



NUFFIELD
AUSTRALIA
FARMING SCHOLARS



2015 SCHOLAR PRESENTATIONS & DINNER

Launceston, Tasmania
18th September 2014

Awards Dinner Program

6:15 pm	Pre-dinner drinks	
6:45 pm	Seating of guests	Jane Bennett, 2008 Scholar, Master of Ceremonies
7:00 pm	Welcome	Andrew Johnson, 2005 Scholar and Nuffield Australia Chairman
7:05 pm	Presentation of 40-year Nuffield Scholars	Presentation by Andrew Johnson Citation by David Brownhill, 1998 Scholar
7:10 pm	Entree served	
7:30 pm	George Wilson Oration	To be delivered by Maurice Moloney, Executive Director Agriculture, Food and Health, CSIRO
8:10 pm	Main course served	
8:30 pm	Presentation of 2015 Nuffield Scholarships	Jane Bennett and Investors
9:00 pm	Dessert served	
9:20 pm	Presentation of 2015 Nuffield Scholarships	Jane Bennett and Investors
10:10 pm	Closing remarks	Andrew Johnson
10:30 pm	First bus departs to hotel	
10:45 pm	Second bus departs to hotel	

Guest speaker – Professor Maurice Moloney



Professor Maurice Moloney took up the role of Executive Director, Agriculture, Food and Health in December 2013 after four years as the Director and Chief Executive of Rothamsted Research near London, UK.

The Agriculture, Food and Health Sector in CSIRO serves large and vital sectors of the Australian economy. In particular, the Sector is responding to a strong demand for science-based solutions to major global challenges such as food security and the need to increase agricultural productivity in a sustainable way, biosecurity and the threat of zoonotic diseases.

The Sector also carries responsibility for policy oversight of biotechnology/bioeconomy, including regulation of gene technology research. Dr. Moloney's career in plant biotechnology spans more than 25 years.

Dr. Maurice Moloney has also been the Director and Chief Executive of Rothamsted Research near London, UK, since 2010. Rothamsted is the oldest and largest agricultural research centre in Europe, with a mandate for food security, agricultural sustainability and adaptation of agriculture to the consequences of both climate change and depletion of fossil fuels.

Dr. Moloney has published more than 90 original research papers and is an inventor on 43 issued US patents and over 300 patents worldwide. He has served on the advisory board of the National Research Council's Plant Biotechnology Institute and has consulted for several biotechnology and agri-business companies. He has served on numerous Federal Government committees including NSERC Council (the governing body of NSERC), CFI, National Research Council PBI (Canada) and the Networks of Centres of Excellence programs. He was the co-president of the International Society for Plant Molecular Biology (ISPMB) Congress in 2000 and serves on the ISPMB board.

Dr. Moloney has received a number of prestigious awards, including two Alberta Science and Technology (ASTECH) Awards for leadership in Alberta Technology. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from Imperial College, London, and was awarded his doctorate in plant biochemistry from De Montfort University/Leicester Polytechnic in the UK. He was honoured by the University of Lethbridge with a D.Sc. honoris causa in 2004, by De Montfort University in 2011 and by Lancaster University, UK in 2013.

George Wilson - a Nuffield Hero



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 twenty-plus years, funded from the United Kingdom by the Nuffield Foundation.

When Robert Beggs returned from his scholarship in 1970, he spoke with George 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 Scholar 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 George started the Nuffield Australian Fund, and during his time as chair there were a number of major benchmarks including:

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

As with most Nuffield Scholars, George 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 George 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. George had a loyal group of essentially Victorian Nuffield scholars, who helped him "run the show".

His wife, Faye Wilson, supported George and Nuffield all the way, helping scholars and their partners in day-to-day problems as well as supporting George 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. George loved a good time – in 1988 when NSW organised the annual meeting of the association, they asked George what he wanted to see. He answered “I want to see good agriculture and I want a drink in our hands at 5:30.”

George 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 George for six years and was followed by Harry Perkins – who had been encouraged into the job by George and Ron Baillieu. Harry 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 George 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 six years there has been a considerable expansion of the Australian Nuffield program, and this could not have happened without the foundations laid by George 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, in 2009, implemented the perpetual George Wilson Oration to mark George's contribution to all our lives.

The sixth George Wilson Oration will be delivered by Professor Maurice Moloney, Executive Director Agriculture, Food and Health CSIRO.



Reece Curwen

Phone: 0409 203 633 **Email:** reececurwen@gmail.com

Reece Curwen, from South Stirling in Western Australia, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by the Grains Research and Development Corporation.

Reece will investigate the dynamics between broadacre farming and the management systems used to maximise productivity.

As cropping manager of his family's 9500-hectare broadacre mixed farming property, Reece is responsible for a 6500-hectare cropping program, including canola, barley and wheat. In addition, the enterprise includes 10-thousand Merino ewes.

Reece will use his scholarship to investigate how good management of broadacre farming enterprises can ensure productivity and profitability.

"Scale naturally has an influence but the ability to manage that scale is what I am focussed on investigating – with demands of staff, plant and finance, managing large properties is challenging.

