs," Tom says. The result is a wide variety of "quirky little entity structures" that often fail to provide for the realities of modern farming life – especially multi-generational families.

"My research concludes that the solution would start with a parliamentary enquiry to assess the needs of today's farming demographics, followed by a playbook of policies and financial products to support them."

What might be in that playbook? Tom's Nuffield Scholarship took him around the world to find out. He visited Italy, England, Ireland, the US, and Canada, as well as travelling widely across

RIGHT: Tom with his family on their farm in South Australia.



#### 2024 SCHOLAR UPDATE

Australia. Every country Tom visited offered nuggets of wisdom, but the front runner, he says, was Canada. "Farm Credit Canada has really innovative loan products that help people get in, and they also have a beautiful statutory-backed entity structure called the estate freeze." Tom refers to estate freezing as his 'flagship nugget'." I think that model has a lot of potential for established farming families here in Australia."

Ultimately, Tom says the policy-specific advice he gained came in a distant second to the connections he made with other farmers. "The experience was so heavily about the people rather than the places or even your topic or industry. My advice: find individuals who inspire you."

As for how to find those people: "It requires a leap of faith. I was literally on Instagram DMing people 'hey, your farm looks really cool, I'm doing this thing called a Nuffield Scholarship, can I come and visit?' and they'd say yes. Then it was just about being interested in what they had to say. I met people who truly impacted my life."

#### The experience showed Tom that youth in agriculture is driven by positivity right across the globe.

"The people that have managed to get through the tiny cracks of opportunity are super positive. They have the sort of personality to achieve things against all odds." But through his research, Tom hopes to split those cracks wide open, so that many more people can join this fantastic industry."







TOP: Tom visiting dairy farmer and Nuffield Scholar John Keane in Ireland.

ABOVE: Tom Cosentino on a visit to an oyster farm.

ABOVE RIGHT: Tom (right) with Josh Oulton at his orchard in Nova Scotia, Canada.



## A Global Focus 2025.

The Global Focus Program (GFP) is perhaps the jewel in the crown of the Nuffield scholarship experience. While it may be just one component of the scholarship, it is often the most valued part, especially when viewed retrospectively in the months and years after completion.

Becoming a Nuffield scholar is an individual achievement, as is handing in a report at the end but it is the group experiences along the way in the form of the Contemporary Scholars Conference (CSC) and the GFP that seem to yield the richness of the Nuffield experience.

Several scholars reflect on their 2025 GFP experience over the following pages. Also, we asked a few of the GFP Hosts in different countries about their perspective.



**Number of** 

**GFPs** 



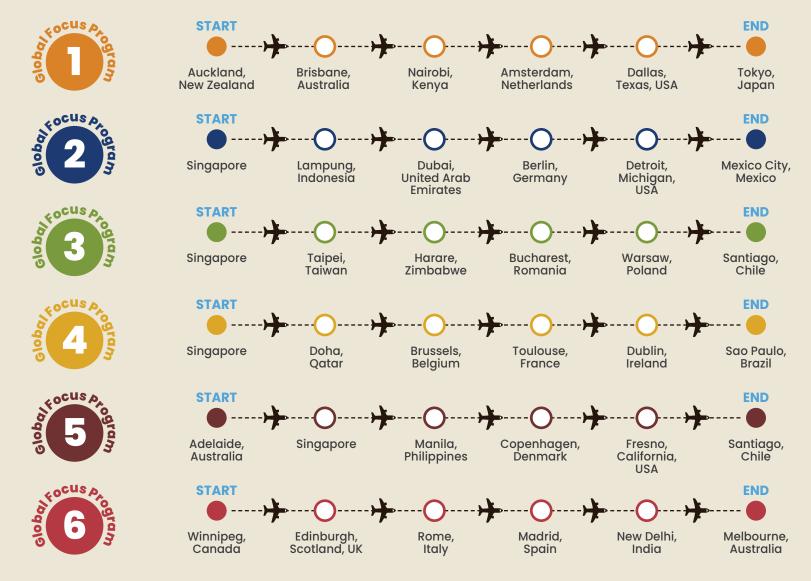
Number of scholars



30

Number of countries/regions travelled

#### Global Focus Programs at a glance:



#### Global Focus Program map

















#### GLOBAL FOCUS





#### Joe Druce 2025 Australian Scholar

I expected that this would be a trip where I would meet and connect with likeminded people from all around the world. This was well and truly met. Across all the countries we visited, we were exposed to both small and big scale, corporate and family businesses who are all succeeding in their chosen fields.

It was interesting in Japan to see how an ageing population and younger generations becoming disconnected from farming makes for an ongoing challenge for Japanese agriculture. But we did see several young farmers who are trying to change the narrative and building thriving businesses.

My most surprising moment was visiting OI Pejeta Conservancy ranch in Kenya. They are successfully using beef cattle to improve and enhance the native grasslands for the benefit natural wildlife. By utilising big numbers in a mob, they are crash grazing the tough native grasses, this then produces fresh growth for wildlife to follow. This was one of the only places I have visited where cattle are being viewed as a positive for the environment and ecosystem which was very gratifying to see.

My high point was getting to eat high-end Wagyu in Japan – multiple times! Low point was eating frozen crickets in Kenya – not for me!

The GFP has allowed me to understand that, whilst we do many things well in Australian agriculture, it is not always the case that we are the best in the world. Seeing and speaking to people across the countries I visited has been a truly humbling experience. The level and depth of knowledge that all these people demonstrated has really shown me that I have a long way to go in my own education and self-development.





ABOVE: GFP 1 inspecting cotton in Queensland. BELOW: Visiting a berry farm in Japan.





#### Alice Jorgensen 2025 Australian Scholar

I thought I might be challenged by my assumptions and the GFP certainly delivered on this! The reality in some countries was so different to my expectations.

Mexico was an example of this. For one it was much cooler than I expected due to altitude. But also, the sophistication of plant breeding and the far-reaching global influence this has had.

Maintaining energy and engagement levels was sometimes difficult but new content and people we met every day meant we were almost running on adrenaline, so I could keep learning even when I thought my capacity had been reached. Missing home and family were hard, especially with time differences, but we were all in the same boat and we supported each other through. We developed a quote amongst ourselves "Today was not my best day" and we all had those at times!

