

# NUFFIELD AUSTRALIA

Acknowledges with thanks the support of the following for their 2009 Scholars:



Grains  
Research &  
Development  
Corporation



Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Forestry



Rabobank



GARDINER FOUNDATION



KONDININ  
GROUP



MEAT & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA



RURAL FINANCE  
Let's talk



MACQUARIE



Home grown Service



SIDNEY MYER FUND

Estates of the late  
RC & EC Cappur Webb



2008 AWARDS DINNER  
FRIDAY 10th OCTOBER 2008

At the  
Boardwalk Gallery,  
Wrest Pont Casino, Hobart, Tasmania





## **Thomas Frankcomb**

'Glenhouse', 138 Glen Road,  
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Thomas Frankcomb from Ranelagh, Tasmania, receives the 2009 scholarship supported by Impact Fertiliser. He will study opportunities to minimise chemical use in the production of hops, and potential markets among boutique brewers.

Thomas runs an apple and cherry orchard as a family business in partnerships with his wife Ruth. They grow 72ha of apples and 8ha of cherries in the Huon Valley and operate contract storage and packing facilities for both apples and cherries, employing up to 150 people at peak times.

With hop production facilities currently unused on their property, Thomas plans to visit the USA, England and Germany to investigate new dwarf hops varieties and the latest production systems, including trellis systems that allow hops to be harvested with berry fruit harvesters.

## **2008 Nuffield Australia**

### **AWARDS DINNER**

**FRIDAY 10th OCTOBER 2008**

#### **Program**

**6:30 pm Pre dinner drinks**

**7:15 pm Entrée Served**

**Introduction by Richard Gardiner, 2003 Nuffield Scholar**

**Formal Welcome by David Brownhill, Chairman, Nuffield Australia**

**Presentation to Pre-1966 Scholars by**

**Brendon Smart 1990 Nuffield Scholar**

**8:00 pm Main Course**

**Keynote Speaker: Caroline Bignell**

*Language, Larrikins & Lavatory Talk in Rural Tasmania!*

Caroline Bignell hails from picturesque Bream Creek in South East Tasmania, where she is a wife, a mother of three and secretary at her family's dairy farm. She is busily involved in the community, teaching at the nearby school, directing, acting and singing in many local productions and is President of the Bream Creek Show. Caroline loves a chat and will travel any distance for a social event!

**Presentation of the 2009 Nuffield Australia Scholarships by**

**David Brownhill, Chairman, Nuffield Australia**

**9:30 pm Dessert**



### **Mission Statement**

Nuffield Australia promotes excellence in all aspects of Australian agricultural production, distribution and management through the adoption of local and international best practice and the continuous development of a unique network of industry leaders and innovators.

### **Benjamin Morris**

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Benjamin Morris from Toongabbie, Victoria, receives the 2009 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the Rural Finance Corporation. Ben will study methods for improving soils to produce higher yielding crops.

Ben manages farming operations across 540ha, including his own property, some leased and some share-farmed land in central Gippsland, producing canola, winter cereals and legumes, and running a Border Leicester-Merino-cross flock to produce export quality prime lambs. Crops are grown using direct-drilled and controlled-traffic techniques.

Ben plans to visit Europe, the United Kingdom and the USA to study the qualities of soils producing higher yielding crops and identify techniques Australian farmers can use to emulate these qualities.

## David Drage

RMB1177

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David Drage of Warracknabeal, Victoria, receives the 2009 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the Estates of the late RC & EC Cappur Webb. David will study the opportunities and challenges that emissions trading presents to broadacre farmers.

David manages a 1300ha family-owned dryland property and share-farms another 400ha property in the Warracknabeal area, assisted by his father and brother. He grows winter cereals and legumes and runs a small flock of Merino ewes for wool and prime lamb production with 10 per cent of the property set aside to maintain and enhance stands of remnant native vegetation.

With plans to travel to the USA, Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom and New Zealand in 2009, David will investigate how farmers in other countries have been affected by and responded to the development of emissions trading schemes in these countries.



## NUFFIELD LOGO - KEEPING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

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

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

A Grant of Arms followed and it was Lord Nuffield's decision that the crest of his Coat of Arms should be adopted by the Nuffield Foundation, and later the Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust. In heraldic terms the crest is described as being "on a Wreath Or and Gules a demi Bull Gules armed and unguled Or resting the sinister hoof on a Winged Wheel Gold". In less pedantic parlance the bull in the crest is taken from the Arms of the City of Oxford, and the wheel which it holds represents the motor industry in which this remarkable man left his footprint in history, and bestowed upon us such a legacy of philanthropy.