The business continues to be challenged to ensure profitability, so I am always trying to find the next boost to productivity to combat the ongoing cost-price squeeze," he explains.

Reece hopes that exposure to similar enterprises around the world will open doors and opportunities to the next boost in productivity.

He will visit South America, Central America and Europe.

Supported by:



Supporter information:

The Grains Research and Development Corporation 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



Supported by:



Andrew Freeth

Phone: 0407 205 503 **Email:** adfreeth@gmail.com

Andrew Freeth, from Collie in NSW, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by the Grains Research and Development Corporation.

He will study investment in on-farm grain storage and supply chain logistics.

Andrew works in his family's 5000-hectare dryland broadacre cropping and livestock enterprise, with typically half the farm sown to cash or fodder crops and the balance running a 2000-head self-replacing Merino ewe flock, prime lambs and a small cattle operation. Andrew is involved in all aspects of the business, including crop production, grain marketing, and livestock work.

Andrew is keen to refine the business model for growers to co-operate and invest in on farm storage, which could result in increased efficiency, better marketing options and improved farm gate returns.

"This is an area that many growers and industry participants recognise as critically important, but many do not have the capital, knowledge, scale and time to successfully invest in the required infrastructure.

The aim here is to move grain to market in an efficient, cost effective manner that meets customer expectations," Andrew says.

Andrew will visit the USA, Canada, France, Germany and the UK to complete his studies

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Website: www.grdc.com.au **Facebook:** [theGRDC](https://www.facebook.com/theGRDC) **Twitter:** [@theGRDC](https://twitter.com/theGRDC)



Supported by:



Jock Graham

Phone: 0408 449 844 **Email:** jock@eulonga.com.au

Jock Graham, from Coolac in NSW, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by the Grains Research and Development Corporation.

He will study communication technology solutions for farm enterprises.

Jock works in his family's mixed farming enterprise, consisting of 1000 head of Angus cattle, 5000 Merino ewes and a 1000-hectare rotational cropping program. The operation covers about 3800 hectares of owned and leased land, and also includes a sand quarrying operation and an additional contract cropping operation of over 2500 hectares.

He is also managing director of a start-up farm software company, Farm Apps, which makes mobile device software for smartphones and portable devices to enhance farmer efficiency.

Jock will use his scholarship to research new technology solutions available to provide high-speed internet and better communications to rural and regional users.

"I will also encompass technology solutions that improve farming efficiencies across multiple farming enterprises and look at their ongoing costs and associated benefits.

This is an area which I have been passionate about for years and believe that most farming families and businesses can improve the way they utilise communication technology," he explains.

Jock will visit the USA, England, Japan, Switzerland, Russia and France during his scholarship.

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Website: www.grdc.com.au **Facebook:** [theGRDC](https://www.facebook.com/theGRDC) **Twitter:** [@theGRDC](https://twitter.com/theGRDC)



Adam McVeigh

Phone: 0427 635 209 **Email:** mcveigh.trading@gmail.com

Adam McVeigh, from Dalby in Queensland, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by the Grains Research and Development Corporation.

He will research achieving sustainable high yields from continuous double cropping with overhead irrigation.

Adam is an irrigated and dryland producer, cropping cotton, corn, sorghum, barley, wheat and occasionally mungbeans and chickpeas on the Darling Downs. In addition he does some contract cotton picking. Encompassing both the family operation and his own farm, this financial year he grew 425 hectares of cotton, 105 hectares of barley, 115 hectares of wheat, 65 hectares of sorghum and 65 hectares of corn.

While irrigated cropping can be very profitable, Adam says in dry years when water is limited or simply not available, the cost of maintaining infrastructure and servicing debt can be financially crippling.

"When water is plentiful it then becomes necessary to extract maximum value out of the irrigation infrastructure," he explains.

Adam will research growing two crops each year in the same irrigated paddock, with a focus on achieving maximum return per hectare in a situation where water is not limited.

To do so, he will visit France, the USA, Egypt, UK, Mexico, Brazil, China and India.



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Robert Pepper

Phone: 0447 669 234 **Email:** rjpeffer@hotmail.com

Robert Pepper, from Molong in New South Wales, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by the Australian Egg Corporation.

He will study world's best practice in non-cage egg production systems.

Robert is principal manager of egg sales and distribution for Pepper Pastoral Co – producing, packing, marketing and distributing barn and cage eggs. They have capacity for approximately 100-thousand hens, 20 per cent of which are in barns and the remainder caged. The family operations also include over 3000 ewes, 150 cows and 1000 hectares sown mostly to wheat and canola.

Robert hopes to bring back the latest management techniques from around the world in non-cage egg production systems.

"Alternatives to cage systems generally lose several percentage points in production through higher mortality, higher instances of disease, social stresses and eggs laid on the floor or broken by other birds.

My hope is that adoption of several good ideas from around the world might begin to reduce the deficit in performance of alternatives to cage systems," he explains.

Robert plans to tour the UK, Europe, New Zealand, USA and Canada.