One of my best memories was staying in a house by Lake Michigan for a week. It gave us a chance to feel like we had a base, we cooked our own meals and really felt like family! It gave us time to reflect on our GFP journey to that point, encouraging some fantastic conversations on big issues.

My most challenging day was in Germany visiting a piggery with strict biosecurity protocols in the morning and then Buchenwald Memorial

concentration

camp in the afternoon. Learning about the incredibly heavy stories as we toured Buchenwald saw us all absolutely drained by the end of the day. But it was a valuable experience.

Completing the GFP really set me up for my individual travel. I felt confident to venture into the world, introducing myself to strangers who become friends. I gained so much from spending the GFP with eleven colleagues from seven countries. We learned about each other's cultures and developed true respect for our different perspectives.



GFP 2 group in Mexico with Nuffield host Dan Richards (2016).

#### GLOBAL FOCUS





#### Lisa Portas 2025 New Zealand Scholar

In NZ we were fortunate to have an open and honest Q&A with our previous years' scholars about their entire experience, including the GFP. Because of this, my expectation was that it would be hard for me and my family, but that it would result in a widening of my network, lifelong friendships, learning a lot about myself and looking at the industry in a different way.

All of that was true but I think I didn't count on just how much all those things would take place and how different I would become after the GFP. I came back changed, but for the better, I think!

I was nervous before the GFP. My time and schedule were not my own, I was with eleven other people I didn't know, and it was the longest I had been away from my family. I was surprised, though, by how well I managed. We were very busy and that helped. We supported each other – I hadn't expected to find that level of camaraderie in people I had known for such a short time.

One high would have been watching the sun rise from the top of the Burj Al Khalifa in Dubai. And eating Mexican food at our last night dinner in Mexico City, reminiscing about our five weeks together.

The GFP has set the scene for the rest of my international travels. It taught me how to engage meaningfully across different cultures and languages. And it brought home the strength of the Nuffield network and alumni. It was when I started to feel just how significant this global family really was.





ABOVE: GFP 2 visiting an orchard in Michigan, USA. BELOW: Lisa Portas and Netherlands scholar, Henrie Van Steenbergen in Indonesia.





#### Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel 2025 Canadian Scholar

I was expecting to travel to special places in each country that could not be found in a brochure and I expected to meet people that I would never forget. Both expectations were exceeded in all the best ways. Anyone can book a plane ticket but the program of the GFP can't be replicated on your own, it is truly a one-of-a-kind experience. The people I travelled with and the people who welcomed us into their homes and their lives have left a tattoo on my heart. Not a day goes by that I don't remember a funny moment or a life lesson from this trip.

I was so surprised by the generosity of our hosts. They gave us their best every day. They showed us the truth about their agricultural industry, and the truth about their home country. They encouraged us to ask questions and to say 'yes' to all experiences. I hope someday to repay the favour.

My biggest challenge was finding ways to balance my relationships at home while building new relationships across the globe. I was often torn, leaving behind the people who supported me. The high, though, was looking at the faces of our group and knowing that I had won the scholarship group lottery! Could not have asked for a better group of humans to travel with, eat, drive, sing, dance and learn with. The low was losing one of our scholars who had to leave unexpectedly. It felt like we lost a limb.

I realise now that I didn't even know how

to be a scholar before the GFP. I didn't know how to ask good questions, or to be a good guest in a new country. The GFP gave me the skills and the courage to set out on my own adventure.





ABOVE: GFP 3 group in Singapore.
BELOW: GFP 3 around a campfire in Zimbabwe with Zimbabwe scholar, Helen Goodwin Lock.

#### GLOBAL FOCUS





#### **Tarun Richards** 2025 Australian Scholar

I was quite apprehensive about my GFP – I am an introvert and can be reserved. I knew I would miss my family but also knew we would see some amazing things. And I wasn't looking forward to sharing a room with people I didn't know. Which seems funny now!

I can say our GFP was a golden trip – no illnesses or injuries, and no conflict. We were met in each country by people who organised the most incredible visits for us, taking time out of their own busy lives to ensure we could appreciate how different agricultural systems operate in their countries, what is important to them culturally and how they navigated the social and political complexities. We gained insights from very honest, sometimes raw, conversations with other farmers across agricultural sectors. It would be difficult to recreate this in any other context.

My experience more than exceeded my expectations – my GFP buddies are now my extended family, and we have stayed in touch.

Sometimes you see things in other parts of the world that don't seem to make sense. Sometimes it is tempting to disengage if you don't agree. But it is SO important to step back and consider the wider environment in which they must operate. Often, they are doing the best they can or have

a vision we can't see. But you will learn from everyone if you are open to it.

Sharing experiences with the group made the surprising, enjoyable and 'aha' moments even more enjoyable. Back on the bus or around the dinner table there was a brains trust of eleven other people with different views and perspectives. I gained so much from these conversations.



ABOVE: GFP 3 group in Taiwan. BELOW: Tarun during the Zimbabwe leg of the GFP.

After the GFP I have a lot more confidence in myself, which is spilling over into my daily life. I also know how to ask people about their farm or business, thanks to the different perspectives of my group. A broader understanding of drivers and influences can shape how and why people do what they do. And I learned sharing a room with other people can be fun!





#### **Thanh Truong** 2025 Australian Scholar

I tried not to have too many expectations, but as always, you hear stories from others and their journeys. One thing I wanted most was to experience farming activities beyond my industry of fruit and vegetables. Things that I would not experience on my own individual travels. And I also wanted to learn from my fellow scholars whilst on the journey

My biggest surprise was in Southern France on a hazelnut farm which had a huge problem with stink bugs causing damage to their produce. Having worked a lot with Australian quarantine authorities, I know that this pest is uncontrollable. The French farmers were in despair from water rights to activists, and the banning of the chemicals which stop the stink bugs is one of the last straws in a world where ag policy has restricted their ability to be profitable, leaving them feeling powerless. Then I think of being in Brussels 72 hours earlier and listening to the European Commission tell us that ag policy must drive all farmers to benefit from the 'single market'. This moment left me with more questions than answers and possibly, this is what the GFP is about? And suddenly, I am reminded

that I am not here to fix the world's problems, but I am here to learn. I think of this reflection often.

The GFP is a marathon, but it is a team marathon. Spending an intense amount of time with others means that, at times, all of us were going through rough personal experiences.