By Caroline Nixon

## Scholarships to be Awarded

A **grain grower** in Northern NSW or QLD, supported by the  
**Grains Research and Development Corporation**

A **grain grower** in Southern NSW, Vic, SA or Tas, supported by the  
**Grains Research and Development Corporation**

A **grain grower** in WA, supported by the  
**Grains Research and Development Corporation**

An **aquaculture and/or fish producer** anywhere in Australia, supported by the  
**Fisheries Research and Development Corporation**

A **livestock producer** anywhere in Australia, supported by  
**Meat & Livestock Australia**

A **woolgrower** anywhere in Australia, supported by **Australian Wool Innovation**

A **primary producer** anywhere in Australia, supported by **Rabobank**

A **mixed grain and livestock producer** anywhere in Australia, supported by  
**Landmark**

A **grain grower** anywhere in Australia, supported by the  
**Grain Growers Association**

A **primary producer** anywhere in Australia, supported by the **Kondinin Group**

A **primary producer** anywhere in Australia, supported by  
**Macquarie Agricultural Services.**

A **primary producer** anywhere in Australia, supported by the **Sidney Myer Fund**

A **dairy farmer** in Victoria, supported by the  
**Geoffrey Gardiner Dairy Foundation**

A **mixed farmer or livestock producer** in Victoria, supported by the  
**Estates of the late RC & EC Cappur Webb**

A **primary producer** in Victoria, supported by the **Rural Finance Corporation**

A **primary producer** in Tasmania, supported by **Impact Fertiliser**

## Paul Mumford

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South Gippsland dairy farmer Paul Mumford, of Won Wron, receives the 2009 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the Geoffrey Gardiner Dairy Foundation. Paul will study the costs and benefits of different dairy farming systems.

Paul and his wife Lisa operate a dairy farm on their 800ha dryland property near Yarram in southern Gippsland. They milk year-round, with split calving, and their herd peaks at 450 head in October.

The Mumfords' dairy system is pasture-based and Paul plans to study other systems in the USA, New Zealand and South America, including ration feeding of dairy cattle, to evaluate the potential for more consistent milk production.

## Jennifer Hawkins

'Springfield'  
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Jennifer Hawkins from Finley, NSW, receives the 2009 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the Sidney Myer Fund. Jennifer will study emissions trading and methods for calculating greenhouse gas emissions and storage on-farm.

She and her husband John operate a 960ha mixed irrigation enterprise in the Southern Riverina, which includes rice, canola, winter cereals, feedlot beef cattle and prime lamb production.

Jennifer plans to visit Canada, the USA and China to investigate recording and compliance methods farmers can use to measure their greenhouse gas emissions and farm management options to reduce emissions or improve carbon sequestration.

## James Hassall

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James Hassall from Gilgandra receives the 2009 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the Grains Research and Development Corporation for growers in the northern grains region. He will study the role of precision agriculture (PA) in the future of farming and the new technologies being developed to enhance PA.

James is manager of his family's farming operations in the Bearbung Valley, in central NSW, cropping 2000ha with winter cereals and legumes, using no-till and precision agriculture techniques. He also runs a small prime lamb enterprise.

He plans to visit the USA and China to investigate emerging PA technologies that can be applied in Australia to reduce crop variability, sustainably improve yields and improve the efficient use of water and nutrients within crops.

## Stuart Barden

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Stuart Barden from Gilgandra, NSW, receives the 2009 Nuffield Scholarship, supported by the Grains Research and Development Corporation for growers in the southern grains region.

Stuart will study grain growing in marginal and low rainfall areas with the aim of producing better, and more consistent yields, as well as improving water-use efficiency through micro water harvesting.

Stuart and his wife Annie farm four different properties in central western NSW, growing 12,000ha of winter crops including wheat, barley, chickpeas, field peas and canola. All cropping is dryland, predominantly using no-till and controlled traffic systems.

In 2009, Stuart plans to travel to Israel, Africa, Mexico and Kazakhstan to investigate grain growing in other low rainfall zones, and to identify new or alternative methods of monitoring and improving water-use efficiency in dryland farming systems.

## Bruce Watson

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Bruce Watson from Parkes, NSW, receives the 2009 Nuffield Scholarship supported by Macquarie Agricultural Services. He will study the factors influencing grain prices and long-term price trends as well as reviewing risk management options for growers to better manage price volatility.

Bruce is a director of the family's farm business at Parkes, cropping 3500ha of winter cereals, oilseeds and pulses using no-till and controlled traffic farming techniques. He is responsible for finance, marketing, risk management and agronomy aspects of the business.

Bruce plans to visit grain-exporting countries including those in Europe, USA, Canada, Brazil and Argentina, to investigate their production systems and the flexibility of these systems to respond to changing demand and their grain price structure. He will also visit China, India and South East Asia where demand for grain and meat is increasing.



## Brendon Tierney

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Brendon Tierney from Walebing, Western Australia, will receive the 2009 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the Kondinin Group. He will study the way capital is employed in farm businesses and whether there is a more efficient way to use this capital.

Brendon operates a 1800ha mixed farming enterprise east of Moora in partnership with his father and uncle. Typically a third of the property is cropped to wheat each year, and they run a self-replacing fine wool Merino flock on improved pastures.

Brendon plans to visit the United Kingdom, the USA and Canada to look at how other farm business are structured and how those structures have evolved, including the separation of land ownership and farm management, and equipment co-operatives.

