

NUFFIELD
AUSTRALIA
FARMING SCHOLARS



2017
SCHOLAR
PRESENTATIONS
AND AWARDS
DINNER

**Ian McLachlan Room,
Adelaide Oval, Adelaide, SA
15th September 2016**

www.nuffield.com.au



We thank our 2017 Scholarship Investors:



Rabobank





Awards Dinner Program

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER
6.15pm	Pre-dinner drinks	Kindly supported by Bayer Crop Science
7.00pm	Seating of guests	John Gladigau, 2007 Nuffield Scholar and Master of Ceremonies
7.05pm	Welcome	Andrew Johnson, 2005 Scholar and Nuffield Australia Chairman
7.10pm	Presentations to Nuffield Scholars	Andrew Johnson, 2005 Scholar and Nuffield Australia Chairman
7.25pm	Entree served	
7.40pm	George Wilson Oration	To be delivered by The Hon. Ian McLachlan, AO
8.15pm	Main course served	
8.40pm	Presentation of 2017 Scholarships	John Gladigau, 2007 Nuffield Scholar and Master of Ceremonies
9.20pm	Dessert served	
9.30pm	Presentation of 2017 Scholarships	John Gladigau, 2007 Nuffield Scholar and Master of Ceremonies
10.15pm	Closing remarks	Andrew Johnson, 2005 Scholar and Nuffield Australia Chairman
10.30 – 10.45pm	Guests depart the venue	

Pre-dinner drinks kindly supported by Bayer Crop Science





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 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 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”.



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. 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 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 ten 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 have implemented the perpetual George Wilson Oration to mark Mr Wilson’s contribution to all our lives.

The eighth George Wilson Oration will be delivered the Hon. Ian McLachlan, AO.



The Hon Ian Murray McLachlan AO

The Hon Ian McLachlan has a direct involvement in one of Australia's largest export industries as a woolgrower with pastoral interests in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales.

Mr McLachlan was President of the National Farmers Federation (NFF) from 1984 to 1988. Prior to that he was Chairman of the NFF's Industrial Committee and President of the Wool Council of Australia.

He retired as Deputy Chairman of the South Australian Brewing Company (now Southcorp) and a Director of Elders IXL in 1990. He was also a member of the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation (AMLC) from July 1988 – March 1990.

Mr McLachlan was made an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia on Australia Day, 1989 for his service to primary industry.

A graduate of Cambridge University, Mr McLachlan is married with three children. His interests include cricket, in which he played for South Australia and was twelfth man for Australia. (He held two Fourth Wicket Partnerships with Gary Sobers for South Australia, one of which was against South Africa.)

His interests are golf and wildlife photography.

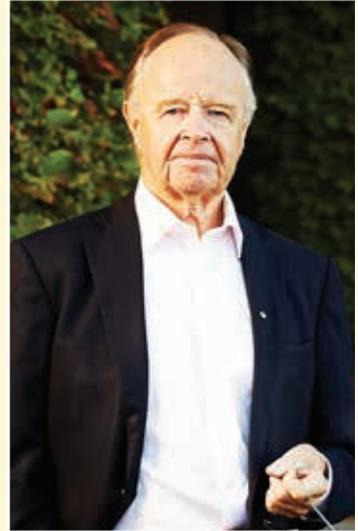
The McLachlan family property, 'Nangwarry' won the Mid and Lower South East prize in the Ibis Awards for wetlands development in South Australia in 1994.

Mr McLachlan was elected as a Member of the House of Representatives, representing the seat of Barker, in March 1990 and retired in November 1998 from politics having been Minister for Defence and a Cabinet Member during the first Coalition Government.

In January 1999 Mr McLachlan was appointed Chairman of the Australian Wool Industry Future Directions Task Force (The Wool Task Force) that presented its report to the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries on 30 June 1999. He was Chairman of Australian Wool Innovation from 2002 – 2008.

Mr McLachlan was President of the South Australian Cricket Association and Board Member of Cricket Australia.

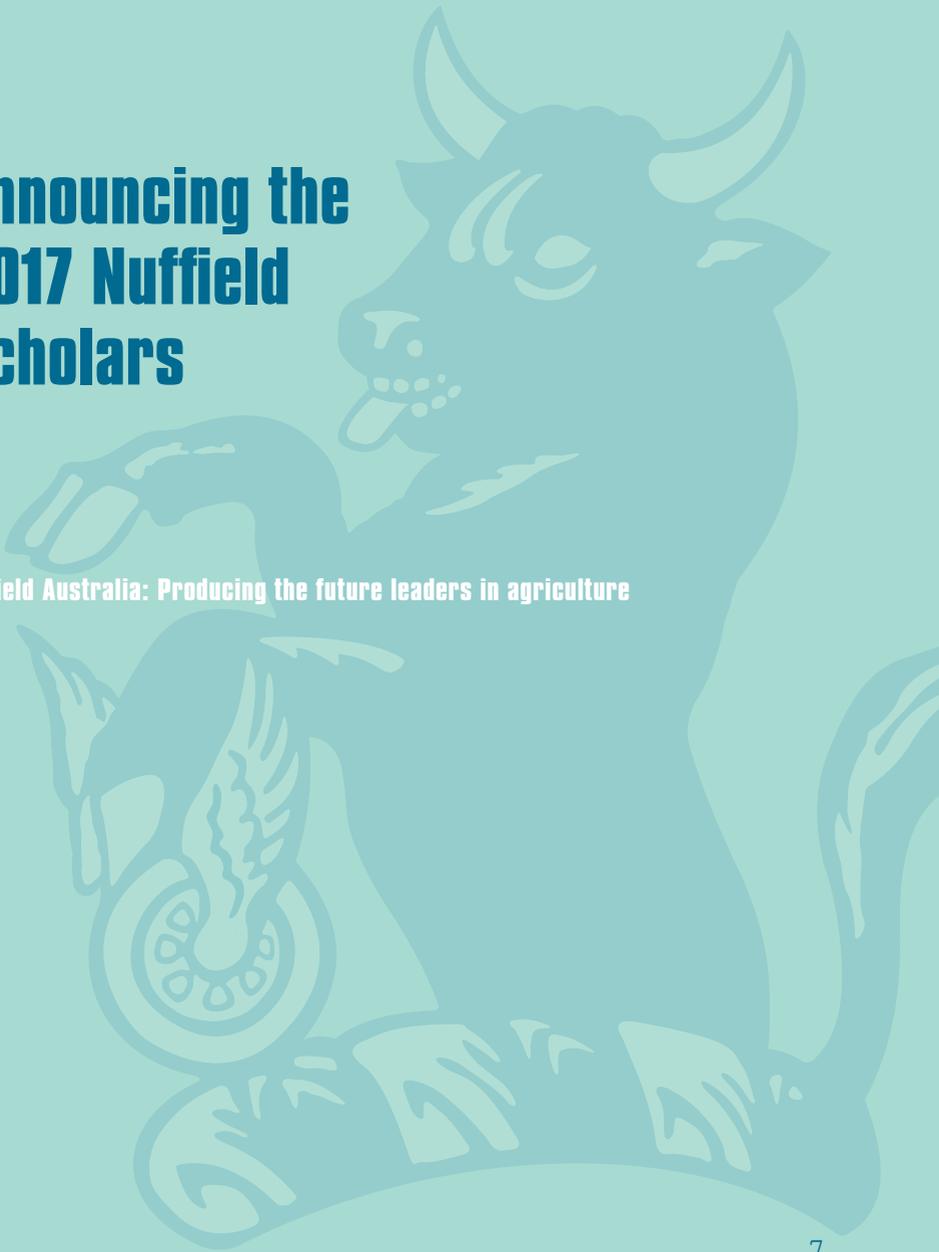
Over the last seven or eight years, he has been involved in developing this ground, as President of the SACA, and was Chairman of the Stadium Management Authority that designed and managed the building of this new ground.





