



NUFFIELD AUSTRALIA NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2017 'NEW HORIZONS'

2018
SCHOLAR
PRESENTATIONS
AND AWARDS
DINNER

19–21 SEPTEMBER 2017
DARWIN CONVENTION CENTRE

NUFFIELD'S FLAGSHIP EVENT FOR SCHOLARS, INVESTORS AND THE BROADER INDUSTRY

www.nuffield.com.au

WE THANK OUR 2018 SCHOLARSHIP INVESTORS:





Awards Dinner Program

TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2017

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER
6.15pm	Pre-dinner drinks	
7.00pm	Seating of guests	Richard Heath, 2003 Nuffield Scholar and Master of Ceremonies
7.10pm	Welcome	Andrew Fowler, 2000 Scholar and Nuffield Australia Chairman
7.15pm	Presentations to Nuffield Scholars	Andrew Fowler, 2000 Scholar and Nuffield Australia Chairman
7.20pm	Entrée served	
7.40pm	George Wilson Oration	To be delivered by Donald McGauchie, AO
8.05pm	Main course served	
8.30pm	Presentation of 2018 Scholarships	Richard Heath, 2003 Nuffield Scholar and Master of Ceremonies
9.15pm	Dessert served	
9.30pm	Presentation of 2018 Scholarships	Richard Heath, 2003 Nuffield Scholar and Master of Ceremonies
10.15pm	Closing remarks	Andrew Fowler, 2000 Scholar and Nuffield Australia Chairman
10.30 – 10.45pm	Guests depart the venue	

George Wilson A NUFFIELD ACHIEVER

George Wilson was the Australian Nuffield Farming Scholars Association founding chairman when the organisation was formed in 1976. He served in the role for 16 years, creating a lasting legacy for agriculture in Australia.

After serving in the A.I.F. from 1942 to 1945, Mr Wilson returned home to the family property in Berwick, Victoria. In 1951 he was awarded a Nuffield Scholarship to study beef and general farming and, with fellow Nuffield recipient Pat Meredith, he travelled by boat to England in 1952. On arriving in England, the two Australian Scholars were given bicycles so they could travel the countryside on their study tour. Australia continued to send two Scholars per year, rotating around the six states, for the next 20-plus years, funded by the United Kingdom by the Nuffield Foundation.

When Robert Beggs returned from his scholarship in 1970, he spoke with Mr Wilson and Carl Foster about forming some sort of Nuffield organisation in Australia to look after visiting Scholars from other countries.

The Australian Nuffield Farming Scholars Association was subsequently formed, with Australian Scholars each contributing \$150 to set it up. This forward thinking meant that in 1976, when representatives from the UK Nuffield Foundation came out to Australia to inform the Australian Nuffield alumni there would be no further recurrent funding from the foundation to support the scholarship, Australia was well placed to continue the program.

The foundation generously gifted £7,000 to the Australian Nuffield Farming Scholars Association as a start-up fund for a locally administered organisation. From this Mr Wilson started the Nuffield Australian Fund, and during his time as chair there were a number of major benchmarks including:

- The first Nuffield International Conference in Victoria in 1980
- The fostering of the talents of another Nuffield lion, Harry Perkins, AO.

As with most Nuffield Scholars, Mr Wilson recognised that Nuffield changed his life and he wanted other Australian farmers to share his experience. He had terrific business and agricultural connections and used them for the everlasting benefit of Nuffield. It included those contacts Mr Wilson made during his own scholarship, such as Peter Jones and Emrys Jones. Peter became the head of the British equivalent of the Department of Primary Industry and Emrys [later Sir Emrys] headed the highly regarded Welsh Plant Breeding University at Aberystwyth. Mr Wilson had a loyal group of essentially Victorian Nuffield Scholars, who helped him “run the show”.

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His wife, Faye Wilson, supported Mr Wilson and Nuffield all the way, helping Scholars and their partners in day-to-day problems as well as supporting Mr Wilson in his endeavours on behalf of Nuffield, even while he ducked off to the UK, twice at his own expense, chasing his dream of the Australian Nuffield Farming Scholars Association.

Mr Wilson loved a good time — in 1988 when NSW organised the annual meeting of the association, they asked Mr Wilson what he wanted to see. He answered “I want to see good agriculture and I want a drink in our hands at 5.30”.

Mr Wilson had many achievements in his lifetime:

- Chairman of the Victorian Inland Meat Authority
- President of Victorian Royal Agricultural Society
- Council Member of Monash University
- Member of the Victorian Economic Development Corporation
- Honoured as a Commander of St Michael and St George.

Ian Macintosh took over the Nuffield chairman’s role from Mr Wilson for six years and was followed by Harry Perkins — who had been encouraged into the job by Mr Wilson and Ron Baillieu. Mr Perkins realised that Nuffield needed to change to be relevant to the times and he initiated the Miller & Inall External Review of Nuffield. This review became the catalyst for Nuffield as we know it today, and although Mr Wilson was not initially comfortable with the direction the review suggested, he had made peace with the changes before his death in 2003 at the age of 85.

In the past 15 years there has been a considerable expansion of the Nuffield program in Australia, and this could not have happened without the foundations laid by Mr Wilson. He led the way in serving this association at no cost to the group; an ethic that many Nuffield Scholars have followed.

The Board of (the now) Nuffield Australia have implemented the perpetual George Wilson Oration to mark Mr Wilson’s contribution to all our lives.

The ninth George Wilson Oration will be delivered by Donald McGauchie, AO.

GUEST SPEAKER

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Donald McGauchie AO

Donald McGauchie was appointed to the Nuffield Board in 2013 as a special skills external Director.

Mr McGauchie is Chairman of Nufarm Limited, Chairman of Australian Agricultural Co. Ltd (AACo), Chairman of the Australian Wool Testing Authority (AWTA) and a Director of GrainCorp Limited. His previous roles with public companies include Chairman of Telstra Corporation Limited, Deputy Chairman of Ridley Corporation Limited,

Director of National Foods Limited, Chairman of Woolstock, Chairman of the Victorian Rural Finance Corporation (statutory corporation), and also President of the National Farmers' Federation.

During 2011, Mr McGauchie retired as a member of the Reserve Bank Board. In 2001, he was named the Rabobank Agribusiness Leader of the Year, and was later awarded the Centenary Medal for services to Australian society through agriculture and business. In 2004, Mr McGauchie was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia.