## Leon Ryan

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Leon Ryan from York, Western Australia, receives the 2009 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the Grains Research and Development Corporation for growers in the western grain region. Leon will study factors driving demand for grains and potential product substitutions.

Leon is manager of the family's 3000ha farming operation in the Avon region, producing winter cereals, canola and pulses, and running a 1000 ewe breeding flock. The Ryans are also registered clover seed producers. Cropping is based on minimum-till techniques, and the business is a member of the Greenhouse Challenge Plus Program to better manage on-farm energy use and emissions.

Leon plans to visit China, India, the USA, Canada and Argentina investigating the future demand for staples such as cereals and pulses, the social impact of higher food prices and price flexibility for preferred products — such as durum wheat for pasta.

## Adam Butterworth

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Adam Butterworth from Port Lincoln, South Australia, receives the 2009 scholarship sponsored by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation. He will study the integration of seaweed with commercial mollusc production to provide an on-site food source, complementing artificial feeds.

Adam is the manager of the South Australian Oyster Hatchery Pty Ltd, part of the Australian Southern Seafood group of companies, producing Pacific Oyster spat for the South Australian market.

With plans to develop the hatchery to include either sea urchin or abalone production, Adam will study the commercial culture of seaweed in Israel, the USA, Japan and China, and the potential of seaweed species to provide a food supply for aquaculture, human consumption and to provide biochemical extracts for biotechnology.

## Evan Ryan

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Evan Ryan from Yarrawonga, Victoria, receives the 2009 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the Grain Growers Association. He will study the role of soil micronutrients in improving yields from broadacre cereal and oilseed production.

Evan is co-manager of the family farm business with his parents John and Helene. Their 1000ha property 'Clontarf' includes 400ha of flood and sprinkler irrigation. They use no-till production systems, continuously cropping cereals, oilseeds, pasture and fodder.

He plans to visit Canada, the USA, South America, Europe and Kenya to investigate micronutrient fertilisation regimes to improve plant growth, vigour and yield, and to improve water-use efficiency.

## Cameron Tubby

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Cameron Tubby, from Morawa, Western Australia, will receive the 2009 Nuffield Scholarship supported by Landmark. Cameron will study innovative, sustainable and profitable alternative farming systems suited to Mediterranean and semi-arid climatic zones.

Cameron and his wife Teresa work in a partnership with Cameron's parents and three brothers, farming 7600ha in Western Australia's northeastern wheatbelt. They crop up to 4000ha of cereals and legumes. They also have a commercial flock of 5000 Damara ewes, with a Damara, Dorper and Wiltidam stud being established.

Cameron plans to visit Israel, South Africa and Argentina to investigate farming systems, including alternative crops and livestock, better suited to the low rainfall areas of Western Australia than current Australian farming systems.

## Julie Brien

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Julie Brien from Greenethorpe, NSW, receives the 2009 Nuffield Scholarship supported by Meat & Livestock Australia. She will study how sheep genetics and management strategies can increase lamb production from an existing ewe base.

Julie works as livestock manager in her family's 860ha mixed farm business, southwest of Cowra, running a composite breeding flock of 1000 to 2000 ewes for prime lamb production. She also operates a contract hay baling business with her brother.

In 2009 Julie plans to visit New Zealand, South Africa, USA, Argentina, the Falkland Islands, France and Scotland to research factors that influence multiple births, lamb survival rates and early reproductive maturity.

## David Cussons

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David Cussons from Kojonup, Western Australia, receives the 2009 scholarship supported by Australian Wool Innovation. David will study how agricultural industries can develop modern communication strategies to improve public perceptions of farming and agriculture.

David manages his family’s mixed wool and cropping property in southern WA with his wife Kelly and his parents. The 1000ha property runs 2400 Merino ewes for wool and prime lamb production, with 270ha of winter cereal production.

He will investigate the communication strategies used in response to the agricultural crises of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE or Mad Cow Disease), foot and mouth disease, equine influenza and Australian sheep mulesing practices. David plans to visit the USA, the United Kingdom, Sweden, and Japan to identify common themes in industry responses to these issues, and to develop guidelines for improved communication.

## Robert Bradley

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Robert Bradley from Longford, Tasmania, receives the 2009 scholarship sponsored by Rabobank. Robert will study how to better manage crop, pasture and livestock rotations to improve farm profitability and sustainability.

He and his wife Jo farm four properties south of Launceston, with Jo’s brothers, under a company structure. They have 1000 hectares irrigated under centre pivots and more than 2000ha of dryland crops and improved pasture.

Their diverse enterprise includes dryland wheat, barley and canola, and irrigated onions, poppies, wheat, lucerne, and processing peas and beans. They also have a 400-head dairy herd, and almost 3000 crossbred ewes for prime lamb production.

In 2009 Robert plans to visit New Zealand, England, the USA and northern Europe, investigating different pasture species, cultivation and management techniques plus crop options to improve soil and productivity in pasture-crop rotations.