Announcing the 2017 Nuffield Scholars

Nuffield Australia: Producing the future leaders in agriculture





Luke Bradley QUEENSLAND



Phone: 0400 324 441 **Email:** woolaroo5@bigpond.com

Luke Bradley, from Springsure (near Emerald) in Central Queensland, receives a 2017 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the **Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) North**. He will travel to world-best farming enterprises with the aim to reignite Australian leadership in precision agriculture.

Luke is a director of Wool-A-Roo Pty Ltd. His family farms a 5300-hectare property producing dryland cereals and pulses, and run 350 head of breeding cows. He also provides contract farming services up to 20,000 hectares.

He is passionate about research and development in farming. Luke believes the key to the ongoing success of the agricultural industry is to share lessons amongst farmers and use existing knowledge and data better.

SUPPORTED BY:



“Opportunities are abound to simplify the use and results of new technologies. We can build data from one farm to the next. This data, being site specific, can be more valuable than general production research in some instances,” he said.

A current participant in the 2016 Australian Grain Farm Leaders Program, Luke is investigating leadership opportunities in the industry. He is keen to lead and bring together famers and supporting industries in Central Queensland to drive research projects that don't fit the scope of work undertaken by other research departments.

Acknowledging the impact Australian farmers have had on the face of global agricultural production over many generations, he is keen to ensure that Australian farmers remain at the forefront by continuing to invest in agricultural technologies. Luke also wants to ensure that adoption rates for new technologies, such as drones, for example, are not limited due to lack of education or awareness about these new developments.

Luke will travel to the USA, Argentina, Brazil, China and New Zealand.

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 create enduring profitability for Australian grain growers.

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



Alexander Nixon QUEENSLAND



Phone: 0429 432 467 **Email:** aanixon@live.com.au

Alexander Nixon from Drillham near Roma on the Western Darling Downs of Queensland, receives a 2017 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the **Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) North**. He will investigate how to make broadacre farming more sustainable, thereby avoiding many of the current issues faced by the industry.

Taking over the family farm in his early twenties, Alex currently oversees the management and operation of the 6,900-hectare property, together with his brother Thomas. It has 1,600 hectares of rotational cropping and can carry up to 2,000 head of cattle. He is currently in the midst of initiating Wagyu production and offers a contract farming service.

Alexander is passionate about the future of primary production and embraces the challenge of change. These qualities have underpinned his success in developing a few thousand acres over to cropping with notable success.

He is also keen to continue diversifying his beef production, to identify and supply niche markets.

Being mindful of the challenges facing broadacre farming - degradation of soil structure, erosion, topsoil depletion, compaction, plant disease, pest infestations - Alexander is clear as to what needs to be done.

“We need measures in place to improve organic carbon levels in the soil in a sustainable, cost effective and efficient manner.”

Alexander’s passion for improved broadacre farming techniques is personal - he is determined to grow his primary production business in terms of both financial success and physical land size, so as to pass on the same opportunity to his children.

“My plan is to leave this land to my sons in better condition than I acquired it.”

Alexander will travel to the USA to visit similar broadacre properties facing similar challenges, and China to better understand how to market Australian beef to that market.

SUPPORTED BY:



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 create enduring profitability for Australian grain growers.

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



Katrina Sasse WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Phone: 0408 988 856 **Email:** ksasse2@gmail.com

Katrina Sasse, from Morawa (near Geraldton) in Western Australia, receives a 2017 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the **Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) West**.

She will research “the way forward for daughters” and investigate strategies to encourage young women, particularly farmer’s daughters, to play an integral role in the continuity of family farm businesses, enabling them to survive and help rural communities thrive.

Katrina is involved in her family’s business ‘Leichhardt Fields’, a cereal and oilseed cropping enterprise which consists of four farms, totalling 8210 hectares. As a farmer’s daughter, she has been raised with a keen interest in agriculture and currently works full-time on the property as a manager, after a successful career in agribusiness banking.

Katrina’s research will be particularly pertinent to difficult rural issues, such as female alienation from farm succession, disinheritance, and entrenched patriarchal challenges in agriculture.

“Patriarchal inheritance of Australian farms is a factor contributing to population decline, the failure of small community clubs and groups, as well as a rising trend in single male farmers. Too often, daughters of farmers are simply encouraged to find alternative careers.”

She plans to demonstrate best practices and tactics in succession planning employed around the world where daughters are included as successors, and to show how women bring new ideas, creativity and leadership styles to the agricultural sector.

“Farmers need to educate their daughters from a young age about the range of possibilities in farming and to consider their strengths when undertaking succession planning. Farming tasks are very broad and there are brand new opportunities appearing in farming every day.

Katrina will travel to the grain growing regions in the world.

SUPPORTED BY:



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 create enduring profitability for Australian grain growers.

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



Glenn Wormald QUEENSLAND



Phone: 0403 675 244 **Email:** glenn@pacificreef.com.au

Glenn Wormald from Guthalungra near Bowen in Queensland, receives a 2017 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the **Fisheries Research and Development Corporation**. He will travel to successful prawn nurseries throughout the world and bring their knowledge and experience back to Australia where nursery technology is yet to be implemented.