2018 SCHOLARS

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Boyd Carter WESTERN AUSTRALIA



PHONE: 0429 643 020 **EMAIL:** boydfarming@live.com.au

Boyd Carter from Wubin, Western Australia, receives a scholarship supported by the **Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC)**.

Boyd's area of study will focus on the 'robotic revolution' and what growers can do to prepare for increased autonomous technology on-farm. He also aims to write a 'how-to' manual to help farmers incorporate this technology into their management practices. Boyd believes the only way to keep up with increased Asian demand for food production is to maximise outputs and adopting new technologies will help achieve this.

Boyd co-manages 12,000 hectares of owned and leased land in the eastern central wheatbelt of WA which operates as a grain and sheep enterprise. The property comprises 9700ha cropping with a flock of 3000-4000 Merino and crossbred sheep.

With such large-scale broadacre cropping, Boyd aims to apply the findings of his research into robotic technology to his own business.

"I'm working towards preserving the image of the farming industry as a constantly improving enterprise by keeping up with technology. I believe creating a guide for farmers on how to transition to robotic technology will help to keep Australian agriculture ahead of the curve," he said.

During his study, Boyd will research other industries' technology to see if it can be applied to agriculture. He hopes to travel to Canada, North America, Japan, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands to see homemade driverless tractors, visit machinery companies and machinery hubs, and to investigate the environmental and social impacts of robotic technology.

SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

The Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) is one of the world's leading grains research organisations responsible for planning, investing in and overseeing RD&E to deliver improvements in production, sustainability and profitability across the Australian grains industry.

WEBSITE: grdc.com.au **FACEBOOK:** @theGRDC **TWITTER:** @theGRDC

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Dylan Hirsch WESTERN AUSTRALIA



PHONE: 0408 790 816 **EMAIL:** dylanhirsch@gmail.com

Dylan Hirsch from Latham, Western Australia, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by the **Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC)**.

Dylan will study Financial Risk Management systems in variable climates, including Multi-Peril Crop Insurance (MPCI). As MPCI is relatively new in Australia, Dylan aims to compare it to other systems of financial risk management including weather derivatives, index insurance products and diversifying locations of cropping areas.

He hopes that the development of such products may reduce financial risk in low rainfall areas, and therefore open up capital required to invest in agronomic improvements and to increase production.

Dylan operates a broadacre cropping enterprise with 6180 hectares of wheat, canola, barley and lupins in a variety of soil types. His operation was one of the first in WA to incorporate MCPI into its management plan and his study aims to look at other business strategies which may complement the use of MCPI. He also hopes to demonstrate how wider adoption of financial risk products can lead to a range of benefits across the agricultural sector.

“Using MCPI could potentially stabilise land prices, reduce the financial risk of businesses and the banks that back them, thereby reducing overall financial costs and enabling better, more efficient businesses,” Dylan said.

“This then has potential to improve efficiency and production rates and could also have the benefit of reducing stress over unpredictable events such as frost or drought.”

Dylan plans to visit North America, Canada, India and Europe to research both government subsidised and private insurance products, as well as South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales to examine how farmers use MCPI in their enterprises.



SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

The Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) is one of the world's leading grains research organisations responsible for planning, investing in and overseeing RD&E to deliver improvements in production, sustainability and profitability across the Australian grains industry.

WEBSITE: grdc.com.au **FACEBOOK:** @theGRDC **TWITTER:** @theGRDC

Stuart McDonald NEW SOUTH WALES



PHONE: 0427 640 200 **EMAIL:** stuartmc1@bigpond.com

Stuart McDonald from Canowindra, New South Wales, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by the **Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC)**.

Stuart will research how continuous grain cropping with the aid of livestock can be sustained in a high rainfall environment and chose this topic as there has been little research done on continuous cropping in his local area. He believes utilising winter grazing crops for livestock feed can enhance soil mineral and nitrogen uptake in subsequent crops.

Stuart operates a 1363 hectare sheep, cattle and cropping enterprise, north of Canowindra, NSW. The property comprises 1050 hectares of cropping made up of mainly wheat and canola as well as lupins, chickpeas and oats. He also runs a self-replacing flock of 1400 Merino ewes and 50 stud Illawarra dairy cows.

Over time, his benchmarking data has identified a negative impact of changing between cropping and pasture on paddock gross margin.

As a result, Stuart believes continuous cropping combined with livestock production could have potential to extend pasture productivity, reduce overgrazing, decrease financial risk, and enhance whole farm profitability.

“Continuous cropping is not commonly practiced in our mixed farming environment where high rainfall and good soils equally lend themselves to producing crops or high quality pastures,” Stuart said.

“We have to balance business and financial risk whilst managing differing land classes on the same farm. A Nuffield Scholarship is an opportunity to address the current knowledge gaps around continuous cropping in high rainfall areas with the aid of livestock, and to apply these learnings on-farm, so as to grow a more profitable and sustainable business”.

Stuart will visit China, New Zealand, North and South America, and Canada.

SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

The Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) is one of the world's leading grains research organisations responsible for planning, investing in and overseeing RD&E to deliver improvements in production, sustainability and profitability across the Australian grains industry.

WEBSITE: www.grdc.com.au **FACEBOOK:** @theGRDC **TWITTER:** @theGRDC

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Tom Robinson SOUTH AUSTRALIA



PHONE: 0427 262 553 **EMAIL:** tom@real-time-data.com.au

Tom Robinson from Port Elliot, South Australia, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by the **Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC)**.

Tom will research how wild catch fishers can use a tablet-based data collection program to collate catch data and to prove the sustainability of their fishing practices.

Currently, due to government regulation, many Australian fisheries have been closed due to a lack of data verifying the fishing sector's claims of sustainability. However, Tom believes part of the problem lies in the fact that many fishers do not collect their own catch data to assist in the management of their fisheries.

In recent times, this has meant the sharing of catch data with government corporations has been predominantly undertaken by scientists and environmentalists. Tom believes that access to better and more reliable data will enable fishers to benchmark themselves against industry averages and, in turn, boost their productivity.

Tom previously worked in advertising before making a literal sea change to Port Elliot, SA, to become a commercial fisherman in the Lakes and Coorong Pipi Fishery. In theme with his research topic, he has created a data collection program titled 'Deckhand' which will allow fishers to collect their own data electronically.

"I believe it's critical that fishers start influencing their destiny by collecting their own data," Tom said.

