

# NUFFIELD AUSTRALIA NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2019

‘COLLABORATE. INNOVATE. CULTIVATE.’

17–19 SEPTEMBER 2019

ROYAL INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE  
– BRISBANE EKKA PRECINCT

2020 SCHOLAR  
PRESENTATIONS  
AND AWARDS DINNER

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

[www.nuffield.com.au](http://www.nuffield.com.au)



## WE THANK OUR 2020 SCHOLARSHIP INVESTORS:





# Awards Dinner Program

**TUESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2019**

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER
6.00pm	<b>Pre-dinner drinks</b>	
6.45pm	Seating of guests	Trent DePaoli, 2013 Nuffield Scholar and Master of Ceremonies
7.00pm	Welcome	Andrew Fowler, 2000 Scholar and Nuffield Australia Chairman
7.15pm	Presentations to Nuffield Scholars	
7.30pm	<b>Entrée served</b>	
7.40pm	George Wilson Oration	To be delivered by David Crombie AM
8.15pm	<b>Main course served, showcased by Queensland-based Kilcoy Foods and Wickham Farms</b>	
8.30pm	Presentation of 2020 Scholarships	Trent DePaoli, 2013 Nuffield Scholar and Master of Ceremonies
9.15pm	<b>Dessert served</b>	
9.30pm	Presentation of 2020 Scholarships	Trent DePaoli, 2013 Nuffield Scholar and Master of Ceremonies
10.15pm	Closing remarks	Andrew Fowler, 2000 Scholar and Nuffield Australia Chairman
10.30pm	<b>Guests depart</b>	

## George Wilson A NUFFIELD ACHIEVER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr Wilson had many achievements in his lifetime:

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

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

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

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

The eleventh George Wilson Oration will be delivered by Mr David Crombie, AM.



# GUEST SPEAKER

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## David Crombie AM

INDEPENDENT COMPANY DIRECTOR

**David Crombie** graduated from University of Queensland in 1965. He was a founding partner in the Palladium Group (formerly GRM International), a private company managing development projects for positive impact solutions in 26 countries across a range of sectors including health, education, agricultural research and services and capacity building. He retired as Managing Director of GRM in 2000 and remained on the Board retiring in June 2019.



Throughout his professional life he has invested and been engaged in the development and management of Agricultural and livestock projects across northern Australia. He served for eight years on the Board of Australian Agricultural Company and continues with the Company in an advisory capacity. AACo operates 23 properties across Northern Australia supplying branded beef into high end markets

Previous directorships include Grainco Australia, the Australian Meat Industry Council, Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA Chairman 1998-05). He was Chairman of the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation (2000-08) and served on the Board of Export Finance Insurance Corporation (EFIC 2007-10) and was a Commissioner for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR 2007-14).



David Crombie was President of the National Farmers Federation (2006–10), President Australian Rugby Union (2013–15), and a Director of Foodbank Qld.

He received an AM for services to agriculture, communities and sport in the Australia Day Honours list in 2014. He was the Australian Rural Press Beef Achiever of the Year (2001) and received the Rabobank Award for Agricultural Leadership in Australia and NZ (2017) and the University of Queensland Colleges Alumni Award (2018).

He operates family partnerships across southern Queensland breeding and finishing beef cattle for domestic and export markets and producing cotton and grain under irrigation plus grain and forage crops.

#### **CURRENT AND RECENT DIRECTORSHIPS INCLUDE:**

- Australian Agricultural Company (AAC)
- Alliance Aviation Services (AQZ)
- Palladium Group
- Barrack St Investments (BST)



# 2020 SCHOLARS

2019  
NUFFIELD AUSTRALIA  
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## Jarrod Amery NEW SOUTH WALES



**PHONE:** 0427 834 976 **EMAIL:** jeamery1@bigpond.com

**Jarrod Amery** of Forbes in New South Wales, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by the **Grains Research & Development Corporation (GRDC)**. He will research what it takes to build and maintain a successful farm business and achieve a sustainable Return on Assets Managed (ROAM).