Glenn is manager of larval rearing at Pacific Reef Fisheries' (PRF) hatchery. PRF produces over 1,000 tonnes of black tiger prawns and around 100 tonnes of cobia annually. The hatchery produced 120 million post larval black tiger prawns in 2015. Expansion of the hatchery site is planned for 2017, and will include a nursery phase in the rearing process.

Current prawn farming practice in Australia involves breeding and rearing larvae in a hatchery, then transferring to grow-out ponds, but Glenn says this technique leads to variable survival rates and restrictions on the growing period due to low temperatures.

"An intermediary nursery phase allows for the animals to be held to a larger size in a smaller temperature controlled system before moving them to the grow-out ponds. This enables the animals to be grown to full market size for the Christmas harvest, where early season low temperatures normally restrict final harvest weight."

Recent trials of a nursery phase at PRF has shown a 15% improvement in prawn size for Christmas harvest and a 40% improvement in pond yield. However, these trials have also raised many questions about how to design and manage the nursery systems to optimise results.

"The opportunity to study nursery systems already in operation overseas will enable us to avoid known pitfalls and harness best practice management."

Glenn is also very mindful of modern consumers.

"Consumers are becoming increasingly aware of where products are sourced and produced, the efficiency and sustainability of production, the cost and quality of the product and the environmental and social impacts of."

Glenn will travel to North and South America.

SUPPORTED BY:



FRDC
FISHERIES RESEARCH &
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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. The FRDC's role is to plan and invest in fisheries research, development and extension (RD&E) activities in Australia.

Website: www.frdc.com.au **Facebook:** FRDCAustralia **Twitter:** @FishfilesNews

Jonas Woolford SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Phone: 0419 280 577 **Email:** jbw21@internode.on.net

Jonas Woolford, from Streaky Bay (near Port Lincoln) in South Australia, receives a 2017 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the **Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC)** and **Nuffield South Australia**. He will investigate cohesion between primary industry, community and government for the effective co-management of natural resources in the complex seafood industry.

Jonas' family company harvests wild abalone in the Eyre Peninsula of South Australia. They own two (36 tonne) licenses out of 22 (405 tonne) in the western zone abalone fishery. Their abalone gets processed and then exported to South East Asia, mainly Hong Kong.

Jonas' research will be particularly significant for the potential of South Australia's seafood industry to grow, and provide protein, in an environmentally sustainable way for all Australians and internationally.

He plans to learn how different countries and cultures, particularly where seafood has historically been a staple and driver of the economy, deal with complex social licence issues and achieve effective co-management.

"The seafood industry is inherently complex as the resource (the fish) is owned by the crown and those with a commercial licence receive an allocation, which is only issued for a specific period of time," Jonas says.

"This resource is also shared with recreational groups and importantly, Aboriginal traditional owners.

"Spatial access to fishing grounds is also affected by other factors such as aquaculture, shipping, mining, oil and gas exploration, defence and biodiversity conservation (marine parks). This means that effectively co-management really is key to ensure that our precious natural resources are cared for and utilised in the best way for all concerned."

Jonas balances the time for his family to harvest their abalone quota with voluntary seafood industry representative roles.

He will travel to Japan, Scandinavia, Europe, New Zealand, Canada and the United States.

SUPPORTED BY:



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. The FRDC's role is to plan and invest in fisheries research, development and extension (RD&E) activities in Australia.

Website: www.frdc.com.au **Facebook:** FRDCAustralia **Twitter:** @FishfilesNews



Chris Monnier VICTORIA



Phone: 0402 558 592 **Email:** chris@makeeggs.com.au

Chris Monnier, from Mornington in Victoria, receives a 2017 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the **Australian Egg Corporation Limited**.

He will investigate egg production systems, in particular, balancing consumer demand, population and consumption growth across cage, barn and free range systems.

Chris is the General Manager of Make Eggs, which owns three farms with 500,000 layer hens that produce eggs utilizing the cage, barn and free range systems. The company has big growth plans over the next few years.

Chris was born in Melbourne and is married to Michelle, with three children.

Chris says his research will be particularly pertinent to the inaccurate perception in Australia that better production is only gained at the expense of animal welfare. He plans to help educate consumers on this highly emotive topic.

SUPPORTED BY:

AUSTRALIAN EGG
CORPORATION LIMITED



"The Australian egg industry is being forced to move away from more intensive farming systems, largely due to the misleading marketing of some fringe groups. Eggs are one of the cheapest forms of protein available and intensive farming systems currently produce about 60 per cent of all Australian eggs," Chris says.

"Moving away from this system will both dramatically increase the cost of eggs to consumers and, jeopardise the industry's ability to consistently produce throughout the year.

Chris has worked very closely with the Australian Egg Corporation and Victoria Farmer's Federation on this contentious issue. He recently produced a television program in conjunction with these bodies called "The Truth About Eggs", with the aim of educating consumers.

Chris will travel to America, Japan, Holland and Canada.

SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

The Australian Egg Corporation Limited (AECL) is an Industry Services Body (ISB) or provider of marketing and Research & Development (R&D) services for the benefit of all stakeholders, principally egg producers. AECL is mainly funded through statutory levies, collected under the Egg Industry Service Provision Act 2002, and Australian government funds for the purposes of 'approved' R&D.

Website: www.aecl.org **Facebook:** [YourEggsYourChoice](https://www.facebook.com/YourEggsYourChoice) **Twitter:** [@youreggs](https://twitter.com/youreggs)



Tobias (Toby) Bekkers SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Phone: 0408 807 568 **Email:** toby@bekkerswine.com

Toby Bekkers has been awarded a 2017 Nuffield Scholarship supported by **Wine Australia**, to explore world best practice in the marketing of fine wines directly to consumers.

Based in South Australia's McLaren Vale, Toby seeks to understand how high-end brands both within and outside of the wine sector identify and interact with their target market.

As the co-owner of Bekkers Wine with his wife Emmanuelle, Toby is committed to demonstrating that McLaren Vale and Bekkers can stand proudly amongst the world's most coveted fine wines.

Wholly focused at the fine-wine market, Bekkers Wine's business model is deliberately limited in its scale and an authentic example of the excellence present in the Australian wine landscape. The key reason for this direct to customer approach is to create an alternative distribution model to the highly competitive wholesale channel.

Toby is keen to understand what the opportunities are for small- to medium-sized Australian wineries to access export markets using a direct to consumer sales and distribution model.

As a member of the South Australian Government's Luxury and Functional Foods Strategy Advisory Group, Toby has demonstrated a keen interest and understanding of how consumers engage with luxury products.

Toby plans to share his scholarship research with the broader Australian wine community and Australian primary producers more generally.