"Until now it has been impractical for fishers to collect fine sale data using paper. We believe Deckhand can turn every fisher into a scientist or data collector."

Tom will travel to North America, Europe and parts of Asia to review their collation of fishing data and review how they might use a program such as Deckhand.

SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

The Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) is a co-funded partnership between its two stakeholders, the Australian Government and the fishing industry. It was formed as a statutory corporation on 2nd July 1991 and is responsible to the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources.

WEBSITE: www.frdc.com.au **FACEBOOK:** @FRDCAustralia **TWITTER:** @FRDCAustralia

Stewart Borg QUEENSLAND



PHONE: 0408 585 161 **EMAIL:** stewart_n_sarah@hotmail.com

Stewart Borg from Sarina, near Mackay, Queensland, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by **Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA)**.

Stewart will research strategies used by overseas nations that may be adapted to help him establish the first feedlot in Queensland's tropics — an area which has not traditionally been used for this type of production. His work is inspired by his firm belief Northern Australia has great potential to contribute significantly to the nation's production of high quality food.

Stewart and his wife operate 'Marklands', a 2400 hectare cropping and cattle enterprise of which 400 hectares is used for cultivating sugar cane and other fallow crops. The balance of the property runs 2500 head of stud and commercial cattle. To grow and diversify, Stewart is focused on developing a successful feedlot to add further value to the beef he produces.

"I believe there is a lot of knowledge in the world that can be utilised here in the tropics for us," Stewart said.

"In time, we are endeavouring to streamline our whole operation with land currently being set aside for fallowing as part of a sugar cane rotation that can sustain a fully functional feedlot similar to operations in the eastern states of America and several of the South American countries.

"While the feedlot industry is not new to Australia, we are striving to do something new in that we will be the first operating feedlot in the tropical region."

On his study tour, Stewart will travel to Brazil, Argentina and the south east of North America to visit intensive beef integrated enterprises within tropical regions.

SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

Meat & Livestock Australia Limited (MLA) delivers marketing and research and development services for Australia's cattle, sheep and goat producers.

WEBSITE: www.mla.com.au **FACEBOOK:** @meatlivestock **TWITTER:** @meatandlivestockaustralia

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Scott Nicholson VICTORIA



PHONE: 0438 086 403 **EMAIL:** scott_nicholson@icloud.com

Scott Nicholson from Stawell, Victoria, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by **Australian Wool Innovation (AWI)**.

For his study topic, Scott will research ways technology can help modernise and improve profitability in the sheep and wool industry. Scott said an increase in global demand for Australian food and fibre, and greater community scrutiny, will drive the need for new technology to help improve the management of livestock in breeding and handling.

Scott operates Bretton Estate, 2900 hectares of owned and leased land with a mixed farming system that includes 4500 Merino ewes for wool and lamb, broadacre dryland cropping, hay production and a lamb finishing system. Scott is also a partner in Sohnic Merinos at Marnoo, which is focused on breeding Merinos to optimise overall profitability.

He believes technology such as the adoption of mandatory electronic identification (EID) tags in Victoria has great potential to boost the industry through its improved traceability of individual sheep.

Scott said the industry can expand on this and will focus on researching technology in DNA and genomics; EID for performance recording and feedback; farm management software; handling and drafting equipment; drones and robotics; virtual fencing and remote sensors.

“With the continuing need to expand operations to keep pace with the constant cost price squeeze, sheep enterprises will need to get larger and much more efficient. Technology is everywhere, it’s just a matter of sorting out the developments that can be of real benefit to the industry,” he said.

Scott will travel to sheep producing countries to see the technology used in New Zealand, and North and South America.

SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

Australian Wool Innovation Limited (AWI), the owner of The Woolmark Company, is a not-for-profit company that invests in research, development and marketing for the Australian wool industry.

WEBSITE: www.wool.com **FACEBOOK:** [@TheWoolmarkCompany](https://www.facebook.com/TheWoolmarkCompany) **TWITTER:** [@woolinnovation](https://twitter.com/woolinnovation)

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Luke McKay WESTERN AUSTRALIA



PHONE: 0488 733 358 **EMAIL:** lmckay@kai-australia.com.au

Luke McKay from Kununurra, Western Australia, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by **Cotton Australia** and the **Cotton Research and Development Corporation (CRDC)**.

Luke's research will focus on issues relevant to tropical cotton-growing systems such as double cropping, rotation crops, irrigation methods, staff requirements, machinery requirements, and resource and environmental management.

Luke is farm manager at Kimberley Agricultural Investment (KAI), where he oversees all KAI's cropping throughout the Ord River valley, north of Kununurra.

KAI were named as the preferred proponent for the Ord expansion in 2012, which has inspired Luke's interest in further exploring the cropping and irrigation systems best suited to the area. This will focus on finding ways to adjust current systems to allow for cotton production.

"KAI and other Ord farmers are not alone in their ambitions to develop irrigated farming in Northern Australia. Outside the Ord Valley, there are currently operations being undertaken to develop and farm large areas in the Flinders and Gilbert catchments of North Queensland, with cotton in mind to be the base crop," Luke said.

"We are confident the cotton industry will grow and be profitable in the North, but on my study tour I want to research the best systems to achieve this."

On his study tour, Luke will travel to Brazil, Canada, China and USA, as well as locally to North Queensland, to learn from other growers in similar farming conditions.



Australian Government
Cotton Research and
Development Corporation

SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

Cotton Australia is the peak body for Australia's cotton growing industry, supporting over 1500 cotton farming families in NSW, Queensland and now into Victoria.

WEBSITE: cottonaustralia.com.au **FACEBOOK:** @CottonAustralia **TWITTER:** @CottonAustralia

The Cotton Research & Development Corporation (CRDC) invests in and manages research, development and extension projects for the Australian cotton industry.

WEBSITE: www.crdc.com.au **TWITTER:** @CottonResearch

Martin Gransden NEW SOUTH WALES



Wine Australia

PHONE: 0427 062 983 **EMAIL:** mgransden13@gmail.com

Martin Gransden, from Orange, New South Wales, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by **Wine Australia**.

Martin will research alternative wine grape varieties that can be introduced to the Australian wine sector, which currently relies on traditional varieties from France that have been widely planted throughout most wine regions of the country.

Martin believes that while these varieties are important to the sector, there is potential to develop and cultivate alternatives that may be better suited to the Australian environment and consumer.