As owner of Amery Ag, an innovative 2,300-hectare farming operation in Central West NSW, Jarrod produces wheat, canola and barley, and manages around 4,000 ewes as part of the business's annual livestock trading program.

"We strive to make every hectare work; earning the right to expand our business. As a young farmer myself, and with a quarter of the agricultural workforce between 18 to 35, there is a need to equip our future farmers with the tools to grow their businesses and the industry as a whole," Jarrod said.

"On my study program, I plan to visit leading farm businesses around the world, to understand the common threads of success, including how to achieve a sustainable work/life balance, pathways to expansion and diversification, as well as how to encourage new entrants into farming."

Travelling throughout major agricultural producing countries, including China and the United States, Jarrod plans to share his findings with peers, to help build a culture within Australian farming that promotes entrepreneurship and knowledge sharing.



### SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

GRDC is one of the world's leading grains research organisations responsible for planning, investing in and overseeing research, development and extension to deliver improvements in production, sustainability and profitability across the Australian grains industry.

**WEBSITE:** [www.grdc.com.au](http://www.grdc.com.au) **FACEBOOK:** [theGRDC](https://www.facebook.com/theGRDC) **TWITTER:** [@theGRDC](https://twitter.com/theGRDC)





## Mitchell Henderson VICTORIA



**PHONE:** 0409 350 839 **EMAIL:** mjsihenderson@gmail.com

**Mitchell Henderson** from Berriwillock in Victoria, receives a Nuffield Scholarship with support from the **Grains Research & Development Corporation (GRDC)**. Mitchell will use his scholarship to research alternative fertiliser and weed control measures for grain producers.

Managing his family's 8,000-hectare broadacre cropping business, Mitchell produces wheat, barley, lentils, field peas and oaten hay, while another part of the family business supplies 1.5 million free range birds to Hazeldene's Chicken.

Recognising the double benefits his business receives by using the phosphorus-rich chicken manure as fertiliser and the potential to feed chickens their own grain, eliminating freight costs, Mitchell believes there is an opportunity for Australian growers to get more for their grain.

"The current cost of grain production in Australia is US\$169 per tonne, while in Russia and Ukraine it is US\$120 per tonne. As an industry, we need to find ways to raise the value of our produce and I want to investigate diversification and integration as pathways to achieving this," Mitchell said.

"If we can use our grain closer to where it is produced, for example, by on-site milling for chicken or other stock feed, then we can limit freight costs and obtain natural fertiliser benefits from manure, as well as obviously minimising business risk through enterprise diversification."

Mitchell will visit the United States, Canada and Brazil to explore their large-scale cropping and feed mill industries, as well as Europe and Ireland to understand the role strict environmental regulation plays in food production systems.



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**WEBSITE:** [www.grdc.com.au](http://www.grdc.com.au) **FACEBOOK:** [theGRDC](https://www.facebook.com/theGRDC) **TWITTER:** [@theGRDC](https://twitter.com/theGRDC)

### Dustin Pascoe VICTORIA



**PHONE:** 0417 423 305 **EMAIL:** dcpascoe1@gmail.com

From Raywood in Victoria, **Dustin Pascoe** receives a Nuffield Scholarship with support from the **Grains Research & Development Corporation (GRDC)** to research the benefits of grazing crops to fill the winter feed gap in a changing climate.

Running a 1,450 self-replacing Merino ewe flock and growing cereals, hay and oilseeds across his 1,578-hectare farm, Dustin has been grazing roughly half of his cereal crops to both fill the winter feed shortage and split his exposure to frost risk.

“Realising that the changing climate is impacting the reliability and amount of winter feed available, I want to further research the benefits and disadvantages of grazing crops,” Dustin said.

“Grazing crops can allow more stock to be carried through winter, while freeing up grazing pressure on pasture paddocks and staggering exposure to frost risk by delaying growth stages of the grazed crops.”

Having conducted trials for the past four years on his own farm, Dustin has observed improved animal health and better pasture paddock performance, as well as reduced labour input through avoidance of supplementary feeding.