Supported by:



Supporter information:

The Australian Egg Corporation Limited is an Industry Services Body or provider of marketing and 'R&D' services for the benefit of all stakeholders, principally egg producers.

Website: www.aecl.org **Facebook:** [YourEggsYourChoice](#) **Twitter:** [@YourEggs](#)



Andrew Clarke

Phone: 0417 371 139 **Email:** acclarke@yering.com

Andrew Clarke, from Ringwood North in Victoria, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by the Australian Grape and Wine Authority.

He will investigate managing subsoil restrictions in established vineyards.

As chief viticulturist for Yering Station (part of the Rathbone Wine Group) in the Yarra Valley, Andrew is responsible for all viticultural programs and vineyard management on the property. Yering Station currently has 95 hectares planted to vines, predominantly the core varieties Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Shiraz.

Andrew will study practical and innovative methods of improving root zone volumes for better vineyard productivity and wine quality.

"The soil research community estimates that up to 80 per cent of existing vineyards are significantly affected by subsoil issues.

Many are planted on sodic, acidic, salty and impermeable subsoils, or a combination of these, resulting in restricted root growth, and significant reductions in vineyard productivity and profitability," Andrew explains.

By increasing the soil volume available to the vine, Andrew says the finite resources of soil, nutrition and water can be used more efficiently.

Andrew plans on visiting the USA, Israel, France and South Africa.

Supported by:



Australian Government

**Australian Grape and
Wine Authority**

Supporter information:

The Australian Grape and Wine Authority supports a competitive wine sector by investing in 'RD&E', growing global demand and protecting the reputation of Australian wine.

Website: www.agwa.net.au



Robert Webb

Phone: 0409 326 350 **Email:** keystone@ix.net.au

Robert Webb, from Tarana in New South Wales, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by Australian Wool Innovation.

He will study the use of fire as a native pasture management tool.

Robert's family owns and operates a seventh-generation fine wool Merino production and beef property. Spread across two properties totalling 1190 hectares, they run approximately 2000 fine wool Merino breeding ewes, 1500 fine wool Merino wethers, 700 prime lamb-producing ewes and 150 beef (Shorthorn Hereford cross) breeding cows. He assists his partners with financial planning and benchmarking of the business.

Robert, along with his brother Hugh, also runs Denhine Pty Ltd, a business managing investment and small acreage farms across Central Tablelands.

Fire rejuvenates native pasture and makes it more productive, which in turn can benefit woolgrowers by improving profitability through increased fleece weight and staple strength.

Robert will visit wool producing countries, as well as other grazing enterprises, to gain further knowledge of the use of fire as a grazing management tool for improving native pasture productivity.

He will travel to Indonesia, USA, Russia and Greece to complete his studies.

Supported by:



awi

Australian
Wool Innovation
Limited

Supporter information:

Australian Wool Innovation Limited (AWI) is the research, development & marketing organisation for the Australian wool industry. AWI is responsible for managing and investing levy funds received from over 27,000 levy payers and matching eligible 'R&D' contributions from the Australian government, into projects across the supply chain.

Website: www.wool.com **Twitter:** @woolinnovation



Thomas Quigley

Phone: 0409 476 338 **Email:** tomquig@bigpond.com

Tom Quigley, from Trangie in New South Wales, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by Cotton Australia and the Cotton Research and Development Corporation.

He will research growing cotton under pressurised overhead sprinkler irrigation.

Tom, with his family, manages Quigley Farms, a mixed 6000-hectare farming enterprise comprising up to 600 hectares of cotton depending on water availability, 2400 hectares of winter crops and 3000 hectares of grazing. The rotation includes irrigated cotton, dryland wheat, canola, chickpeas and grazing oats, while the livestock consists of grazing Merino ewes and cross-bred lambs, and Hereford X Angus cattle.

Over the last two years Tom's family has upgraded 40 per cent of their irrigation area from furrow irrigation into overhead pressurised sprinkler irrigation in the form of Lateral Move Irrigators.

However with the new, more efficient, infrastructure comes a different challenge, the requirement to also modify the associated farming techniques.

"I'd like to look at different farming systems that go specifically with growing cotton under sprinkler irrigation, particularly in regards to crop rotations and sequencing, cover crops, growing cotton on the flat, minimum and strip tillage, and crop nutrition," he says.

Tom will travel to the USA, China, Israel and other regions of Australia.

Supported by:



Australian Government

**Cotton Research and
Development Corporation**



Supporter information:

The Cotton Research and Development Corporation is a statutory authority established in 1990 to work with industry to invest in 'RD&E' for a more profitable, sustainable and dynamic cotton industry.

Website: www.crdc.com.au

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

Website: www.cottonaustralia.com.au



Matt McVeigh

Phone: 0427 577 879 **Email:** matt@mcveighpartnership.com.au

Matt McVeigh, from Dalby in Queensland, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by Cotton Australia and the Cotton Research and Development Corporation.

He will research methods of improving the quality of Australian cotton.

Matt works in his family business, which consists of approximately 6000 hectares of irrigated and dryland cropping and is a mixture of owned, leased and share-farmed country. The main income comes from cotton, closely followed by sorghum – wheat, barley, chickpeas and corn are also part of the cropping rotation.