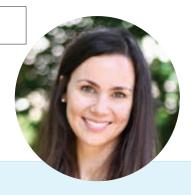
Supporting each other, giving other an emotionally safe space is important.

My memorable moment was seeing fellow Aussie scholars, Tom Polkinghorne and Kate Lumber, laying a wreath for the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate at Ypres. A timely reminder whilst we whiz around the world that we should remember and honour those who have sacrificed so much for our lives today. We are grateful to Bruce Scott (1983) for this opportunity.



ABOVE: Thanh and the GFP 4 group at a hazelnut orchard in France.

#### GLOBAL FOCUS





#### Kristen Millican 2025 USA Scholar

I tried hard not to have too many expectations before my GFP. I knew from other scholars that it would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience and would challenge me in ways that I hadn't been before.

For me, travelling from the Philippines to Denmark was the most surprising experience. To go from one country that is farming for survival versus a country that farms with high-quality, organic emphasis was eye-opening for me. I found myself comparing the stark differences in landscape and climate. I felt grateful and amazed that our world is comprised of countries that are vastly different to each other.

My biggest challenge was being away from my husband and kids. Communication was sometimes challenging but that's the beauty of the GFP too. You learn so much more about life and about yourself. It is not just about agriculture.

The Nuffield scholars in Chile were my high point. They are an incredible group of people, and they did a fantastic job giving us a taste of their culture. Seeing them on our last night, watching their families interact with each other made them seem more like family than scholar friends. I think that is the Nuffield way and they represent that so well.



ABOVE: GFP 5 in Singapore.

The GFP has helped shape my individual travel. I have not planned all of it yet, but I am considering countries that I hadn't before and that is largely due to my GFP experience. It taught me that adding value is so much more than just developing new products or enhancing packaging. I can now prepare for my individual travel with a wider perspective. I also feel personally connected to Nuffield now, seeing the world through that lens. I am more passionate about helping other Nuffield scholars in their scholarship too.



#### Tyson Cattle 2025 Australian Scholar

Having ten nationalities across a group of twelve people makes for a unique GFP, and I was always excited about seeing how our cultural differences would merge with our passion for agriculture. The GFP exceeded my expectations from the very beginning, the moment we visited the first dairy farm in Canada and then got into the car, the conversations and questions began. Those conversations evolved into great relationships by the end.

India was certainly an eye-opener. Fascinated by their approach to food security and farming which is necessarily high on their agenda. Yet their supply chain systems, particularly for fresh produce seem to be underdeveloped. Also interesting was that India did not talk about climate change at all. One of the biggest economies and largest emitters in the world rarely had climate as an agenda item for government policy.

One of my highs came out of one of our biggest challenges. Day one in Spain and we had several cancellations in our itinerary, but rather than have a free day, the entire group got together and reached out to their own networks to try and fill the day.



What transpired was probably one of the most packed and fulfilling days. The experience brought the group closer together I think, by working together and solving a problem.

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 of how we do agriculture advocacy in Australia and how we can



ABOVE: Tyson and the GFP 6 group in Scotland.
BELOW: Trudi Oxley and Lucas Ingold during GFP 6 in India.
The cowboy hats attracted attention.

improve, while also giving me a greater appreciation for Australian farmers in comparison with other parts of the world.

#### GLOBAL FOCUS







To be honest, my expectations were low as our initial group meeting at the CSC seemed to signal the trip might be an explosive mix with ten nationalities in the group. But to see the group be so kind, respectful and grow to become a largely harmonious travelling and learning machine, who provided support to each other was perhaps the highlight of the trip. The diversity of thought brought to questions and de-briefs was an extraordinary experience.

I was surprised the Australian leg in Victoria was so valuable. Initially I felt that we were missing out on one more overseas country, but after issues at Delhi airport, I was never so glad to be back on Australian soil. I didn't expect to feel the intense level of pride in how we go about Australian agriculture that I felt at each business we visited in Northern Vic. It turned out to be the leg where I had the most 'aha' moments about shaping my own study question and it really brought the trip together for me.

My biggest challenge was in India. Becoming aware of how our Hindu hosts viewed myself and Lucas from Brazil when we introduced ourselves as cattle ranchers. You could see the look on their face, and they wanted to like us, but you could see the shift in their smile. After a couple of times, Lucas and I discussed this. He gave the analogy of "it would be like us meeting someone who we really wanted to like, but then

they told us that they raised, slaughtered and ate dogs!" Very insightful. So, we began to introduce ourselves as 'tropical farmers.' Given the high stakes of Indian decisions around buffalo meat exports to Indonesia affecting the Australian live cattle export market, I found these cultural differences challenging.

The GFP has given a much deeper insight

about the place of Australia in global agriculture. It is critical we stay 'in the room' to understand the direction of global policy, deepen relationships with influential decision-makers and present our case with data.

The GFP has given me confidence to speak with greater authority on my topic, more assurance that the direction is relevant to progressing my industry in our region.





ABOVE: GFP 6 attend a cattle auction in Canada.

BELOW: Trudi in Scotland during GFP 6.

e analogy of "it would be like relevant to progressing my industry in our region.

ally wanted to like, but then



# What do GFP hosts think?

Much of the success of any GFP leg is dependent on the host who sets up the itinerary and volunteers their time to ensure that the scholars maximise the benefits of the country visit. In Nuffield countries, the host is usually a local scholar, often supported by other scholars. In non-Nuffield countries, the desirable option is to choose a local host who is aware of the Nuffield program or to send an Australian alumni to be the host.

In Nuffield countries (there are now 15 of them) the GFP is often a two-fold mission for hosts. Firstly, it can galvanize local scholars and bring them together with a common goal of showing off what their country has to offer. Secondly, it can provide an opportunity for the local Nuffield organisation to showcase the program to both existing and potential Investors as well as applicants.

RIGHT: GFP 4 with host Tessa Dimond (2023), were privileged to visit the Menin Gate at Ypres, Belgium through the assistance of Bruce Scott AM (1983).



Sally Thomson, now an Honorary Scholar, is the host in Brazil. "It is a huge challenge, privilege and opportunity to host a GFP, and we work hard to get the balance right. Hosting GFPs allows connections between like-minded agribusiness people to get straight into meaningful conversations, and this is an important part of provoking Brazilians' curiosity about Nuffield and how they can get involved."