"There is much expertise about luxury marketing directly to consumers - both within and outside of wine. However, it needs to be extracted and presented in a usable form for business."

He will travel to the USA to attend the 'Direct to Consumer' Conference and visit best practice wineries in California. Toby also plans to meet with high-end wine collectors in the USA and UK. He will also visit ESSEC Business School in France, which is forefront in the education of luxury branding. An important aspect will be visiting high-end brands in other industries such as jewellery and fashion to see what concepts may be transferable to Australian agriculture.

SUPPORTED BY:



SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

Wine Australia supports a prosperous Australian grape and wine community by investing in research, development and extension (RD&E), building the international and domestic markets, disseminating knowledge, encouraging adoption and protecting the reputation of Australian wine.

Website: wineaustralia.com **Facebook:** WineAustralia **Twitter:** @Wine_Australia



Stuart Tait NEW SOUTH WALES



Phone: 0447 770 475 **Email:** 08taits@gmail.com

Stuart Tait, from Mandurama (near Cowra) in New South Wales, receives a 2017 Nuffield Scholarship supported by **Meat & Livestock Australia Ltd.**

He will investigate integrated beef and cropping systems, encompassing all facets of a farming operation combining beef cattle and broad-acre cropping; including dual-purpose grazing crops, soil and nutrient management, productivity optimisation and grazing management.

Stuart manages 1,600-hectares of land in conjunction with his parents, comprising two farms in the high rainfall zone of central NSW. Their primary enterprise is producing certified grass fed Angus beef cattle for the domestic and export markets, and their secondary enterprise is dryland cropping to produce cereal grains (wheat) and oilseeds (canola).

SUPPORTED BY:



Stuart's research will be particularly pertinent to demonstrating how the successful integration of two separate enterprises can potentially increase the productivity and profitability of a business significantly.

He plans to show how this integration can increase food production from the scarce commodity of quality agricultural land to help meet rising demand from a growing global population.

"Importantly, combining two separate enterprises assists in creating a stable business which is better able to ride out fluctuations in the markets of individual commodities," Stuart says.

"The major opportunity in this is that you can potentially increase business productivity and profitability significantly through increased crop yields, as well as increased livestock carrying capacity and performance."

Stuart recently established, and Chairs, a farm discussion group for young farmers in the Mandurama-Blayney district. He is passionate about Australian agriculture and highly motivated to share information to help others. After just four months, the group already has membership of over 20 farmers and industry professionals.

Stuart will travel to the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Indonesia and South East Asia, the Netherlands, Sweden, Argentina and South Africa.

SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

Meat & Livestock Australia Ltd (MLA) is a producer-owned, not-for-profit organisation that delivers research, development and marketing services to Australia's red meat industry.

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



Felicity McLeod NEW SOUTH WALES



Phone: 0429 198 958 **Email:** goatsaus@outlook.com

Felicity McLeod receives a 2017 Nuffield Scholarship, supported by **Australian Wool Innovation**.

She oversees her family owned property, Tor Downs, which is situated halfway between Broken Hill and Wentworth on the Great Anabranck Creek in NSW.

Felicity will investigate how to increase income potential through diversification in Far-Western wool enterprises, looking at utilisation of the natural resource base, flexibility in species mix and multi species infrastructure to help woolgrowers looking to improve whole-farm profitability, productivity and sustainability.

Tor Downs Station is 101 000 acres and is currently carrying 90% of the company's Merino flock and 50% of its cattle. The three family owned properties - Coombah, Popio and Tor Downs - total an area of approximately 300,000 acres. It also turns off a significant number of rangeland goats annually.

By learning more about the entire farm system involved in the whole wool supply chain as part of her scholarship, Felicity hopes to improve staff health, safety and retention, animal health, business bottom line, quality, and total grazing pressure.

"I believe that by ensuring producers are aware of the best practices available to suit their enterprise, supply and product consistency could be significantly improved, thereby increasing income."

Felicity has a proven track record of commitment to the Australian farming industry.

"I participate in various committees to help improve the agricultural industry.

"I intend to continue my committee involvement into the future, and contribute to the increased success of the wool industry. With the implementation of new farming technologies, such as remote water monitoring, this will allow me to participate in off farm travel and committee work."

Felicity will travel to South America as part of her scholarship.

SUPPORTED BY:



Australian Wool
Innovation Limited

SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

Australian Wool Innovation Limited (AWI) is a not-for-profit company owned by more than 24,000 Australian woolgrowers. AWI invests in research, development, innovation and marketing along the global supply chain for Australian wool.

Website: www.wool.com **Facebook:** [TheWoolmarkCompany](https://www.facebook.com/TheWoolmarkCompany) **Twitter:** [@woolinnovation](https://twitter.com/woolinnovation)



Brendan Hehir VICTORIA



Phone: 0429 994 238 **Email:** brendanhehir@gmail.com

Brendan Hehir, from Wyuna (near Kyabram) in Victoria, receives a 2017 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the **Gardiner Dairy Foundation**.

He will investigate how to maximise the spread between the price paid for milk and the cost of milk production. His study will encompass a broad analysis of the best techniques and practices from around the world, enabling local farmers to adapt solutions for their own businesses.

Brendan is a business partner with his parents in an organically certified dairy operation with a strong focus on direct grazing. They run 650 milkers, producing four million litres of milk annually on a milking platform of 192-hectares.

Brendan's research will be particularly pertinent to the issue of the cost of milk production in Australia following the milk price fluctuations.

He plans to show how removing this correlation represents an opportunity to maximise profit when milk prices are high, and importantly, increase resilience when prices are low.

"While everyone enjoys receiving a high price for their milk, these prices often lead to a steep increase in the cost of production, at the expense of maintaining flexibility. This increase then becomes entrenched in the production system and mind-set of the dairy farmer," Brendan says.

"I plan to explore how other countries mitigate this and the strategic advantages in Australia that can help keep this margin as wide as possible.

"The challenge is to optimise the marginal litre return, without locking into an overall high cost system change."

Brendan's goal is to uncover innovative technologies which can be adapted to change the farming paradigm beyond the existing dairy models in Australia. He is excited about the potential as he aims to own his own herd within two years.

Brendan will travel to Ireland, New Zealand, China, India, the United States, Europe and the United Kingdom.

SUPPORTED BY:



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



Mark Groat NEW SOUTH WALES



Phone: 0427 686 966 **Email:** westraymt@gmail.com

Mark Groat, from Beelbangera (near Griffith) in New South Wales, receives a 2017 Nuffield Scholarship in recognition of his work on rice. This award is supported by the **Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation's (RIRDC) Rice Research Committee**.