Martin is employed as a company viticulturist for Cumulus Vineyards Pty Ltd near Orange in the Central West of NSW. Here, he manages 506 hectares of cool climate vineyard. His tasks include irrigation management, pest and disease management, yield estimation, nutrition and canopy management, quality management, grafting, harvest scheduling as well as operational and capital budgeting.

Martin is of the firm view that cultivating alternative varieties of wine grapes will help increase Australia's competitiveness in the sector.

"I think that giving wine grape growers knowledge about alternative varieties can help them deliver offerings to their consumers that they may normally look for from other countries, thus increasing the demand for Australian wine," Martin said.

"If the Australian wine sector continues to rely solely on traditional wine grape varieties it risks losing market interest and share to other countries that are offering the consumer something new and different."

For his study tour, Martin will travel to wine regions in Portugal, Spain, Italy, North America and other growers throughout Australia.

SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

Wine Australia supports a competitive Australian wine sector by investing in research, development and extension (RD&E), encouraging growth in domestic and international markets and protecting the reputation of Australian wine.

WEBSITE: www.wineaustralia.com

FACEBOOK: @WineAustralia

TWITTER: @Wine_Australia

Steve Grist QUEENSLAND



**Hort
Innovation**

PHONE: 0438 454 435 **EMAIL:** stevegrist@hotmail.com

Steve Grist from Koah near Cairns, Queensland, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by **Hort Innovation**.

Steve will research how growers can adapt from large broadacre farms to more dynamic systems such as Small Plot Intensive (SPIN), bio-intensive, syntropic and permaculture farming systems.

He said these systems now attract a large community following and, are arguably, part of the second green revolution. In his research, Steve will study which systems will be most appropriate and commercially viable in Australian farming.

Steve owns and operates Cairns Microgreens and Exotics, which supplies mixed potted microgreens as well as a range of sunflower shoots, wheatgrass, edible flowers, and other mixed exotics. He believes due to the global challenges of climate change, soil degradation and population growth, industry will need to develop more sustainable and efficient farms in the future.

“The ‘Paddock to plate’ movement is becoming increasingly popular. Through this trend and Community Supported Agriculture operations (CSAs), which interface with a growing portion of the public, there is an increasing number of primary producers adopting organic and regenerative practices,” Steve said.

“As a research priority, I want to investigate how to best build and promote these production systems. For my benefit and that of the industry, I want to study the links between the SPIN and Urban farming, innovative producers and CSAs.”

Steve will travel to Germany, Costa Rica, Cuba, North America and Japan to study various CSA farming systems.

SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

Steve Grist receives a Scholarship supported by Hort Innovation using the vegetable research and development levy and contributions from the Australian Government. Hort Innovation is the grower owned, not-for-profit research and development corporation for Australian horticulture.

WEBSITE: horticulture.com.au **FACEBOOK:** [@hortinnovation](https://www.facebook.com/hortinnovation) **TWITTER:** [@Hort_Au](https://twitter.com/Hort_Au)

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Emma O'Flaherty NEW SOUTH WALES



PHONE: 0434 673 014 **EMAIL:** emmalou61@hotmail.com

Emma O'Flaherty from Griffith, New South Wales, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by **AgriFutures Australia** (previously known as the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation).

For her research topic, Emma will study the factors that contribute to the laying of floor eggs across different nesting systems. Floor eggs are deemed second grade or 'dirty' eggs as soon as they are laid because they are in contact with more contaminated material. This results in lower hatchability and increased labour as they must be collected from outside the nest.

Emma is a breeder farm manager for poultry production company, Baiada Pty Ltd. She manages a ten-shed chicken breeder farm in the Riverina region which produces hens for laying fertile eggs that go to hatcheries to become broiler birds.



Several neighbouring farms are experiencing issues with floor eggs across nesting systems, leading to lower profits and inflated labour costs. Emma aims to research factors contributing to floor eggs so as to remedy these problems.

"Any agricultural industry wants to minimise costs and maximise profits," Emma said.

"If we can use the contributing factors to minimise floor eggs then we can minimise costs in labour and maximise the output of first grade eggs."

On her study tour, Emma will travel to The Netherlands and the United Kingdom to visit poultry sheds and factories.

SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

Through targeted high-impact RD&E projects, the AgriFutures Australia Chicken Meat Program seeks to achieve significant benefits to industry, which is designed to maintain its position as the number one consumed meat in the country.

WEBSITE: www.agrifutures.com.au **FACEBOOK:** @AgriFuturesAU **TWITTER:** @AgriFuturesAU

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Sarah Bolton NEW SOUTH WALES



PHONE: 0427 049 664 **EMAIL:** s.bolton3870@gmail.com

Sarah Bolton from Southgate, New South Wales receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by **Dairy Australia** and the **Australian Dairy Conference**. Sarah will research how best to rear dairy calves for successful integration into the beef supply chain.

Every year, approximately 350,000 young 'bobby' calves leave Australian dairy farms to be sold for meat, skins or other uses. Interest has grown within Australia's dairy beef industry in opportunities to grow out a larger percentage of bobby calves for beef. Sarah believes this move would help address negative industry perceptions, as well as contribute to diversification of farm outputs.

Sarah will study how other countries operate dairy beef systems from calf rearing to finished animal, preventative health, welfare and nutrition.

Sarah is co-manager of Big River Dairy, 150 hectares on the Clarence River which runs a 300 cow herd of Jerseys, Holsteins and crosses on a 36 bail rotary. She and her partner also operate a beef farm.

Along with helping to manage both farms, Sarah works full-time for the NSW Government as the local District Veterinarian. Sarah said there is a push from the beef industry to improve the bobby calves value chain.

"With the broader livestock industry coming under increasingly high levels of scrutiny from the general public, it is vital that we continue to find practical, achievable ways to satisfy community expectations, prioritise the care of our animals and provide new market opportunities for producers," Sarah said.

Sarah will visit New Zealand, the UK, Europe, the US and Canada.



SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

Dairy Australia is the national services body for dairy farmers and the industry. They help farmers adapt to a changing operating environment, and achieve a profitable, sustainable dairy industry.

WEBSITE: www.dairyaustralia.com.au **FACEBOOK:** @Dairy_Australia **TWITTER:** @DairyAustralia

The Australian Dairy Conference was initiated by a group of leading dairy farmers, scientists and industry representatives from around Australia. The aim is to be the premier dairy event that inspires the industry, giving it pride in its achievements and generating optimism in its future.