With the quality of cotton potentially being impacted by factors from seedling emergence through to the spinning mill, it's an area Matt sees as being critically important.

"I'm going to research cotton quality and what the end user requires, particularly in regards to length and colour, which can cost a producer a great amount of money in a short period of time.

Agronomic and weather related issues such as row spacing, climate, defoliation, picking and packaging also all relate to quality and I would love to be able to compare different countries to Australia to see how we could improve on this," he says.

Matt will visit China, Korea, India, Brazil, Argentina, Egypt and the USA.

Supported by:



Australian Government

**Cotton Research and
Development Corporation**



**COTTON
AUSTRALIA**

Advancing Australian Cotton

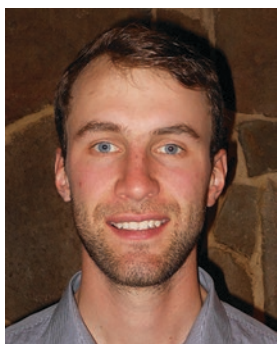
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Website: www.crdc.com.au

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

Website: www.cottonaustralia.com.au



Supported by:



Thomas Snare

Phone: 0429 940 063 **Email:** thomas.snare@utas.edu.au

Thomas Snare, from Boat Harbour in Tasmania, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by Dairy Australia.

He will study intensive large-scale calf rearing (dairy beef) and lean management

Thomas is farm manager of the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture Dairy Research Facility for the University of Tasmania. They milk 360 cows on the 220-hectare property and all replacements are reared and raised on farm. He is also responsible for pasture and stock management on the family grazing property, which consists of up to 320-head of dairy heifer agistment and beef breeding/finishing and runs a pasture measurement contract business.

Thomas believes there is the opportunity to value-add to the currently expanding dairy industry by rearing Friesian bull calves.

"Dairy beef represents a far more efficient production system in comparison to conventional beef production – I'd like to find more productive options than slaughtering high genetic merit bulls at a young age," he explains.

Thomas will also research how the concept of lean management can be applied in agriculture.

"This concept, based on the Toyota production system, is used by manufacturing to eliminate waste and drive continuous improvement," he says.

Thomas will visit New Zealand, Europe, USA, Canada and Japan to complete his studies.

Supporter information:

Dairy Australia is the national services body for the Australian dairy industry. Dairy Australia acts as the collective investment arm of the industry, investing in essential research, development, extension and industry services.

Website: www.dairyaustralia.com.au **Facebook:** DairyAustralia **Twitter:** @Dairy_Australia



Stacey Loftus

Phone: 0449 146 358 **Email:** stace_85@hotmail.com

Stacey Loftus, from Wonboyn Lake in New South Wales, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.

She will study marketing and branding in oyster production.

Stacey is business manager for the family oyster farm, working with her husband Andrew and parents-in-law Ross and Anne. They are one of the largest oyster producers in Wonboyn, farming nine leases over 13 hectares, and producing close to 30-thousand dozen oysters for the domestic market, mostly wholesale into Brisbane and Sydney.

Stacey says historically the Sydney Rock oyster industry has not branded or marketed itself well, a situation she wants to change.

"We are moving into a more environmentally responsible age, by using plastics that don't break down, are often recycled, and always very costly – we now need to use these new sustainable standards to market ourselves," she explains.

Stacey wants to investigate how oyster farmers all over the world have successfully used branding.

"I am particularly interested in how long-standing industries in Europe and the revitalized American sector approach marketing, but I also realise I can draw experience from other industries," she says.

Stacey will travel to USA, France, Ireland, Japan and Singapore to complete her research.

Supported by:



Supporter information:

The FRDC's role is to plan and invest in fisheries 'RD&E' activities in Australia. This includes providing leadership and coordination of the monitoring, evaluating and reporting on RD&E activities, facilitating dissemination, extension and commercialisation.

Website: www.frdc.com.au



Ben Haslett

Phone: 0438 317 559 **Email:** ben@woolenook.com.au

Ben Haslett, from Murtho in South Australia, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by Horticulture Australia Limited, using voluntary contributions from industry and matched funds from the Australian Government.

He will investigate how rural communities can secure the information, infrastructure and representation required to be competitive in a world market.

Ben manages his family business growing, packing and marketing citrus, almonds, wine grapes and stonefruit for both domestic and export markets on approximately 100 hectares of planted area. Additionally, they contract pack and market citrus for other growers and run a contract mechanical almond harvesting service.

Ben will use his scholarship to investigate better mechanisms for the primary production sector to interact with decision-makers and key stakeholders.

"While regional communities can often become frustrated with ineffective policy, poorly-directed research or inadequate consultation, it is equally true that Government often feels frustrated when trying to engage with the rural sector.

I want to look at how can we be best represented in a powerful yet cooperative manner for the good of our regions and Australia as a whole," he explains.

He will visit Spain, France, China, UK, USA and the Netherlands during his travels.