Phil Weller (2019 Zim) of Zimbabwe reflects similar views, "having a GFP come through Zimbabwe gives all the Zim Nuffield scholars, the companies that sponsor and the ag people of the country a chance to be involved in something that is stimulating, exciting and a source of healthy discussion. We have much enjoyed the sincerity and down-to-earth nature of the last three GFPs."

As does Marcin Marcowicz (2023 NI) from Poland. "It is always a unique opportunity to meet inspiring people from other countries and engage in valuable discussions about agriculture. At the same time, it is a great honour and pleasure to showcase Polish agriculture."

Kenya is not a Nuffield country but GFPs there are hosted by Sarah Flowers along with Australian Nuffield Scholar now living in Kenya, Stuart Barden (2009). Sarah arranges the itinerary and often travels with the group, "I am proud to be able to demonstrate that Kenya has some great examples of agriculture. Our farm hosts get the opportunity to interact with fellow farmers from all over the world and every year there is a useful exchange of ideas."

#### Feedback is important

"Feedback is extremely important to me," says Marcin Marcowicz. "It helps to assess what aspects of the organisation worked best and what could be improved in the future. Thanks to the opinions of the GFP participants, we learn, grow and continuously enhance the program making Poland an increasingly attractive destination for the GFP."

Stefan Teepker of Germany feels the same way, "only through feedback can we keep improving and adapt our plans to changing needs."

In Chile, Antonio Bunster Zegers (2020 NI) believes "it is essential to constantly improve the mix of visits (research/farmers/cultural) and the rhythm of each day. Previous feedback has told us that they really enjoy visiting Nuffield scholars, so we try to focus on that aspect."

#### Benefits to hosting a GFP

For some hosts, a GFP is a chance to keep expanding their own Nuffield network.

Paul Windemuller (2023 USA) from Michigan, USA, hosted GFP 2 for the first time in 2025. "Creating new relationships with other scholars is great. It was like I got to be part of a GFP again, and the group did a great job of making me feel like a part of them, even just for a week."

#### WHAT DO GFP HOSTS THINK?

Ashley Fraser (2012) found a similar thing after hosting GFP 6 in Victoria, "It was like being back on the bus as a fresh scholar, but in your local area and really putting the torch to the status quo. Then hearing the discussion afterwards, analyzing what they just looked at. It is awesome to get an international perspective on local businesses."

"Every conversation for us is interesting," says Antonio Bunster Zegers. "The human connection and all the fun that we have every time we share a meal or a car drive. We love having groups visit us!"

For Phil Weller it means that "Nuffield Zimbabwe gets to interact with the global Nuffield family which is so important for us going forward."

In Brazil, Sally Thomson believes "It is a ripple effect. And that ripple effect is possible because of the values that we all live by in the Nuffield network. That very quickly we can establish trust and get into a meaningful conversation. Seeing scholars and hosts eyes light up in interactions, especially when two people connect on a topic and are speaking different languages."

"In Germany it's always like a little promotional tour for Nuffield Germany. Sometimes we meet potential applicants or can gain new sponsors. But for us as hosts, many doors are also opened more easily, and we get to visit companies we've always wanted to visit," says Stefan Teepker.

#### **Advice for GFP participants**

#### Brazil

"Bring your smile – and some small gifts from your country to say thanks for the warm welcome you will receive."

#### Chile

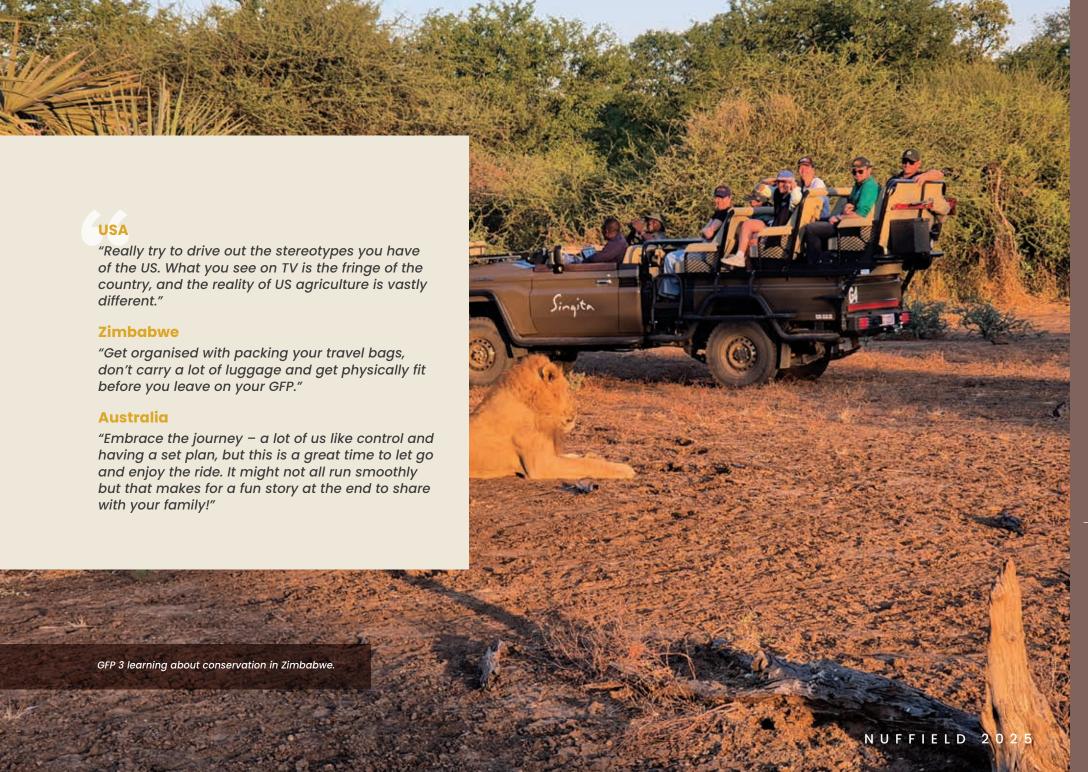
"Be prepared for long drives and be mindful that it is not always possible to see everything you expect, given long distances."

#### Germany

"Arrive in Germany well-rested. A tight but varied program awaits you."