Mark plans to increase his knowledge and expertise to enable him to be instrumental in the expansion of the rice industry in Australia, in temperate and tropical areas.

He will investigate rice grown under aerobic or non-ponded conditions in both the tropical and temperate zones. In particular, how rice can be included in crop rotation, the challenges of production and agronomy, and importantly, the supply chain logistics necessary to combat the inefficiencies associated with rice production in small areas.

Mark's research will be pertinent to sustained rice production in the tropics of Australia where water is not necessarily the limiting factor. Mark says the current rice crop in the tropics is around 15,000T, but has an estimated potential of 250,000T.

"Aerobic rice production in the temperate growing areas is a developing trend from both the research and grower level," Mark says.

"If combined with excellent irrigation layout and new 'shorter season' varieties, it opens up a new concept of rice production, rotation potential, double cropping, stubble management, and water efficiencies.

Mark will use his scholarship to travel to the United States, Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines, India, South and Central America.

Mark owns and manages a 350-hectare farm that includes 300-hectares of irrigation, which produces rice, winter cereals and sheep. He is also Director of a consulting business which specialises in farm development, layout and water efficiency.

Mark is married to Michele and they have four daughters.

SUPPORTED BY:



**RURAL
INDUSTRIES**

Research & Development
Corporation

SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

The Rural Industries R&D Corporation's Rice Program aims to improve the profitability and sustainability of the Australian rice industry through the organisation, funding and management of a RD&E program that is both market and stakeholder driven.

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



Jessica Pitkin NEW SOUTH WALES



Phone: 0401 704 087 **Email:** jessica.e.pitkin@gmail.com

Jessica Pitkin from Singleton in New South Wales, receives a 2017 Nuffield Scholarship supported by **RIRDC/Chicken Meat Research Committee**. She will investigate environmental sustainability and a whole systems approach within the poultry industry, with a specific focus on alternative bedding sources and spent litter utilisation.

Jessica is currently employed as a broiler serviceman for Baiada Poultry, working with broiler Turkeys. Prior to her employment with Baiada, she ran a small scale chicken business growing heritage and layer breeds for people who wanted their own poultry.

In her role at Baiada, Jessica is responsible for overseeing and assisting growers within her region to produce a high quality bird. She also ensures that farms are compliant with Baiada and government standards.

SUPPORTED BY:



RURAL INDUSTRIES

Research & Development Corporation

“Australia’s poultry industry is structured differently to other countries. Our broiler industry is dominated by several large companies that have long term contractual agreements. Litter and feed stuffs are often sourced from long distances and sometimes overseas.

“Although the poultry industry is said to have the lowest carbon footprint in comparison to other intensive industries, I believe there is still room for improvement,” she says.

“A whole systems approach as used in other primary industries may be a way of addressing issues around transport, fuel and electricity.

“For example the waste from intensively farmed pigs and rabbits plus cattle in feed lots are contributing to the production of electricity on farms, alternate sources of heating are being used in cooler Australian climates.

“Integrating some of these practices into Australian farms may help improve not only the industry’s environmental impact but also the positive effect on producers’ bottom line.”

Jessica will travel to the USA to visit poultry shed ventilation experts and whole systems farming in action. She will also travel to Europe and China.

SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

The Rural Industries R&D Corporation’s Rice Program aims to improve the profitability and sustainability of the Australian rice industry through the organisation, funding and management of a RD&E program that is both market and stakeholder driven.

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



Daniel Kahl NEW SOUTH WALES



Phone: 0427 560516 **Email:** daniel_kahl@hotmail.com

Daniel Kahl from Wee Waa in the Namoi Valley in North-West New South Wales receives a 2017 Nuffield Scholarship supported by **Cotton Australia** and the **Cotton Research and Development Corporation**. Daniel will investigate where the next generation of farm managers will come from and how quality candidates can be attracted to a career in farming.

He is employed as Business Manager of his family owned and operated company, Merced Farming. Its operations cover 7,500ha with 3,500ha developed for irrigation, 800ha for dry land cropping and 2,200ha natural and improved pastures for livestock. In a full production, the company produces 20,000 bales of cotton a year in addition to other crops.

Daniel is responsible for commodity marketing, budgeting and cashflow monitoring, logistics, business administration and helping with on farm activities. Having returned to the farm in 2014 and taking up this role in the business, he is concerned that skilled labour is not making it onto the farm.

“We can readily access labour to operate machinery and carry out cropping activities. But it is the roles at middle management level such as farm supervisors, those who can manage a team of plant operators or irrigation across a whole farm, that we struggle to fill.

“The challenge of attracting skilled labour is present across the wider agricultural industry. Is the answer to develop staff and help them to acquire the necessary skills to step-up and fill that role? Or is it to provide a more attractive opportunity to those who have gone away to further education and encourage them to return?”

Daniel plans to travel to Europe, North America and New Zealand and study the human resources practises of corporate and family farming operations as well as what programs may be in place at an industry level to develop a skilled agricultural workforce.

SUPPORTED BY:



SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

Cotton Australia is the peak representative body for the Australian cotton growing industry, led by a Board of nine cotton growers and ginners. Established in 1972 (as the Australian Cotton Foundation) Cotton Australia merged with the Australian Cotton Growers Research Association in 2008 to provide a united voice across research, stewardship, natural resource management and cotton production issues.

Website: www.cottonaustralia.com.au **Facebook:** CottonAustralia **Twitter:** @CottonAustralia

The Cotton Research and Development Corporation (CRDC) is a statutory authority. CRDC was established by the Australian Government to work with industry to invest in research, development and extension (RD&E) for a more profitable, sustainable and dynamic cotton industry.

Website: www.crdc.com.au **Twitter:** @cottonresearch



Bao Duy Nguyen WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Phone: 0418 939 982 **Email:** contact@suncityproduce.com.au

Bao Duy Nguyen of Walkaway near Geraldton, Western Australia, receives a 2017 Nuffield Scholarship supported by **Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited**. Bao will investigate the field of protective cropping in horticulture in low tech greenhouses, with an emphasis on monitoring technology and water sustainability practices.

A qualified and practising geotechnical engineer, Bao returned to the family vegetable growing business three years ago. Their business produce cucumbers in low tech greenhouses and supplementary open field tomatoes crops in the off season. This is equivalent to 300 tonnes of cucumbers and 150 tonnes of tomatoes, per year.