Supported by:



Horticulture Australia

Supporter information:

Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL) is the industry owned, rural research and development corporation for the Australian horticulture sector. HAL currently has over 40 members, covering 43 separate industries and more than 80 commodities, including fruits, nuts, vegetables, mushrooms, nursery, turf and cut flowers.

Website: www.horticulture.com.au **Facebook:** HorticultureAustralia **Twitter:** @hort_au



Thomas Eastlake

Phone: 0438 059 464 **Email:** tom@fairfieldsorchard.com.au

Tom Eastlake, from Young in NSW, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by Horticulture Australia Limited, as part of the across industry program with matching funds from the Australian Government.

He will study cherry field handling, packing techniques and packaging materials.

With 15-thousand cherry trees in production, Tom is responsible for all orchard and farming activities on his property, which produces approximately 250 to 340 tonnes of cherries per year. Tom manages three full time staff during the year and over 100 seasonal workers at harvest.

To optimise shelf life, minimise damage and provide the best presentation of fruit, Tom will study handling techniques of cherries from tree to packhouse, handling during packing and subsequent packaging.

"Almost all research in Australia is done on variety and rootstock performance, yield, pruning techniques and chemical performance - there is no research done on fruit handling and packaging best practice.

We have varieties that can display 'pitting' on the skin after handling, or that are softer and may bruise or squash - however, improving handling techniques have been shown to reduce pitting, and our goal should be to improve our handling to reduce impact and compression," he explains.

Tom will visit the USA, Canada, Chile and Italy.

Supported by:



Horticulture Australia

Supporter information:

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Website: www.horticulture.com.au **Facebook:** HorticultureAustralia **Twitter:** @hort_au



Fiona Hall

Phone: 0417 060 554 **Email:** info@biteriot.com.au

Fiona Hall, from Orange in New South Wales, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by Horticulture Australia Limited using voluntary contributions from Apple and Pear Australia Limited and matching funds from the Australian Government.

She will study innovation to close the gap between producer and retailer profits.

Fiona is managing director of Caernarvon Cherry Co, a holistic cherry growing, packing and marketing operation, which in the 2013/14 season handled 1000-tonne of fruit – equating to 10 per cent of the Australian crop. Also, Fiona & Bernard Hall co-own (with Tim Hall) Bonny Glen Fruits, growing apples over four properties located around Orange and two cold storage properties where they pack market apples for themselves and other growers under their 'BiteRiot' brand.

She will use her Nuffield Scholarship to investigate how to close the gap between farmgate and retail returns in the apple and cherry industries.

"Our industry adds three times the value of our crop in packing, processing and sorting – I want to look at how we can achieve more value at the farmgate for producers.

To understand this I need to study how large packhouses rationalise, streamline, become more transparent, value-add, improve packing, market, use real-time reporting and of course innovate," she says.

Fiona will visit the UK, USA, China and New Zealand during her studies..

Supported by:



Horticulture Australia



Apple & Pear Australia Ltd.

Supporter information:

In addition to Horticulture Australia Limited, Apple and Pear Australia Limited (APAL) is the peak industry body representing commercial apple and pear growers in Australia. APAL is charged with providing leadership, support and additional resources to drive key industry initiatives.

Website: www.horticulture.com.au **Website:** www.apal.org.au



Nathan Free

Phone: 0427 178 626 **Email:** nathan.duralgai@gmail.com

Nathan Free, from Lake Boga in Victoria, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by Horticulture Australia Limited, using funds from the National Vegetable R&D Levy and matching funds from the Australian Government.

Nathan will study variety selection and soil amendments during conversion from conventional to certified organic farming.

As managing director of Alkira Organics, Nathan is responsible for vegetable production, packaging, marketing and dispatch at his family's certified organic horticultural production business. The 350-hectare property comprises organic stone fruit and organic vegetables, including zucchini, melon, pumpkin, tomato, corn, broccoli and kale.

Nathan believes there is massive potential for the organic industry to develop, but the more demanding crops and the ability to achieve higher yields is holding the industry back.

"I intend to identify which varieties of vegetables are working well using organic production methods on an international scale.

In addition, I hope to tap into knowledge around the world regarding soil amendments that can bridge the gap during the conversion to organic as well as building the organic matter in soils," he says.

Nathan will travel to the USA and England.

Supported by:



Horticulture Australia



Supporter information:

In addition to Horticulture Australia Limited, Ausveg is the national peak industry body representing the interests of Australian vegetable and potato growers and is committed to securing the industry's future.

Website: www.ausveg.com.au



Supported by:



Wade Mann

Phone: 0404 913 209 **Email:** wademann125@gmail.com

Wade Mann, from Lake Haven in New South Wales, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by Nuffield Australia.

He will research Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies for greenhouse hydroponic production of berry crops.

Wade is managing director of Roses 2 Go, a commercial greenhouse hydroponic rose cut-flower production facility he runs with his wife Nicola. Up until this year, their mix of Hybrid-T and Intermediate roses returned an annual yield of over a million stems. They recently diversified half their total greenhouse area to the commercial production of hydroponic blueberries, with a small-scale trial of hydroponic raspberries within the same unit.