#### Kenya

"Arrive with your minds, eyes and ears open and keep them that way!"



### Nuffield International update.

By Jodie Redcliffe (2013 Scholar)

Nuffield International (NI) has a bright future for growth. A strong NI benefits all Nuffield countries by providing support and critical connections between scholars, country chairs and country representatives.

NI aims to expand into new countries steadily to become truly globally representative. Strong reciprocal relationships with investors and new countries remain crucial, alongside a focus on financial sustainability through building our investor pool and optimising the utilisation of the Chris Reichstein Philanthropy Fund in accordance with Chris' wishes.



## What we do one by one, scholarship by scholarship has a ripple effect through world agriculture that is astounding.

#### **Country updates:**

- USA and Brazil our two newest Nuffield countries continue to grow, consistently awarding 4-5 scholars each year.
- Romania awarded its first scholar, George Mailat in 2025.
- Poland and Germany have each awarded three scholarships to date, with one each for 2026.
- Chile has elected a new Chair of the board, Antonio Bunster Zegers (2020 scholar). Antonio is building on the tireless work of Jose Manual Irarrazaval Zegers and Felipe Sanchez, both of whom are still very much involved. Chile now has a cohort of 12 scholars and will award three or possibly four scholarships in 2026, after approaching over 25 companies for investment.
- Japan have been awarding scholars since 2020, and for the first time in 2026 will have three scholarships available. NI is collaborating closely with the team at Nuffield Japan on an amazing program for the 2026 CSC to launch scholars' global agricultural network.

#### **Key NI events:**

- **2026 Triennial** will be held in Ireland in May 2026. Register now!
- 2026 CSC will be at Awaji Island and Mt Koya in Japan in 2026, and at Victoria Falls in 2027 hosted by Nuffield Zimbabwe.
- 2025 CSC held in Auckland New Zealand hosted by the very capable team at Rural Leaders NZ who run the Nuffield program in New Zealand selecting three to five scholars each year. There were 92 scholars and two delegates present at the CSC from 16 countries, as well as the NI board and country executives. We celebrated some of NZ's world class ag, but the focus was on the importance of leadership skills and the incorporation of first nations knowledge which is reshaping the way we think about land and sustainability.

### Relationships within Nuffield are so important, and we will continue to nurture them.

#### Some scholar reflections from the CSC:

- Affirmation that the Nuffield programme is transformative and life changing.
- The curiosity, intelligence, generosity of the people is unlike anything I have experienced before.
- A very inspiring week. Amazing talent, energy, and ideas in the room. A networking opportunity unmatched by anything else, and proud to be a Nuffield scholar.
- A week, living with like-minded individuals from around the globe. Fully engaged in high-frequency workshops. I'll never forget it.
- First, it was great. And it was great because it wasn't about us, it was about sharing values, cultures, and giving us the means of bringing all the knowledge we got back to our countries, farms, homes.



ABOVE: Nuffield International scholars sponsored by Nuveen Natural Capital include George Mailat from Romania and Mariella Ramirez from Chile.

#### NI Strategy and Governance:

- Board and Country Executive Strategy Day:
  On the day before the CSC all 10 country executives and five NI country representatives met in person with the NI board. Facilitated by a New Zealand partner, the day focused on reflection, brainstorming and long-term planning, balancing ambition with available resources.
- Jim Geltch award for Best Report:

  The inaugural award was presented at the 2025
  CSC in Auckland to recognised outstanding scholar reports published in 2024. The judges were Jim Geltch, Chris Graf Grote (NI Chair) and Ed Kee (immediate past chair of Nuffield USA) The judging criteria (keeping in mind different report lengths, formats, and criteria for different scholars' final deliverables) were:
  - 1. Impact and wider potential.
  - 2. Knowledge and consideration of the subject.
  - 3. Structure and readability.

Winner: Elisa Blanco, Chile (2021 Nuffield International).

Honorable mentions: Lucy Collins, (2021 Australia) and Ruth McCabe, (2022 USA).

#### 2025 new projects:

- Emerging Ag project in Africa: In partnership with Emerging Ag led by Robynne Anderson, NI has secured an MoU with FAO that will lead to greater visibility for NI and credibility in the global food and ag policy space.
- Global Pathfinders Initiative: A pilot was run in September 2025 modelled on the UK's Next Gen project.
- John Innes Foundation Scholarship: Will be awarded in 2026 to a scientist from the Norwich Research Institute who is a non-resident of UK.

#### **Looking ahead**

A busy travel period to Europe in November 2025 saw us attending Agritechnica with Nuffield Germany and awarding the 2026 German scholar, attending both the Irish and UK conferences, conducting interviews in Poland for 2026 and visiting the fledgling Danish Nuffield group.

Nuffield International has awarded 12 scholars for 2026, further enriching the global program including the first scholars from Taiwan and Zambia. Several African countries will send delegates to the CSC as the first component of the NI Africa Project.

## Appreciation for Jodie Redcliffe.

Jodie Redcliffe became CEO of Nuffield Australia in February 2020, having been interim CEO since March 2019 before that. Her tenure as CEO ended in September 2025. Here are some tributes from scholars in their own words.

"Jodie and Wayne are the epitome of a true partnership and Nuffield Australia thanks them both for the energy, enthusiasm and commitment they have brought to the management of Nuffield. We look forward to continuing to engage with Jodie in her new role as CEO of Nuffield International.

The staff, Board and Nuffield Australia Scholars network says thank you Jodie for your service to Nuffield Australia and the contribution you have made to the organisation and network."

#### Jane Bennett (2014 Scholar and NA Chair)

"I extend my deepest gratitude to Jodie, whose leadership and unwavering spirit is deeply valued by Nuffield Australia members. With energy, positivity, and genuine care for every scholar, she instils a foundational confidence that continues to shape our community. Her ability to achieve so much, and to do it so well, sets a standard that is hard to match. Steering us through the uncertainty of COVID and the long road of recovery, she



RIGHT: Jodie Redcliffe and Tessa Dimond earlier this year at Parliament House in Canberra.

never wavered in her commitment to the organisation and its people. Under her leadership, Nuffield did not just function — it felt like family. That rare and precious sense of bonding was invaluable, reminding us that true wealth is measured in relationships and shared purpose. By that precious measure, we are all immeasurably richer because of Jodie and Wayne, whose contributions are deeply valued, will never be forgotten, and continue to inspire us all."