SUPPORTED BY:

**Horticulture
Innovation
Australia**

There are limited crop rotation options when it comes to greenhouses. With increased restriction on chemical use to treat the overused soil and poor water quality management, Bao wants to understand if there can be a cost effective transition to hydroponics in older, low-tech greenhouses or if it's better to invest in high-tech greenhouses.

Bao is also mindful of potential overproduction of cucumbers this year and next.

"I want to find instruments that will help farmers transition into growing successful alternative crops in their low tech greenhouses. This will keep cucumber prices competitive as well as diversifying into other crops to lower the risk of the cucumber industry price drop."

He believes that this scholarship will help reach the region's goals by assisting in practices that include:

- diversification of crops,
- implement data logging technology and machinery for intensive farming,
- use data from greenhouses to create better irrigation programmes.

"I want the wider industry to benefit from what I learn - I want to find practical and efficient ways for farmers to apply a scientific approach to growing their crops," he said.

Bao hopes to travel to Israel, Holland, Spain, the USA and Japan.

SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

Horticulture Innovation Australia delivers more than \$100 million in research, development and marketing activities across the horticulture industry each year with funding from the Australian Government, grower levies and other sources.

Website: www.horticulture.com.au **Facebook:** [hortinnovation](https://www.facebook.com/hortinnovation) **Twitter:** [@Hort_Au](https://twitter.com/Hort_Au)



Claire Osborn Booth NEW SOUTH WALES



Phone: 0423 507 006 **Email:** mail@strgroup.com.au

Claire Osborn Booth from Geurie (near Dubbo) in New South Wales, receives a 2017 Nuffield Scholarship supported by **Rabobank**. She will investigate two components of the transfer of farming businesses and their assets, mainly:

- If we focus on the transfer of knowledge rather than the transfer of the certificate of title or the shares in the family company, can we generate better outcomes for both the retiring farmer and the entering farmer? and
- Is the younger generations' failure to enter or expand into farming linked to a lack of finance and business literacy, and if so, how can the Australian context overcome this?

SUPPORTED BY:



Rabobank

With her husband, Claire established their mixed farming enterprise in 2012 to produce high quality commercial and seed crops on 3000 acres. They also breed Angus cattle and trade cattle dependent on market conditions to mitigate the risks associated with cropping.

It is well documented that there is a looming issue of retiring farmers who are asset rich and often income "poor". Claire believes that there are solutions to assist our retiring generation, whilst assisting the emerging one to compete in an increasingly global and competitive business environment.

"As a solicitor (on maternity leave) working in the field of succession and estate planning, and as a farmer who purchased, stocked and equipped our farm in 2012 through savings and bank finance, I have experienced the barriers to entry into the agricultural sector for the younger generation," she said.

"Why are there not more lease to buy options, vendor finance, perhaps from a SMSF, to provide retirement income or private equity from industry super funds?"

"I believe there are alternative entries to younger farmers entering primary production which we can learn from farming communities internationally which can be woven into the Australia context."

She will travel to the USA to investigate equity raising, Europe to explore traditional farming family models, and Brazil where long term land leases are an alternative to ownership.

SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

Founded in the Netherlands in 1898 as a farmer cooperative looking to support each other's businesses through access to finance, the Rabobank Group has grown to be the world's leading specialist in food and agribusiness banking. Rabobank Australia is one of Australia's largest rural lenders with branches in all major agricultural regions with an aim of creating value for clients, employees and rural communities.

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



Cameron Kruckow NORTHERN TERRITORY



Phone: 0427 221 863 **Email:** cameron.kruckow@pastoral.com

Cameron Kruckow, from Katherine in the Northern Territory, receives a 2017 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the **Australian Agricultural Company (AACo)** and **ANZ Bank**.

He will investigate improving cattle grazing on his employer's northern grazing operations by looking at different grazing strategies, including cell, rotational and time control, and how these are used internationally. He also plans to explore opportunities to improve soil and pasture quality.

Cameron is the Station Manager of Manbulloo, owned by Consolidated Pastoral Company (CPC). CPC is an Australian based Agrifood business with an enterprise value in excess of \$700 million. It owns and operates a portfolio of 19 cattle stations with a carrying capacity of 375,000 head.

Manbulloo Station is nearly 380,000 hectares and used as a breeding property and a holding depot for stock being exported. It is capable of carrying almost 20,000 head of cattle.

Cameron has worked in a variety of CPC holdings and been steadily promoted. He is married to Tammy and they have three children.

Cameron's research will be particularly pertinent to better utilising vast areas of underutilised land. He plans to use his new knowledge to help educate other graziers and lead industry change.

"We have already implemented time control grazing on Manbulloo, but I feel there is much more that could be done by looking at international grazing strategies," he said.

"Beyond just weight gain, other potential benefits include environmental and animal welfare improvements, as well as better planning and cost control. Cameron will travel to America, South Africa and South America.

SUPPORTED BY:



SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

Established in 1824, the Australian Agricultural Company (AACo) is Australia's largest integrated cattle and beef producer, and is the oldest continuously operating company in Australia. Today, AACo owns and operates a strategic balance of properties, feedlots and farms comprising around 7 million hectares of land in Queensland and the Northern Territory. This equates to roughly 1% of Australia's land mass.

Website: www.aaco.com.au **Facebook:** AustAgCo **Twitter:** @AustAgCo

ANZ has a proud heritage of more than 180 years, operating in 34 markets globally. With over 20,000 Agribusiness clients, ANZ are committed to the agricultural sector and the long term growth of rural and regional Australia. Their representation across Australia, New Zealand, Asia Pacific, Europe, America and the Middle East allows them to provide true connectivity for their clients.

Website: www.anz.com/agri **Facebook:** ANZAustralia **Twitter:** @ANZ_AU



Robert Arvier TASMANIA



Phone: 0428 385 895 **Email:** rarvier@gmail.com

Robert Arvier, from Penguin (near Devonport) in Tasmania, receives a 2017 Nuffield Scholarship supported by **Westpac Agribusiness**.

He will investigate the economic and agronomic feasibility of the re-establishment of a sugar beet industry in South Eastern Australia.

Robert splits his time between a mixed cropping and dairy agistment business in Tasmania, and working for the Agricultural and Environment Business Unit of the Lesaffre Group (a French owned multinational Agribusiness) in Victoria as an Agronomist. His farming business is run on a mixture of owned and leased land which he hopes to expand.

Robert's research will be particularly pertinent to the argument that sugar beet is an economically and environmentally superior alternative to sugar cane. This potentially represents opportunities in the carbon farming space as Australia begins to transition into 'Climate Smart' farming practices.

He plans to explore the concept that the lower processing cost of sugar beet, in conjunction with its environmental benefits, could warrant its revitalisation.