WEBSITE: www.australiandairyconference.com.au **FACEBOOK:** @AusDairyConf
TWITTER: @AustralianDairyConference

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Sonya Comiskey QUEENSLAND



PHONE: 0438 876 729 **EMAIL:** sonya@comiskeybeef.com.au

Sonya Comiskey from Capella near Emerald, Queensland, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by **Rabobank**.

Sonya and her husband, Geoff run commercial Bazadais cross cattle alongside their French Bazadais stud, which boasts the world's first homozygous polled purebred Bazadais bull.

They are part of a broader family business with more than 6,000 head run on 24,281 hectares across three properties in Central Queensland. Whilst engaged in strategic and succession planning, Sonya said their business is looking to develop a branded beef product based on heritage, provenance and sustainability in a move away from commodity based trading.

Sonya's study topic will investigate the use of effective branding to attract a premium, based on the consumer's perceived value of the product and its provenance. She said there has been little support available for mid-size producers wanting to take a branded product to market and believes her study topic will take steps to address these knowledge gaps and help producers through this often complex and risky process.

"There is a growing appetite for producers to transition towards a more vertically integrated business, which is based on the principles of best practice, certification and innovation," Sonya said.

"But in order to realise the full opportunities of 'paddock to plate' branding, producers need to understand the nuances of different markets – both domestically and abroad – and changing consumer trends.

"There is a significant opportunity to collate information and develop a framework which enables farmers to fully understand the pathways available in the beef value chain."

Sonya will visit North America, the UK, Ireland, Italy and, most notably, France.



Rabobank

SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

Rabobank has 400 rural specialists in 61 branches across Australia with a wealth of local, on-farm and of course banking knowledge. In addition to agribusiness finance and business support, Rabobank provides access to a host of specialists whose expertise ranges from succession planning and management education through to commodity price and foreign exchange risk management, and more than 80 international food and agribusiness analysts as well as a global network of millions of impressive farming clients in 40 countries. Rabobank helps farmers make better business decisions, and foster new business-to-business opportunities all along the supply chain.

WEBSITE: www.rabobank.com.au **FACEBOOK:** @Rabobank **TWITTER:** @RabobankAU

Alison Larard QUEENSLAND



PHONE: 0458 007 999 **EMAIL:** Alison.larard@gmail.com

Alison Larard from Evelyn near Atherton, Queensland, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by **Westpac**. Through her research, Alison will seek to find ways to strengthen business and strategic planning capabilities of family-owned northern beef enterprises.

Alison believes improving management skills within family businesses can assist in objective and professional decision making and business performance. Her research will look at how this may also empower families to question if the traditional 'succession at all costs' intergenerational ownership transition approach is sustainable or suitable to northern enterprises.

Alison helps operate her family's Limousin seed stock operation, spanning three properties on the Atherton Tablelands. Here, she applies the management skills she has gained both off-farm and through formal education, including a Masters of Business Administration, to strategic planning and performance analysis within the cattle business.

"Inadequate financial literacy and limited succession planning are particularly concerning in the North Queensland beef industry, with the remote, insular nature of the region and poor profitability further constraining these businesses," Alison said.

"Overcoming these barriers will enhance producer capability and enterprise viability."

For her study, Alison will travel to North America, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Argentina and South Africa.



SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

For nearly 200 years, Westpac Agribusiness has shared a long and rich history and association with rural, remote and regional communities of Australia. It is committed to sharing the journey with the industry and ensuring they are strongly supported and positioned for growth now and into the future.

WEBSITE: www.westpac.com.au/business-banking/industries/agribusiness/

FACEBOOK: @Westpac **TWITTER:** @Westpac

Dudley Mitchell WESTERN AUSTRALIA



PHONE: 0439 802 293 **EMAIL:** hortmanagement@hcms.net.au

Dudley Mitchell from Bunbury, Western Australia, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by **Woolworths**. He will study current trends in canopy management of avocado orchards and how cultural practices need to adapt to higher density orchards.

Conventional growing methods have led to a decline in water and land resources and have seen a plateau in profitability across the avocado sector. These factors are shifting grower interest away from conventional techniques to the use of high-density avocado planting to remedy these issues.

However, Dudley believes the avocado industry's current architectural growing model is not suited to high density plantings and will seek to identify new growing techniques, technologies and management systems that will be effective in the Australian sector as part of his study.



Dudley's company HCMS Pty Ltd manages Avonova Farms, a 50 hectare avocado orchard producing, on average, 800 tonnes of fruit per year and a pack shed, which handles approximately 1700 tonnes annually. Additionally, he is a co-investor in a planned 50 hectare expansion of the orchard that will be rolled out over the next three years.

"One of the four pillars of the recent Strategic Investment Plan for the avocado industry is to increase productivity by ten per cent without commensurate increases in production costs per kilogram," Dudley said.

"Higher density planting may deliver greater productivity initially, and at a similar cost of production, however without effective canopy management productivity will decline earlier in the life of the orchard than with conventional planting methods."

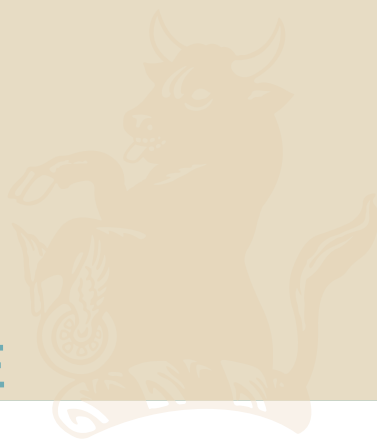
Dudley will visit the avocado industries in Chile, North America, Israel, and New Zealand for his research tour.

SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

Woolworths is proud to sponsor the Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarships program.

Woolworths sees its relationships with suppliers as a huge part of its success. This is why these relationships are nurtured, and Woolworths gives back where they can. These positive relationships will provide Australia with the best possible produce, in the most sustainable way.

WEBSITE: crs.woolworthsgroup.com.au **FACEBOOK:** @Woolworths **TWITTER:** @woolworths



Shannon Notter VICTORIA



PHONE: 0477 197 970 **EMAIL:** shannonnotter@hotmail.com

Shannon Notter, from Carlisle River, Victoria, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by **Gardiner Dairy Foundation**. She will investigate the key factors affecting farmer uptake of information to key factors necessary to maintain a profitable dairy business, in an environment characterised by variations in price, climate, and cost of production.