Fritz Bolten (2021 scholar)

"The contribution of Jodie Redcliffe to Nuffield Australia has been an important part of the tapestry that is modern Australian Agriculture. Supported by her husband Wayne, Jodie capably accepted the leadership mantle from former NA CEO's, Jim Geltch and Jodie Dean. Jodie led the organisation with such compassion and kindness.

Scholars (past and current), each have fond and deep memories of Jodie's leadership. Her ability to navigate an international educational travel program — during the Covid pandemic — will never be forgotten. She has now succeeded to lead Nuffield International globally. The world of agriculture is set for a wonderful journey with Jodie at the helm.

Thank you, Jodie. Your contributions, at all levels, have been life changing."

#### Claire Booth (2017 scholar)

"Jodie has been an incredible leader and a constant supporter. She was the one who encouraged me to apply for the scholarship and supported me all the way through it. Her impact on the Nuffield network cannot be overstated. Nuffield is all about its people, and she led with grace, manners, enthusiasm, generosity and positivity."

Catherine Marriott OAM (2024 scholar)

"I had the privilege of serving on the state selection panel when Jodie Redcliffe applied from the chicken industry. From the outset, Jodie presented as confident, balanced, and quietly determined. Her selection was not without its challenges, but she ultimately earned the State Viertel Charitable Foundation Scholarship — a decision that proved to be profoundly significant. None of us on the panel fully understood the depth of potential she carried at that time. I vividly recall, at the completion of her scholarship, seeing Jodie and Wayne hand Jim Geltch a handwritten Japan Global Focus itinerary. It was in that moment I realised the true extent of their drive, initiative and vision.

Jodie later transitioned into the role of CEO, representing both Nuffield Australia and Nuffield International. Together with Wayne, she built connections and established networks across the globe with a professionalism and warmth that became their hallmark. In my view, Jodie became one of the most influential women in Nuffield, and her impact continues to resonate across the organisation. Both she and Wayne also became valued personal friends, and their contribution — individually and together — remains deeply appreciated."

Michael McKellar (2004 scholar)

#### APPRECIATION FOR JODIE REDCLIFFE

"Jodie is an exemplary Australian Nuffield Scholar and one I really look up to. Jodie established the Japan GFP from scratch and created a much-valued network of incredible people and farmers in that region which will have an everlasting impact on Nuffield Australia and Nuffield International. Jodie and Wayne have hosted multiple travelling Nuffield scholars, and their home is always full of people learning more about Australian agriculture. I am so delighted that Jodie is now working with Nuffield International as her experience and breadth of knowledge can now be fully utilized to take this organisation to the next level. Thank you, Jodie, for all you have done for Nuffield Australia, it is truly appreciated by us all!"

#### Nicky Mann (2014 scholar)

"Jodie: always calm, receptive, light-hearted and relentlessly working to make every experience for each of the scholars the best it could be.

From the start Jodie was up against it, initially stepping in as an interim CEO to then take on the role permanently as Covid 19 captured the globe. As an organisation that handles people, logistics and international travel what could be more disruptive? Jodie's innate ability to lead with calm agility was exceptional. She seemingly took each challenge in her stride. Always calm with decisive communication, making the most of the situation by transitioning forums and conferences online. This maintained the international connection whilst most of us were bound to our farm gates.

On a personal note, I'm grateful for Jodie's proficient Japanese linguistics and ongoing willingness to support all scholars even post scholarship completion. Together with her partner Wayne-O they've done an incredible job of being leaders for Nuffield through both Covid and into the following years. Thank you, Jodie and Wayne-O, for your relentless efforts, professionalism, and friendship."

#### Johnny Gardner (2020 scholar)

"As a scholar, and like previous scholar CEO's, Jodie brought so much to Nuffield Australia. Her engagement with the alumni, new scholars and sponsors shared and spread the spirit of what it means to be a Nuffield. She was a fantastic advocate and ambassador for Nuffield Australia and unlike any other CEO she came with her own secret weapon — Wayne. What a dynamic team."

#### Emma Leonard (1993 scholar)

"Being selected as a Nuffield Scholar is an exceptional privilege. The opportunity offered is two-fold: access to a highly desirable global travel experience and, more significantly, entry into a welcoming community of likeminded individuals, many of whom become lifelong friends. How fortunate I am to have encountered Jodie (and Wayne!), who provided an unparalleled visit as GFP Japan hosts and whom I hold dear as the firmest of friends."

#### Toby Bekkers (2017 scholar)



## Nuffield Australia board update.

The board of Nuffield Australia has made substantial progress in matters relating to governance during 2025 and this is largely due to the work of the board committees.

#### **Conference Committee 2025**

By Kara Knudsen (2013 Scholar)

The Conference Committee is a committed group that guides the strategic direction of the National Conference, one of Nuffield Australia's most important annual events. It assists State Committees in preparing for the conference each year and provides guidance to the management team.

The National Conference held in Adelaide in September was a great success with an outstanding venue, terrific presentations from the scholar cohort and a wonderful regional tour that provided many excellent stops. Those that were present will long remember the three 1975 scholars tasting 1975 port in a Barossa cellar! Our thanks to the South Australian scholars for their hospitality, not least for the outstanding local produce that made the Awards Dinner on Monday night so memorable.

Strategic Visioning — This year we have initiated long-term planning for future conferences including Darwin 2026, and Victoria 2027. This includes venue scouting, sponsorship strategy and program innovation. Planning for the NT-hosted conference in Darwin is well underway and we look forward to delivering on an exciting conference week, while maintaining our Nuffield Values.

**Collaboration with State Committees** — Coordination with the host state committees is important, but we welcome any Alumni that have interest or experience in conference or event management.

We are excited to see everyone in Darwin in 2026, celebrating newly awarded scholars and congratulating presenting scholars on their achievement.

#### **Finance Committee 2025**

By Guy Hebblewhite (2013 Scholar)

Over the past year, the Finance, Audit, Investment & Risk Committee (FAIR) has continued to play an essential role in safeguarding the financial health, stability, and long-term sustainability of Nuffield. While much of its work happens quietly in the background, the committee's contribution is foundational, helping to ensure that every program, event, scholarship, and alumni initiative is delivered with transparency, care, and responsible governance. Throughout the year, the committee remained focused on strengthening systems, refining processes, and planning strategically to meet the needs of both current alumni and future generations of scholars and investors.