"Many aspects have changed in the past 71 years, such as the cost of transport, production efficiencies, advances in cultivar performance, labelling legislation changes and cleaner production requirements for sugar cane in Far North Queensland," Robert says.

"These factors alone justify the need to revisit the potential of this crop as a commercially viable addition to South Eastern cropping rotations.

"The opportunities are exciting, with the processing cost of sugar beet being substantially less than that of cane, coupled with its superior environmental impact."

Robert will travel to Chile, Germany, France, the United States, the United Kingdom and New Zealand.

SUPPORTED BY:



SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

For nearly 200 years, Westpac Agribusiness has shared a long and rich history with rural, regional and remote Australia. As Australia's oldest company and first bank, we recognise that by supporting the future of our agribusiness sector, we are benefiting all Australians. We are honoured to be partnering with Nuffield Australia to inspire and support future champions of change and leaders within Australian agriculture.

Website: www.westpac.com.au **Facebook:** Westpac **Twitter:** westpac



Matthew Gunningham TASMANIA



Phone: 0417 531 920 **Email:** matthew@gunninghamfarms.com

Matthew Gunningham, from Mawbanna (near Burnie) in Tasmania, receives a 2017 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the **Australian Dairy Conference** and **Nuffield Australia**.

He will investigate people management and motivation, specifically how to build great teams in agricultural enterprises, many of which are getting larger and more geographically spread.

Matthew is particularly interested in how to ensure there is alignment between the goals of a business, and the day-to-day actions of the people who work within them.

Matthew wholly owns and manages three dairy farms (Gunningham Farms), which collectively run 2600 milking cows. He also manages three more dairy farms (The Dairy Trust) in partnership with another family, running a further 1750 cows. In addition, he is a shareholder, with no hands-on involvement, in another dairy farm with 1000 cows.

Matthew is married to Pippa and they have five children, Henry (aged 15), Amelia (aged 14), Olivia (aged 10), Elsa (aged 4) and William (aged 2).

Matthew's research is particularly relevant given the dairy industry is now comprised of so many different ownership structures, often involving multiple farms.

He plans to explore his belief that the people side of an agricultural business has to be right in order to grow a substantial enterprise.

"I think many farmers are technically very good and have an excellent grasp of their particular area, but at the same time can lack the 'softer' skills needed to deal with people," Matthew said.

"These 'softer' skills are critical too. And the ability to effectively balance them with technical skills is something top performing businesses, in a whole range of industries, have managed to achieve. I want to understand how to create these conditions and then how to apply this to our industry."

Matthew will travel to New Zealand, the United States, the United Kingdom, Ireland and South America.

SUPPORTED BY:



SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

The Australian Dairy Conference was initiated by a group of leading dairy farmers, scientists and industry representatives from around Australia. The group identified that the industry needed an independent national dairy conference to stretch and stimulate farmers' minds and provide a forum for the open exchange of ideas, knowledge and science. The aim is for the Australian Dairy Conference 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:** [australiandairyconference](https://www.facebook.com/australiandairyconference)



Duncan MacDonald TASMANIA



Phone: 0429 187 618 **Email:** duncanandshannonmac@gmail.com

Duncan Macdonald, from Yolla (near Burnie) in Tasmania, receives a 2017 Nuffield Scholarship supported by **Bonlac Supply Company** and the **Sylvia and Charles Viertel Foundation**. He will investigate new collection and processing options for dairy data – how autonomous farm monitoring and decision making through low cost sensors and smart processing can improve farm efficiency and profitability.

In partnership with his wife and father, Duncan runs two 200-hectare milking properties and a young stock block in the northwest Tasmania.

“I am interested in all forms of technology and their practical application. I am interested in how we integrate all of the information/data we can collect to make practical and timely on farm decisions.”

SUPPORTED BY:



“I wish to study the potential for new, low cost sensors such as small unmanned aerial vehicles (drones), smartphones deployed in the paddock, cow collars/sensors, soil moisture, and any others that I come across for collecting valuable data for farmers.

“A complete farm monitoring system also has positive implications for food security and helping farmers and milk companies document food safety programs.”

This strong interest in technology and its potential to improve profitability on farms is evidenced by some examples of current work Duncan has undertaken, including:

- Installation of Wi-Fi network that permits connectivity to most of the farm.
- Development of record keeping application for smartphones, in the field.
- Purchased of a small drone equipped with a NIR camera capable of measuring plant Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI).

Duncan will travel to Africa, New Zealand, Ireland and the USA.

SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

Bonlac Supply Company (BSC) acts as the agent for milk supply to Fonterra Australia. BSC therefore represent the interests of all suppliers in Victoria and Tasmania with a collective independent voice. Acting on co-operative principles we have partnered with Fonterra to develop a ‘modern day co-op’ to deliver significant benefits and opportunities to BSC Suppliers.

Website: www.bonlacsupplycompany.com.au

Charles Viertel established the Sylvia and Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation in his Will with an initial bequest of \$60 million. It was established to benefit organisations involved in medical research into diseases, and alleviation of hardship of the aged and sick. He also directed that money be given to charities with low administrative expenses. Today it is worth \$160 million, making it one of the largest charitable foundations in Australia.

Website: viertel.org.au



Lara Ladyman WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Phone: 0407 210 027 **Email:** lladyman@hotmail.com

Lara Ladyman, from Katanning in Western Australia, receives a 2017 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the **CBH Group (Western Australia)**.

She will investigate the 'Future of Food', from the lab to the paddock to the plate, which she says is about the technologies or drivers of change that will shape how, and what, we will be farming and eating in the future.

Lara is interested in understanding the dramatic changes that are predicted to occur throughout the food production chain over the next two decades, and what that will mean for farmers in an increasingly digital world.

Lara is a director of her family's farming business, a 5680-hectare diversified cropping and livestock operation. She manages the farming business in conjunction with her father, Rob.

SUPPORTED BY:



Lara returned to the farm full time in 2014 after a career in agricultural journalism and still works as a freelance journalist.

Her research will be particularly relevant in order to prepare for the brave new world which she believes lies ahead for producers. She plans to take a big picture look at evolving technologies, with no holds barred.

"Will we be eating cell cultured meat and 3D printed foods and what will be the future implications for tomorrow's Aussie farmers," questions Lara.

"If we know what lies ahead, we can be at the forefront of change and not be left by the wayside of future technologies, consumer trends or government mandates.

"Already there are sensors, satellites, robots and other devices which will increasingly amass data from every farm operation; each plant and animal and likewise across the supply chain.