With the recent push into berries, Wade will use his scholarship to investigate how to overcome a lack of chemical options to control pests in the berry crops.

"Commercial pollinators have been used to successfully transport and disperse microbial inoculum as an environmentally and ecologically sound method of biocontrol.

The challenge in Australia is to successfully implement this technology using commercially available honeybees as an alternative to bumblebees, which are globally acclaimed as superior pollinators but forbidden entry on our shores," he explains.

To research the topic, Wade will visit Canada, USA, the Netherlands, China and the UK.

Supporter information:

Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarships is a unique program that awards primary producers with a life-changing scholarship to travel overseas and study an agricultural topic of choice. Nuffield has been selecting primary producers for over 60 years and it is the leading program for primary producers in Australia.

Website: www.nuffield.com.au **Facebook:** Nuffield-Australia **Twitter:** @nuffieldaust



Michael Craig

Phone: 0457 881 334 **Email:** tuloonapastoral@optusnet.com.au

Michael Craig, from Harrow in Victoria, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by Meat and Livestock Australia.

He will investigate the Australian sheepmeat industry's ability to create value in changing environmental, economic and social conditions.

Michael is general manager of Tuloona Pastoral, a mixed broadacre livestock and cropping enterprise consisting of 18-thousand sheep, 500 cows and a 1400-hectare cropping program. His role includes strategic direction, managing fulltime and seasonal employees, pasture and cropping management, as well as overseeing wool production and sheep breeding.

Michael says with high production costs, a tough environment and small population, Australian sheep producers have a challenge to be profitable while creating consumer value.

"If the forecasts around climate change and global development trends are right, then Australian sheepmeat products will increasingly become a semi-luxury protein source, requiring new ways of thinking about our supply chains.

I'll be looking at whether additional value creation can be distributed equitably through the supply chain to improve returns and vertical linkages, particularly in the context of Australia's climate variability, production scale and ability to adapt," he explains.

He plans to inspect supply chain models in USA, New Zealand, Europe and the UK.

Supported by:



Supporter information:

Meat & Livestock Australia Limited delivers marketing and RD&E services for Australia's cattle, sheep and goat producers. We create opportunities for livestock supply chains to build demand and productivity, and provide services, tools and information that create tangible benefits for livestock producers.

Website: www.mla.com.au **Facebook:** [meatandlivestockaustralia](https://www.facebook.com/meatandlivestockaustralia) **Twitter:** [@meatlivestock](https://twitter.com/meatlivestock)



James Mifsud

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James Mifsud, from Goulburn in New South Wales, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by the RIRDC Chicken Meat Program.

He will study animal welfare standards in the poultry industry.

James produces around 140-thousand turkeys a year in six sheds on his 160-hectare property. The family owned operation produces the turkeys in 2.7 batches per annum, meaning each batch cycle is 20 weeks. Poulters are delivered as day olds and reared to a processor-specified market weight. Hens weigh on average 4-7 kilograms whilst the toms are 14-17 kilograms.

The enterprise also includes a 60-head herd of Angus breeders and they sell and contract spread turkey manure and other fertilisers.

James will use his scholarship to investigate how costs of poultry production and consumption trends are affected by higher welfare standards.

"I want to understand the level of uptake by consumers of the higher welfare poultry versus standard grown.

In addition, I am interested in the drivers behind the implementation of higher welfare standards and the effect it has on farm production costs," he explains.

James will tour North America and the EU to research his topic.

Supported by:



RURAL INDUSTRIES

Research & Development
Corporation

Supporter information:

The Rural Industries R&D Corporation works with many rural industries to invest in research and development for a more profitable, sustainable and dynamic rural sector. The RIRDC Chicken Meat R&D program supports increased sustainability and profitability in the Australian chicken meat industry.

Website: www.rirdc.gov.au **Twitter:** @RIRDC



Fred Appleton

Phone: 0419 684 102 **Email:** islay-plains@bigpond.com

Fred Appleton, from Alpha in Queensland, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by Rabobank.

He will study animal husbandry practices, with a particular focus on dehorning and castrating cattle.

Fred manages the day-to-day operations of two of his family's central Queensland properties, and oversees managers on four additional properties. Collectively the 180-thousand hectare enterprise consists of 45-thousand cattle including 14,500 breeding cows. Steers are mainly fattened and sold to meatworks, with the remainder sold into the feeder market.

Fred would like to investigate how animal husbandry practices and regulations in Australia differ to those implemented around the world.

"In particular I'll focus on dehorning and castrating in cattle, and how various cattle producing countries regulate the process.

I'd like to spend some time talking to and learning from the whole supply chain, from cattle producers and vets through to consumers," Fred says.

While having healthy animals is of upmost importance to Fred, he says it's also important that cattle production be financially viable.

Fred plans to visit Scotland, Ireland, the Netherlands and the USA.

Supported by:



Rabobank

Supporter information:

As the world's leading food and agribusiness bank, Rabobank has an unparalleled knowledge and understanding of the Food & Agri sector and is able to provide its clients with benefits that go far beyond traditional banking services, working with them to build expertise and grow their businesses.