Shannon solely manages her family's seasonal calving dairy farm, located 40km from Colac. Her vision for the 500 cow operation is to focus on improving productivity of cows and grass, simplifying management and improving efficiencies to create a sustainable and profitable business.

"The key factors recognised for maintaining profitable dairy businesses include technical efficiency, cost control, management capability, tactical flexibility, farm financial management and investment decisions, farm system and size," Shannon said.

"Controlling costs and making the most of resources available are also a major source of creating higher returns."

However, Shannon hopes her research in Ireland, China, India, Brazil, Argentina and Chile will identify potential new management practices and insights to herd size, exports and trading and subsidies and tariffs, that can be applied to the Australian dairy farming industry to further boost profits.

Her overarching aim is to provide farmers with processes and decision tools to make small changes in management practices that are instrumental to the success of their businesses.

GARDINER
FOUNDATION

SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

Gardiner Dairy Foundation invests in emerging leaders and practices to help develop a vibrant, long-term future for the dairy industry and its communities.

WEBSITE: www.gardinerfoundation.com.au **TWITTER:** @gardinerdairy

2018 SCHOLARS

2017
NUFFIELD AUSTRALIA
NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Olabisi Oladele VICTORIA



THE
WILLIAM BUCKLAND
FOUNDATION
— WBF —

PHONE: 0418 575 471 **EMAIL:** boladele@jeftomson.com

Olabisi Oladele, from Orrvale, Victoria, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by **The William Buckland Foundation**. She will investigate the changing requirements of human capital and industry collaboration needed to efficiently run increasingly automated horticulture businesses.

Olabisi is a Technical Manager at Geoffrey Thompson Holdings, a vertically integrated apple and pear horticulture business that is expanding and diversifying. Under Olabisi's guidance, the business has a 20 per cent growth production forecast over the next three years, with an automated pack house predicted to increase outputs from 85,000 bins per year to 120,000 bins. The business operates across all levels of the supply chain including growing, storing, packaging, transport, sales and marketing.

Through her research, Olabisi plans to investigate concerns that the horticulture industry is ill-equipped in human capital to efficiently perform in an increasingly automated and expanding industry. In addition, she plans to use her scholarship to promote career pathways and raise awareness of opportunities in horticulture to school students, with an objective to recruit, train and retain high quality workers.

"My organisation is expanding to operating a 13 acre packing facility and this got me thinking - what sort of skills will be needed for this next level of operation and how do we maintain them?" Olabisi said.

"As our population continues to grow and open doors into the export market, strategic planning for the future of produce growing and processing is required."

Olabisi will travel to USA, Italy, Brazil and South Africa, some of the top apple and pear producing and exporting countries.

SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

The William Buckland Foundation, through their Advancing Agriculture Program, supports initiatives which focus on strengthening the resilience and capacity of regional and rural communities.

This includes the support of innovative approaches to farming that increase yield and/or reduce damaging environmental impacts as well ensuring that rural leaders (both men and women) are equipped to inclusively address the challenges and embrace the opportunities that arise through change.

WEBSITE: williambucklandfoundation.org.au

Grant Pontifex SOUTH AUSTRALIA



PHONE: 0429 477 800 **EMAIL:** gjponty@bigpond.com

Grant Pontifex, from Paskeville, South Australia, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by **Nufarm Australia**. He will investigate the effects of using chicken manure and/or cover cropping as a mechanism to substitute bio-stimulants, while improving soil health.

Jointly owned and operated, Grant manages the family's mixed grain enterprise in Paskeville, whilst his brother manages another property on Kangaroo Island.

His research will focus on the opportunity to reduce the use of insecticides, pesticides and fungicides in farming systems with continued use of manure and cover cropping, while still maintaining soil organic carbon and water-holding capacity.

Grant aims to decipher whether cover crops are beneficial every year or only as an opportunity crop in a wet summer. He will also seek to determine if they promote an increase in soil biology, nitrogen fixation, nutrient cycling and mineralisation.

"As chicken becomes more popular as an economical versatile meal, the poultry industry will continue to grow, hence there will be more manure available to utilise in broadacre cropping fields," Grant said.

"A real opportunity exists to value add this waste product and to benefit our soils and the environment, we just need to know more and develop a best management practice for the use of chicken manure in broadacre grain production."

Grant hopes to continue to improve our soil's health through reducing the amount of synthetic chemicals growers handle and use in their soils.

He will travel to the UK, South Africa, USA and within Australia.



SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

Nufarm Limited is one of the world's leading crop protection and specialist seed companies. We make products to help farmers protect their crops against damage caused by weeds, pests and disease.

With 100 years of Australian manufacturing experience and operations in Australia, New Zealand, Asia, Europe and the Americas, Nufarm employs more than 3,200 people working alongside farmers across the globe to improve their production. We market our products in more than 100 countries around the world.

WEBSITE: www.nufarm.com/AU/Home **FACEBOOK:** @NufarmAustralia **TWITTER:** @NufarmAustralia

2018 SCHOLARS

2017
NUFFIELD AUSTRALIA
NATIONAL CONFERENCE

James Stacey SOUTH AUSTRALIA



PHONE: 0429 373 130 **EMAIL:** jrstacey@bigpond.com

James Stacey, from Strathalbyn, South Australia, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by **Primary Producers SA**.

He will investigate management practices used to combat urban growth in productive agricultural regions, and strategies to maintain profitable farming businesses in this environment.

James operates a mixed dryland grain, irrigated lucerne, beef and contracting enterprise.

He said he will focus on seeking ways to promote collaboration and transparency to ensure that state and local governments consult with local producers to address issues borne out of urban sprawl which impact on primary production.

"There is a huge opportunity to maintain productive agriculture and to generate downstream food processing in regions close to urban centres," James said.

"We, as a community, need to explain the benefits of a thriving agriculture and food sector, which can co-exist alongside our regional centres and our cities. This can be achieved by sharing our stories of success and increasing dialogue between industry and government.

"We, as farmers, know the cost involved with high land prices unrelated to production capability and, as communities expand, we need to show value to the broader community in terms of what agriculture provides."

James plans to travel to the USA, Canada, France, Spain and China to investigate how these different regions have overcome urban growth and the effects it has had on both agriculture and the environment.



SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

Primary Producers SA (PPSA) is a coalition of peak bodies representing primary producers in South Australia. PPSA has a vision for a strong, viable primary production sector in South Australia, which is valued by government and the community.