The year began with a comprehensive review and redevelopment of the organisation's annual budget. This new format introduced clearer "event-level" cost tracking, giving the organisation more visibility across all activities. Funds were purposefully directed toward areas that create the greatest impact—such as the CSC, GFPs, post-scholarship capacity-building programs, conferences and state events, and organisational development while maintaining a disciplined approach to cost management. By setting clear financial parameters and identifying priority investment areas, including the Nuffield rebrand, the committee helped establish a strong, confident roadmap for the year ahead.

Beyond day-to-day financial governance, the committee also completed a full tender process for management of the Public Fund's investment portfolio. Perpetual was appointed and now provides long-term investment management, supported by the newly developed Nuffield Investment Policy Statement. This framework guides the review of investment performance, future modelling, and asset allocation to ensure Nuffield's long-term ambitions are backed by sustainable and forward-looking financial strategies.

The committee also reviewed the annual financial statements and audit report for Board approval, addressing any issues with management and ensuring the independence and effectiveness of the audit function.

This year's achievements reflect the dedication, professionalism, and foresight of every FAIR Committee member. Their contributions ensure that the organisation can confidently pursue its mission, support its members, and invest in the next generation of scholars.



#### People, Culture and Care Committee 2025

By Nigel Corish (2014 Scholar)

This committee has an important role in overseeing the people and culture at Nuffield Australia. The role of the PCCC is broadly broken down into three areas, board performance and composition, CEO and management performance, governance and HR policies.

The committee undertakes and reviews an annual board performance survey and skills matrix to identify any skill gaps that the board may have. The committee reviews the composition and succession plan for the board and determines the key skills and experiences sought for a new director on the board. The committee is responsible for the appointment of new directors including, calling for nominations, interviews and recommendations to the board. The result of this process saw Andy Clarke join the board, and Don Madden renominated at the September AGM, I would like to congratulate Andy and Don on their election.

The PCCC also oversees the CEO and management performance, including remuneration and benefits, reviewing the CEO succession, review and recommending the CEO's KPI's for the upcoming year. I would like to thank Jodie for her time as CEO

and wish her all the best as the Nuffield
International CEO. I would like to thank Tessa and
Carol for their hard work and dedication to Nuffield Australia over
the last twelve months. The board has engaged Pacific Search
Partners to run a recruitment process for the new CEO.

Overseeing and reviewing the scholar and HR polices of Nuffield Australia is another important role for the PCCC. This includes the scholar agreement, code of conduct, scholar membership to Nuffield Australia, complaints and incident register. These polices ensure the safety and well-being of our scholars as they travel around the world. The PCCC has put a lot of time and resources into making sure that the scholar and HR policies are fit for purpose and enable the scholars safely complete their scholarship requirements.

I would like to thank my fellow committee members including Jane, Donald and Johanna for the time and dedication they have put towards the PCCC this year.

#### **Programs Committee 2025**

By Don Madden (2010 Scholar)

As Chair of the Programs Committee, I reflect on the outstanding work done by all involved. Our staff, Tessa and Carol, have tirelessly pursued the delivery of an outstanding program that remains uniquely Australian in its design and format.

Our committee consists of myself as chair, and six returned scholars from the previous three years who have completed their required obligations as Nuffield scholars.

As a committee of review and advice to the board we have responsibilities that are performed during the year.

- Review of scholar feedback from the CSC. While the organising of this conference belongs to the host country and Nuffield International, we need to look for ways to prepare our new scholars for this experience.
- Review the group reports for each region visited by each of the GFP travel groups. We need to ensure our scholars are learning with the right mindset of inquiry and insight.
- Review scholar feedback from each of the GFP travel groups to identify recommendations for change of itineraries. While we strive to give our scholars the best experience possible, it is important to reflect upon the reliance of the good will and generous volunteering of hosts throughout the world and in Australia. We are not a travel company, and it is often in the imperfect gaps

that our scholars get to experience adaptation, resilience and leadership on their journey.

- Review progress of scholar reports and identify scholars falling behind in scholarship completion obligations and recommend support options.
- Review the progress of the report editing team to determine if reports are released in a timely manner.

  Tess and her wonderful team of volunteers have worked through many circumstances and excuses to get scholars to produce their reports. Our committee is prioritizing a renewed focus on our scholar's personal travel and report writing as a critical part of their Nuffield achievement and obligation to their sponsors.
- Review and award post-scholarship opportunities. Nuffield Australia's culture of continuous learning is extended by further opportunities after completion of the scholarship. This year we will be sending scholars to TEPAP Texas, FAO Council for Food Security Rome, and the Australian Institute of Company Directors Course. Also initiated this year is the calling for expressions of interest for our alumni to host legs of the GFP programs in locations that we wish to develop. This is a rewarding opportunity to explore, lead and engage with new scholars.

#### **State Chairs Committee 2025**

By Johanna Tomlinson (2019 Scholar)

The State Chairs Committee provides the essential grassroots link between state committees and the Nuffield Australia Board, providing advice to the Board and playing a central role in scholar selection.

The 2025 Committee comprised the Chairs and Vice Chairs from each state, together with myself as Chair. I acknowledge and thank the 2025 Committee: Tim Napier and Robin Tait (Tasmania), Damian Murphy and Daniel Meade (Victoria), Stuart Tait and Martin Gransden (NSW), Miriam Villen King and Sonya Comiskey (Queensland), Dan Richards (NT), James Stacey and Sarah Keough (SA), and Kathryn Fleay and James Dempster (WA). Special thanks to outgoing members Andrew Watson (NSW) and William Harrington (Queensland) for their services.

The State committees are the glue of the Nuffield community: they cultivate alumni connections, champion prospective scholars, and deliver the first critical stage of applicant assessment, as well as supporting investor relations. Their volunteer contribution sustains Nuffield's purpose to advance sustainable and profitable primary production through

outstanding scholarship experiences. In 2025, while the selection process was our priority, we also began early reforms to the Mentoring Program to strengthen post-scholarship impact and networks — work which will progress with the support of the Programs Committee and management in 2026.