Website: www.rabobank.com.au **Twitter:** @RabobankAU



Supported by:



Bernadette Mortensen

Phone: 0488 021 241 **Email:** b.mortensen@bigpond.com

Bernadette Mortensen, from Mangrove Mountain in New South Wales, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by Woolworths.

She will investigate how farmers can manage urban encroachment, unfavourable public perception and legislative change.

Bernadette is owner/operator of a 12-hectare farm, producing 210-thousand birds per year in two conventional free-range chicken sheds and growing avocados on 350 trees that have been planted on approximately four hectares to diversify the business. She is also part of a family agricultural group producing 1.2 million free-range broilers per year, avocados and a growing herd of Angus cattle.

With a passion for agriculture and food production, Bernadette would like to study the increasing outside pressures Australian agriculture is under.

"I'd like to explore other parts of the world where industry is dealing with issues like unfavourable public perception, legislative change and urban encroachment," she says.

I see an opportunity to capitalise on innovation and technology from more heavily populated countries that have been under similar pressures for considerable amounts of time," she explains.

To do this she plans on visiting China, Singapore, USA, Mexico, the UK and Denmark.

Supporter information:

Woolworths is the largest supermarket/grocery store chain in Australia, owned by Woolworths Limited

Website: www.woolworths.com.au



Andrew Baldock

Phone: 0418 820 346 **Email:** abconstruct@gmail.com

Andrew Baldock, from Kimba in South Australia, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by Grain Growers Limited.

He will investigate building the farm enterprise to accommodate a growing family in a changing business environment.

Andrew is increasingly responsible for the cropping and grain marketing side of his family's mixed cropping and livestock farming operation. Farming with his wife Dale, parents Jeff and Jenny and brother Mark with his wife Libby, the Baldock family predominantly focus on wheat in the 5900-hectare cropping program, with barley, oats, canola, lupins, peas, vetch and medic pasture filling out the rotation. They also run a self-replacing Merino flock with a percentage of ewes mated to x-bred rams.

Andrew says with multiple siblings wanting to be involved in the family farm, they have a need to expand the business to support growing families.

"I'd like to investigate how various businesses around the globe in similar positions have approached this scenario.

In particular I'll focus on options such as growing the family business through outside investment, and the viability of diversification and value-adding options in our region," he says.

To achieve these research goals, Andrew plans on visiting Canada, USA, UK, New Zealand, Russia and Asia.



Supported by:

Supporter information:

GrainGrowers is Australia's only national, independent, member-based, financially sustainable, technically resourced, grain producer organisation. We're working to make a more efficient, sustainable and profitable grains industry for all Australian grain producers.

Website: www.graingrowers.com.au **Facebook:** Grain Growers Limited

Twitter: @GrainGrowersLtd



Supported by:



James Terry

Phone: 0433 565 833 **Email:** james@momack.com.au

James Terry, from Koo Wee Rup in Victoria, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by The William Buckland Foundation.

He will study the economic sustainability of vegetable farming.

James is produce partner and export manager for Momack Produce, the largest exporter of asparagus in Australia, producing around 3500 tonnes each season. The company also exports onions, broccoli, grapes and some mixed consolidation lots from the Melbourne market. He is also a farm partner and operations manager for the Iona Farm Partnership, growing asparagus on a 64-hectare property.

James says there is concern that vegetable farming in Australia is not a viable and sustainable occupation for business owners.

"My aim is to assist in ensuring the sustainability of vegetable farming for future generations – to achieve this we need to be able to grow produce of the highest quality.

I want to find ways to make the produce chain more efficient and sustainable, looking at areas such as growing techniques, soil science, supply chain efficiencies, use of improved technology, value-adding and marketing," he says.

James will visit the Netherlands, USA, China, Mexico, Peru and New Zealand during his studies.

Supporter information:

The William Buckland Foundation provides funding to support activities, organisations and project which focus on the health and wellbeing, particularly children and young people, scientific and educational activities, particularly agriculture to create lasting benefit for the Victorian community.



Supported by:



Han Shiong Siah

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Han Shiong Siah, from Humpty Doo in the Northern Territory, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by ANZ and the NT Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries.

He will study alternate and cost-effective methods to control flying feral vermin. Han is the farm manager and agronomist for Tropical Primary Products, a family-owned and operated business specialising in tropical fruit production.

The main crops on the 220-hectare property are mangoes, durians (largest durian plantation in Australia), jackfruits and pomelos, while other lesser-known tropical fruit also feature in their produce line. They also have an active mango-breeding project, with their first commercial variety (TPP1) being widely available in green grocers and major Australian supermarket chains.

In recent years, Magpie Geese have become a major pest for fruit and vegetable farmers in northern Australia, destroying horticultural crops such as mangoes, melons, Asian vegetables and other tropical fruits.

Current efforts to manage the geese have had mixed success, and Han says can also be expensive.

"I hope to find new ways to manage these geese to limit the damage and impact on crops - some of these could be as simple as applying a spray-deterrent or using drones," he says.