WEBSITE: www.ppsa.org.au **TWITTER:** @PProducersSA

Andrew Slade WESTERN AUSTRALIA



PHONE: 0433 779 426 **EMAIL:** Andrew.slade@glenridgepark.com.au

Andrew Slade, from West Kendenup, Western Australia, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by **CSBP** and **Integro Private Wealth**.

He will investigate potential productivity gains for livestock production systems, focusing on precision livestock management using the Internet of Things (IoT), big data and autonomous systems.

Andrew is cropping and feedlot manager of his family's 5000ha broadacre cropping and mixed livestock enterprise. In addition to this, he is stud principal of their maternal composite sheep stud.

He said aside from improvements in sheep handling equipment and technology, livestock production systems are being left behind by broadacre cropping and other agriculture industries in terms of advancements and adoption in automation, internet-based monitoring and predictive tools.

"Broadacre livestock production is typically labour intensive and is increasingly losing favour with primary producers in exchange for cropping systems which have seen major productivity gains with Global Positioning Systems, Variable Rate Technology and advancements in autonomous systems," Andrew said.

"To improve profitability and remain competitive with other enterprises we need to adapt existing and new technologies that can reduce labour inputs, better utilise existing natural resources and improve animal welfare.

"In addition to investigating what technology is available, I would like to quantify industry benefits of IoT systems and big data, and identify barriers to adoption and what is needed to facilitate uptake of new technology."

Andrew will travel to New Zealand, North America and Europe.



SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

CSBP has been supplying fertiliser and nutritional services to Western Australia's agricultural industry for over 100 years. CSBP has a proud history of supporting a range of groups as part of its ongoing commitment to the sustainability of WA agriculture and the vitality of local communities.

WEBSITE: www.csbp.com.au **TWITTER:** @CSBPfertilisers

Integro Private Wealth offers a wide range of financial planning, succession planning and wealth management services from investments and superannuation to insurance and budgeting advice.

WEBSITE: www.integro.net.au

2018 SCHOLARS

2017
NUFFIELD AUSTRALIA
NATIONAL CONFERENCE

James Hawkins VICTORIA



PHONE: 0419 446 058 **EMAIL:** jmhawk@outlook.com

James Hawkins, from Neuarpuir, Victoria, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by **Rural Bank**.

He will investigate the amelioration of hostile/sodic clay soils to overcome soil productivity limitations through deep placement of organic material as a means of increasing biomass production, yield and improving water use efficiency in dryland and irrigation systems.

James is the owner and managing director of P.I.G.S, an operation managing pigs for Victorian outdoor bred pork producer and processor, The Pastoral Pork Company. Together with the family property, 'Brippick', they produce 2000 tonnes of compost annually, which helps to manage soil health and promote sustainable farming practices. He also manages a contract hay/straw baling business and will complete a Master of Agribusiness with Marcus Oldham College by the end of 2017.

James will investigate how Sub-Soil Manuring (SSM) can increase the soil's 'bucket size' through soil chemical, physical and biological changes to provide gains to create an increase in profitability for producers, lasting over 10 years.

"I wish to further expand on current research through investigating SSM in an irrigation setting and to explore the potential for irrigation water savings," James said.

"This work will also examine the lack of machinery available for SSM, which is limiting producer uptake, along with the possibility of high concentrate, ameliorant alternatives.

"SSM presents a massive opportunity for productivity gains per hectare that could last for more than a decade after treatment. I intend to develop greater knowledge, both internationally and locally, and to translate this into a format that is accessible to farmers in order to benefit their businesses."

James will travel to the UK, the Netherlands, France, Germany and USA.



SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

Rural Bank has been a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited since 2010 and is the only Australian-owned and operated dedicated agribusiness bank in the country. Their vision is to provide exceptional financial services, knowledge and leadership for Australian farmers to grow. They partner with their customers to help them build sustainable businesses and vibrant communities.

WEBSITE: www.ruralbank.com.au **FACEBOOK:** @RuralBankAU **TWITTER:** @ruralbank

Robin Tait TASMANIA



PHONE: 0407 307 356 **EMAIL:** robin_tait@hotmail.com

Robin Tait, from Devonport, Tasmania, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by **Blundstone**, **Robert Gatenby Memorial Trust** and **Tasmanian Alkaloids**.

She will investigate how regeneration agriculture principles can be integrated into cropping systems to reduce reliance on synthetic inputs for crop production.

Robin manages over 400ha of a mixed cropping operation for Botanical Resources Australia (BRA). She provides agronomic advice for BRA commercial and their farm crops and coordinates harvesting and planting of pyrethrum, wheat and pulses.

Robin is personally researching and preparing to establish a Tasmanian Mountain Pepper orchard to supply local and overseas markets.

Robin's Scholarship research will be particularly pertinent to her work at BRA through establishing and implementing practices in BRA's cropping enterprise that are aligned with regeneration agricultural principles.

"The majority of crops established in Tasmania are from small seed and require a fine tilled seed bed for consistent establishment. The system used by processing and seed companies involves soil cultivation and extended periods of time with no plant cover. This makes it very difficult to incorporate philosophies of regeneration farming to build a thriving ecosystem allowing plants to form natural resistance".

Robin will research cover cropping, reduced tillage methods, companion planting, biological inputs and methods of crop monitoring, used to increase plant health as a means to reduce reliance on synthetic inputs.

Robin will travel to the USA, Canada, Europe and New Zealand.



**The Robert Gatenby
Memorial Trust**



SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

Blundstone Australia Pty Ltd is a 100 per cent Tasmanian private company founded in 1870. Today Blundstone has become one of the world's most recognisable boot brands. The company retains its family values and heritage and is proud to support Australian communities and industry.

WEBSITE: www.blundstone.com.au **FACEBOOK:** @BlundstoneAU **TWITTER:** @BlundstoneAU

Robert Gatenby was an innovative Tasmanian farmer and horticulturalist before his early death in 1992. Robert Gatenby's estate, along with friends and associates, determined that a trust should be established to fund the development of talent in the Tasmanian agricultural sector.

Tasmanian Alkaloids is a fully-integrated manufacturer of controlled substances providing medicinal opiates from patented poppy varieties grown on Tasmanian farms. The business is committed to the highest quality standards, good manufacturing practice and reliable supply of products.