Having served on the WA committee previously and worked closely with State Chairs this year, I deeply appreciate the time, expertise, and energy our volunteers invest in the Nuffield network. Their commitment is directly responsible for the high calibre of our scholars and the ongoing influence those scholars have across Australian agriculture.

Nuffield Australia is grateful to all Scholars who so generously shared stories and photos for this publication. It is in the sharing that we all benefit.



## Vale.

#### **Remembering Nuffield Scholars**

Sadly, we note the passing of four Nuffield Scholars from our Australian ranks this year to date.

#### Ian Farquhar (1973 Scholar)

Ian passed away on 20 April after a short illness. A horticulturist from Tasmania and one of nature's true gentlemen, Ian worked closely with the University of Tasmania and Dept. of Agriculture to pioneer the essential oils industry. He was also passionate about agricultural education and served for 16 years on the Board of the Tasmanian Board of Agricultural Education.

lan's commitment to Nuffield was lifelong. Along with his wife, Diane, he attended every Nuffield National Conference and Triennial that they could. Many scholars will have happy memories of meeting up with the Farquhars every year at Conference and we were delighted that Diane was present at the recent Adelaide Conference in September.



ABOVE (from L-R): Anne Box, Diane Farquhar, Ian Farquhar, Jackie Morrison and Bernadette Mortensen at National Conference in Launceston, 2024.

#### Paul Adam (2011 Scholar)

Paul of Tottenham, NSW was tragically killed in a light aircraft accident on 16 June 2025.

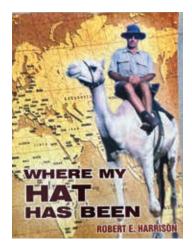
Paul's scholarship focused on machinery cost efficiencies, including machinery requirements, fuel efficiency, hectares to hour of operation, and the minimum amount of capital outlay needed to operate a broadacre no-till farm business. He was a well-respected farmer in his district, operating a number of properties along with his wife Meggan and their children.

#### Robert Harrison (1965 Scholar)

Robert passed away peacefully in his sleep on 29 September, near Brisbane, QLD. Robert was a stalwart of the Queensland alumni for many years, one of the 'unsung heroes' who did so much to put Nuffield Australia on a firm footing after the Nuffield Foundation in the UK announced in 1973 that they would no longer be in a position to finance Australian Nuffield Scholars and that henceforth Australia would have to pay for Australian scholarships with their own resources.

Robert served for more 15 years on the Investment Committee of Nuffield Australia and his expertise ensured that the Public Fund (formerly known as the Harry Fund) significantly increased in value during this time.

Robert is known for writing a book about his Nuffield and FAO travels with the title of *Where My Hat Has Been*.



#### Ben West (2003 Scholar)

Ben died tragically on 1 November because of a vehicle accident near his home at Ungarie, NSW. Ben was a grain and sheep farmer whose study involved continuous cropping in marginal rainfall areas for sustainable farming systems.

Ben is remembered by David Drage (2009 Scholar) who wrote:

"It was with quite some sadness I read of the passing of Ben West. I only met Ben twice, but it was the first of those meetings, just after he returned from his Nuffield travels, that convinced me that I could one day make the dream of being a scholar a reality. It took me another four years to apply but the rest is history.

My only other meeting with him was about ten years later when I met him at a Nuffield event in NSW. He had a slightly confused look on his face when he first saw me but quickly remembered our first meeting. Discussion continued about how that first meeting led to us both being scholars. Ben will be greatly missed by friends, family and the community, but there will be others like me scattered around the globe who will remember him through his influence as a scholar."

## 2026 Nuffield Australia National Conference

Gather in the Northern Territory to discover the opportunities waiting on agriculture's horizon.

#### 8-10 September 2026

Darwin Convention Centre Darwin, Northern Territory

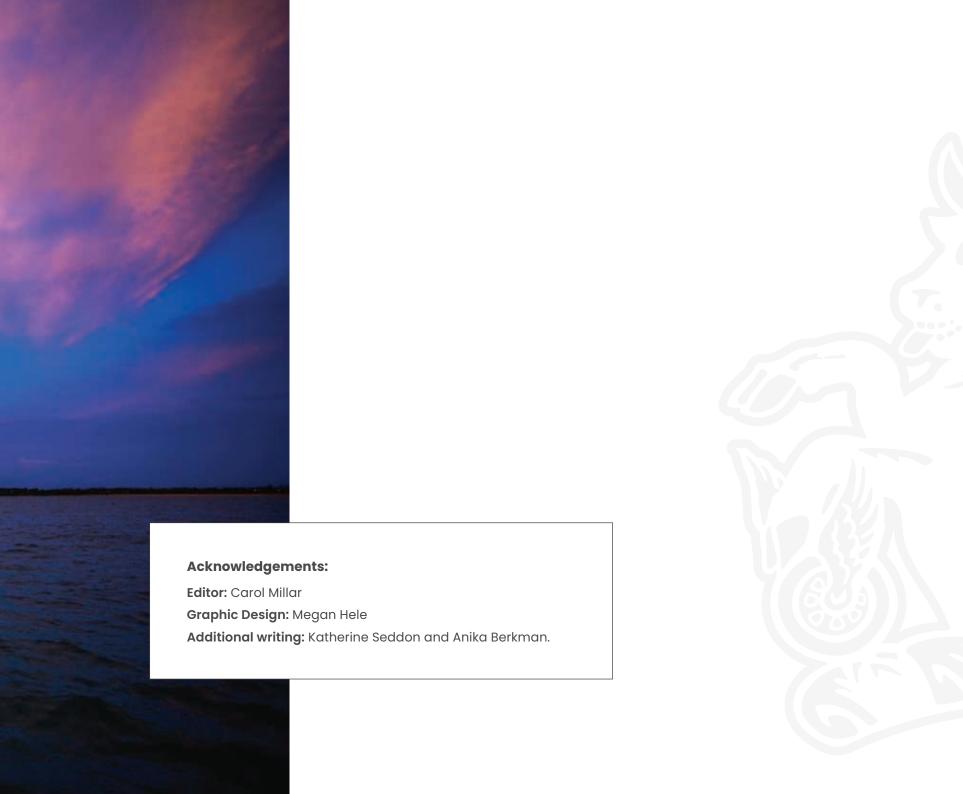












CULTIVATING LEADERS, DRIVING CHANGE