He will travel to the USA, Canada, the Netherlands, South Africa, Brazil, China and Taiwan.

Supporter information:

ANZ has provided banking services to customers in regional Australia for more than 150 years. With access to industry specialists and an extensive range of products and services, our ANZ Regional Commercial team can tailor solutions to suit the unique needs of your business.

Website: www.anz.com.au/personal

The Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory is the unicameral legislature of the Northern Territory in Australia. It sits in Parliament House, located on State Square, close to the centre of the city of Darwin.

Website: www.nt.gov.au



Derek Tiller

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Derek Tiller, from Pinery in South Australia, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by Nufarm.

He will research improving emergence and vigour of plants in disc seeding systems.

Derek is co-manager of the 2650-hectare farm family farm, continuously cropping a rotation of wheat, barley, lentils, canola and beans. Derek is specifically responsible for seeding operations, including paddock preparation, nutrition, rotation and variety choice. The family has policies in place to further improve the land such as no burning of stubble, no livestock, no cultivation or hay.

Derek hopes to develop and use a superior all-in-one, one-pass seeding system to better combine Integrated Pest Management, conservation tillage and precision agriculture.

Being such a broad study topic, he says it has the potential to cover everything from seeding to post-emergent pesticides.

By investigating better seed placement and use of a liquid system to feed and protect the crop, Derek aims to better establish crops at target densities and therefore improve yield potential.

"To achieve our yield and sustainability targets, we upgraded to a zero-till disc seeder this year, but there are many modifications and management changes I can still make," he explains.

Derek will investigate this topic by visiting Argentina, Chile, Germany, the UK, USA and Canada.

Supported by:



Supporter information:

Nufarm has been based in Australia for more than 50 years and has worked alongside Australians to provide a wide range of top quality crop protection products.

Website: www.nufarm.com/AU



Jonathan Dyer

Phone: 0423 269 798 **Email:** jonathan@nerdfarmer.com

Jonathan Dyer, from Kaniva in Victoria, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by Rural Finance Corporation.

He will investigate the possibilities 'Big Data' creates for improving farm practice and profitability.

Jonathan is involved in a West Wimmera family farming partnership that specialises in broadacre grain production on approximately 2200 hectares. The family grows a mixture of bread and durum wheat, canola, lentils, faba beans and chickpeas in a continuous cropping rotation. They have invested heavily in on-farm storage and market grain off-farm to various domestic processors and grain exporters.

Jonathan will use his scholarship to focus on Big Data, which refers to the ability to capture and store large volumes of information and analyse it to solve complex problems and gain business insights.

"It is now possible to collect large amounts of sensory and spatial data on-farm at very little cost - some examples include weather data, harvest yield information, soil type maps, soil moisture and temperature probes and machinery performance data," he explains.

While Jonathan believes Big Data can help farmers make better and more profitable decisions, he'd like to look at who owns the data farmers generate, and whether they can take ownership of that data to create value from it.

Jonathan hopes to visit the USA, Canada, Germany and South Africa on his travels.

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Supporter information:

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Website: www.ruralfinance.com.au **Twitter:** [@ruralfinancevic](https://twitter.com/ruralfinancevic)



Abby McKibben

Phone: 0427 668 016 **Email:** amckibben@huonaqua.com.au

Abby McKibben, from Roaring Beach in Tasmania, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by Blundstone Australia, The Robert Gatenby Memorial Trust, Roberts Limited and Tasmanian Alkaloids.

She will study luxury seafood marketing, with an aim to raise the markets perceived value of Australian seafood.

Abby works for Huon Aquaculture, the world's largest privately owned salmon farm which produces just over 12-thousand tonnes of fresh salmon and trout per year, and value-adds smoked products and caviar. She manages the company's Reserve Selection, a boutique range of hand-crafted artisan smoked products.

Abby believes there is a real opportunity to better brand the luxury seafood category within the broader high-end sector.

"Unlike European and even North American counterparts, there are still very few so called luxury seafood brands in Australia that the everyday consumer would be able to recall," she explains.

With the growing Australian demand for seafood, Abby believes the opportunity has never been greater for domestic seafood companies to realise true product value in a traditionally consumer-price driven sector.

Abby plans to attend the Terra Madre food festival in Italy, as well as visiting key global regions that have used 'place' successfully to increase their brand and overall value proposition, such as Switzerland, France and the USA.

Supported by:



**Robert Gatenby
Memorial Trust**



Supporter information:

Blundstone sells great footwear around the globe, currently selling to over 50 countries across five continents. **Website:** www.blundstone.com

The Robert Gatenby Memorial Trust was established in 1993 in remembrance of Robert Gatenby, who was an innovative Tasmanian farmer and horticulturalist.

Tasmanian Alkaloids is the world's largest vertically integrated producer of innovative poppy alkaloids for medicinal use. **Website:** www.tasalk.com.au

Roberts Limited has a significant offering in all facets of agri-business and real estate in Tasmania, covering rural merchandising, livestock, wool, agronomy, irrigation, insurance, finance, travel and both urban and rural real estate. **Website:** www.robertsltd.com.au

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