WEBSITE: tasalk.com.au

2018 SCHOLARS

2017
NUFFIELD AUSTRALIA
NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Colin Burnett QUEENSLAND



PHONE: 0498 695 677 **EMAIL:** col_burnett@hotmail.com

Colin Burnett, from Julia Creek, Queensland, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by **ANZ, Australian Agricultural Company (AACo)** and **Consolidated Pastoral Company (CPC)**.

He will study how business sustainability can be achieved within the varying climate and market forces of North West Queensland, investigating future global and domestic beef markets and understanding the changing and evolving global consumption of red meat.

Colin's family run a 9000 head beef cattle enterprise, turning over 2000 head per year. He is interested in identifying what markets will open for his expanding beef cattle enterprise over the next five to ten years.

"Key problems are linked to trying to produce the best product we can, under highly variable climate conditions, that will suit our markets. Our business, along with many others in Northern Australia, is heavily reliant on the live export market and I believe we should be aiming for diversification," Colin said.

"The beef industry is increasingly characterised by market changes, like China opening up for chilled beef and South East Asia fluctuating in the quantity and size of live export animals they require, so our short-term plan is to keep our business horizontally integrated in the beef production chain but expansion is essential to its future viability."

Colin will investigate live export in South East Asia, the growing market for chilled beef in China, and visit South America to determine what impact modernisation will have on its capacity to supply beef to the global market and how different businesses manage climate variability.



SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

ANZ is one of the five largest listed companies in Australia and number one bank in New Zealand. They operate in 34 markets with 46,000 staff globally. ANZ was named Canstar's Agribusiness Bank of the Year in 2016 and 2017 for production and value, market leading industry insights and programs for the long term benefit of regional communities.

WEBSITE: www.anz.com.au **FACEBOOK:** @ANZAustralia **TWITTER:** @ANZ_AU

AACo is a world-leading provider of beef and agricultural products. It owns and operates a balance of properties, feedlots and farms comprising around seven million hectares of land, equating to roughly 1% of Australia's land mass. AACO was established in 1824, the oldest continuously operating company in Australia.

WEBSITE: aaco.com.au **FACEBOOK:** @AustAgCo **TWITTER:** @AustAgCo

Consolidated Pastoral Company (CPC) is Australia's largest private beef producer. CPC owns and operates a portfolio of 16 cattle stations with a carrying capacity of 400,000 head of cattle across 5.5m hectares of land in Australia and two feedlot business in Indonesia.

WEBSITE: www.pastoral.com **FACEBOOK:** @Conpastco **TWITTER:** @ConPastCo

Sarah Sivyier NEW SOUTH WALES



Department of
Primary Industries

PHONE: 0439 043 974 **EMAIL:** sarahsivyier@gmail.com

Sarah Sivyier, from Ecclestone, New South Wales, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by the **NSW Department of Primary Industries**. She will investigate how producers can optimise trust in their brand by leveraging a culture of continuous improvement.

Her particular interest in brand optimisation will hone her research focus on building transparency in business and the implementation of sensible and proactive measures to manage issues such as biosecurity.

Sarah runs a fifth-generation 700 hectare, combined beef and pastured egg operation, in the Hunter Valley. Her family's beef business consists of a cow and calf operation, in addition to steer-finishing, while the newer pastured egg component has 1500 layers and production of just under 10,000 eggs per week.

"In the early days of our new business, being transparent about our production, in combination with our premium product and new distribution method, saw consumers take a very strong interest in our produce, which led to a shift in buying patterns," Sarah said.

"Similarly, we have been able to initiate new conversations with our customers around biosecurity, a critically important issue for farmers, which is often misunderstood by the broader community.

"Simply differentiating a product based on premium quality is not enough. We, as a business, must focus on continuous improvement and innovation as a way of striving for excellence, so as to meet the needs of our customers, now and into the future."

Sarah plans to travel to Italy, the Netherlands, Japan, and the UK.

SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) works to increase the value of primary industries and drive economic growth across NSW. NSW DPI manages a broad range of initiatives from resource to industry, including natural resource management, research and development, pest and disease management, food safety, industry engagement, and market access and competition.

WEBSITE: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au **TWITTER:** @nswdpi

2018 SCHOLARS

2017
NUFFIELD AUSTRALIA
NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Andre Henry VICTORIA



PHONE: 0427 640 844 **EMAIL:** glencoefarms@outlook.com

Andre Henry, from Kerang, Victoria, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by the **Australian Processing Tomato Growers** and the inaugural **Nuffield Australia Alumni Scholarship**, which in 2018 is entitled the '*Max Jelbart Scholarship*'.

He will investigate alternative uses for crop residues, focusing particularly on engineering and potential practical on farm implementations.

Andre runs Glencoe Farms Australia, a marketing and retail business selling fresh produce and manufactured products from his family's operation which includes tomatoes, wheat, barley, canola, clover for hay and seed production. He currently attends 11 farmer's markets per month, supplies 25 independent retailers, services online sales and is commencing distribution of product into NSW.

"Australian tomato growers are facing continually increasing wage and energy costs and the industry is already exploring alternative measures to try and maximise on-farm returns through yield, for example, injecting super saturated oxygen into irrigation water to reduce root zone hypoxia," Andre said.

"I believe the issues confronting our industry need to be viewed in a different light, not just aiming to further enhance yields of the primary product of the crop, but develop a market and value for the by-products of what we grow.

"It also represents an area of potential growth when growers and processors are somewhat constrained, in terms of increasing yield or production, by a fairly consistent domestic market size.

"I hope to take a broad look at what producers are doing around the world to utilise waste and determine if there is an option that may work successfully here."

Andre will visit Sweden, Germany, Norway, France, China, Italy and USA.



SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

The Australian Processing Tomato Growers (APTG) is primarily involved with the production of tomatoes, supplying factories in Echuca and Shepparton. The APTG is an active supporter of the Australian Processing Tomato Research Council Inc. (APTRC) in both kind and levies.

WEBSITE: www.aptrc.asn.au

Max Jelbart OAM was a 1991 Nuffield Scholar who made an outstanding contribution to Nuffield Australia and the Alumni over many years. Sadly, Max passed away in the first half of 2016. This is the first year Nuffield Australia has awarded an Alumni Scholarship, and the funds have been received from Scholar donations and a sizable donation from the Jelbart family, in honour of Max.

WE THANK OUR 2018 SCHOLARSHIP INVESTORS:





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