"We need to think about the questions and opportunities around ownership of the data. It is also vital Australia's rural-based businesses can access mobile communication and internet capabilities which enable them to capitalise on the possibilities this data creates."

Lara will travel to the United States, China, Canada, the United Kingdom and European Union.

SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

The CBH Group is Australia's largest co-operative and a leader in the Australian grain industry, with operations extending along the value chain from grain storage, handling, transport, marketing and processing. Owned and controlled by around 4,200 Western Australian grain growers, the core purpose of the CBH Group is to create and return value to growers.

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



Jamie Heinrich SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Phone: 0427 361 830 **Email:** heinrich.jamie@gmail.com

Jamie Heinrich, from Parndana (on Kangaroo Island) in South Australia, receives a 2017 Nuffield Scholarship supported by **Primary Producers SA**.

He will investigate the key factors needed to attract and retain young people in the sheep industry.

Jamie believes the industry has a bright future, but needs the right young people in the right places to help get it there.

Jamie's family owns and operates an 880-hectare seed-stock sheep operation, "Ella Matta", a White Suffolk and Poll Merino stud, which he runs with his parents. His grandfather started the first registered stud in Australia to breed White Suffolk sheep.

SUPPORTED BY:



The major focus of the seed-stock operation is increasing genetic gain through the use of LAMBPLAN and MERINOSELECT. The other part of the business is a commercial self-replacing 18.5 micron Poll Merino ewe flock.

Jamie's research is particularly important as the sheep industry faces a large shortage of young people.

He plans to find out why other young people around the world are excited about agriculture, then work out how to use this information to attract, retain and develop more young people in Australia.

"The proportion of farmers aged 55 and over increased from 26% to 47% between 1989 and 2011, while those aged less than 35 years, fell from 28% to just 13%.

"Defining young does not necessarily have to be a set age group, but rather people who can potentially have a long future within the industry. Personally I see a multitude of reasons for people to want to work in the sheep industry and I'm really excited about the potential."

Jamie will travel to the United Kingdom, New Zealand, China, the United States, the European Union and South America.

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



Daniel Meade VICTORIA



Phone: 0448 916 221 **Email:** danielgpmeade@gmail.com

Daniel Meade, from Garvoc (near Warrnambool) in Victoria, receives a 2017 Nuffield Scholarship supported by the **William Buckland Foundation**.

He will investigate industry representation and the importance of agriculture to rural communities.

He plans to closely examine the most successful agricultural bodies in the world and the learning opportunities that may apply to the Australian agriculture context as a result.

Daniel is involved in a 125-hectare heifer rearing business, which he and his wife have been a part of since 2013.

Daniel is married to Micheala and they have two children, Seamus and Ailish, both under the age of two years.

Daniel hopes his research will be particularly pertinent to achieving more representative Australian agricultural policies that benefit the broader agricultural industry, as well as the many communities that rely heavily on agriculture in our country.

“My report will be available to all the industry bodies in Australia to help them learn how other countries succeed in this area,” Daniel says.

“If even a small percentage of my findings can result in some farmers earning an improved income, fairer contracts, or better conditions, this then flows on to their rural communities to benefit more broadly. I would be truly delighted with this kind of success.”

Daniel is an Associate Board Member with WestVic Dairy. He plans to use his Nuffield Scholarship experience to continue to represent local farmers, and their rural communities, and to help them succeed in the dairy industry and beyond.

Daniel plans to travel to the United Kingdom, the United States, India, China, Canada and New Zealand.

SUPPORTED BY:



SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

The William Buckland Foundation’s mission is to support organisations, activities and projects that create lasting public benefit for the Victorian community, focusing on health and community wellbeing as well as scientific and educational activities, particularly agriculture.

Website: www.eqt.com.au

Matthew Fealy QUEENSLAND



Phone: 0402 412 471 **Email:** matt@blueskyproduce.com.au

Matthew Fealy from Mareeba in Far North Queensland, receives a 2017 Nuffield Scholarship supported by **Woolworths**. He will investigate how the use of robotics in horticulture has the opportunity to revolutionise the industry.

Matthew has only recently made a career change into horticulture. He was a senior manager at a global travel agency for over a decade before taking on his current role as farm manager for a 153-acre family farm that produces mangoes, avocados and Tahitian limes.

He believes that the industry has significant labour costs and a dwindling labour supply, yet has little or no automation of repetitive tasks.

SUPPORTED BY:



"Robotics, automation and mechanisation will not only alleviate the impending labour problem, it can also help improve profits and yield through better farm management practices," he said.

"I see a (near) future where we can utilise advanced probes to facilitate precise fertilising and watering along with cutting-edge camera technology to assess tree health, crop and harvest forecasting, as well as maturity testing."

As an active member of his local growers' association, and board member of Australian Mango Industry Association, Matthew continues to demonstrate commitment to the success of horticulture in the future.

"I have four children who I want to be involved in an exciting, rewarding, profitable horticulture industry. If there is a way I can help the industry, it is very much in my best interests to make it happen."

The awarding of this scholarship will enable him to attend Automatica - International Trade Fair for Automation and Mechatronics in Germany. Matthew will also visit farms using robotics in Israel, the Netherlands and Spain. Visits to the USA and Japan will also take place.

SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

Woolworths is Australia's largest supermarket chain. Operating 961 stores, Woolworths has 111,000 team members in stores, distribution centres and support offices. Woolworths prides itself working closely with Australian growers and farmers to ensure the best products are available to customers. Sourcing 96% of all fresh fruit and vegetables and 100% of fresh meat from Australian farmers and growers.

Website: www.woolworths.com.au



Nuffield Australia encourages continued, post-scholarship learning



We thank the following supporters for providing assistance for these awards:

- The '**Lorna and Bert Kelly Memorial Award**' for a Scholar to attend: 'The Worshipful Company of Farmers Challenge of Rural Leadership Course' at Duchy College UK
- The '**Lorna and Bert Kelly Memorial Award**' for a Scholar to attend: 'The Executive Program for Agricultural Producers' at Texas A&M University
- The '**Fairport Technologies Award**' for a Scholar to attend: 'Worshipful Company of Farmers Advanced Course in Agricultural Farm Management' at the Royal Agricultural College
- The '**Peter Rose Scholarship Award**' for a Scholar to attend: 'The Rabobank Executive Development Program'
- The '**Ann Harrison Memorial Award**' for a Scholar to attend 'The Australian Institute of Company Directors Course'
- The '**Keith McLean Memorial Award**' for a Scholar to attend 'The ABARES National Outlook Conference'

2016 is the inaugural year of this award and we thank the McLean family for their generosity.

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