He aims to use his Nuffield Scholarship to gather data from around the world and further quantify the pros and cons of grazing crops, and the impact it can have to a farm business's bottom line.



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**WEBSITE:** [www.grdc.com.au](http://www.grdc.com.au) **FACEBOOK:** [theGRDC](https://www.facebook.com/theGRDC) **TWITTER:** [@theGRDC](https://twitter.com/theGRDC)



## Andrew Todd WESTERN AUSTRALIA



**PHONE:** 0428 323 027 **EMAIL:** andrew@laharnafarms.com.au

From Dowerin in Western Australia, **Andrew Todd** receives a Nuffield Scholarship with support from the **Grains Research & Development Corporation (GRDC)** to research ways that growing family farms can take the leap from an owner-operator structure to an owner-manager structure.

A dryland farmer, Andrew grows wheat, canola and barley across 4,150 hectares in WA's Central Wheatbelt. A mix of privately owned, share farmed and leased country, the family business was recently passed on to Andrew and his wife by his parents.

With economies of scale becoming increasingly important for farm viability, Andrew will use his Nuffield research to look at the capital management, risk management, corporate governance and people management aspects of large, sophisticated farming businesses to identify lessons for growing family farms.

"Farms are becoming larger, and with that comes the reality that many farmers need to manage multiple enterprises, across multiple locations with multiple team members. For farm businesses at this point of growth, this can be a daunting prospect if they lack the systems and skills to effectively manage a larger enterprise," Andrew said.

"I'm keen to get a better understanding of what small, owner-operator family businesses can learn from larger, multi-faceted enterprises, and turn what is, at times, perceived as a challenge into an opportunity.

"Resilience of farm businesses is critical, and I believe there are lessons to be learned from larger, complex farming enterprises across a range of factors, from profit and risk management to professional development and staff training."

Travelling throughout Australia, the United States, Canada, Ukraine, Russia and Brazil, Andrew will unearth ways that better business management can minimise risk, increase profits and lead to thriving, resilient farm businesses.



### SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

GRDC is one of the world's leading grains research organisations responsible for planning, investing in and overseeing research, development and extension to deliver improvements in production, sustainability and profitability across the Australian grains industry.

**WEBSITE:** [www.grdc.com.au](http://www.grdc.com.au) **FACEBOOK:** theGRDC **TWITTER:** @theGRDC

### Jason Cotter VICTORIA



**PHONE:** 0419 307 934 **EMAIL:** [jason@tuerongfarm.com.au](mailto:jason@tuerongfarm.com.au)

**Jason Cotter**, of Tuerong, Victoria, receives a Nuffield Scholarship with support from the **William Buckland Foundation** to research ways to restore flavour, nutrition and sustainability as key drivers in grain production systems.

As the owner and operator of Tuerong Farm, a 60-hectare mixed farming enterprise on the Mornington Peninsula, Jason grows and mills heritage, ancient and modern grains for direct sale and distribution to leading restaurants, bakeries and home-bakers.

“I am passionate about cultivars and practices that prioritise flavour, nutrition and sustainability over convenience. Internationally, there is a burgeoning movement which has provenance, food sovereignty, sustainability and flavour at its core, and I believe we have an opportunity to further this at home,” Jason said.

“My research will explore methods of achieving quality grain in low input and organic farming systems, propagation and processing techniques that prioritise flavour, establishment of population, and winter wheats with greater climate resilience, and restoration of direct farmer, miller, baker and breeder relationships.”

Travelling throughout Europe, the United States, Mexico, Canada and Turkey, Jason aims to use his research to establish common threads between his peri-urban business and broadacre cropping operations, unlocking the benefits of genetic diversity and bolstered consumer trust.



#### SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

William Buckland was a highly successful pastoralist who had a great love of the land and agriculture. His suggestion that his Trustees, in administering funds from the Foundation, “give preference to agriculture and related pursuits” has been instrumental in developing the Advancing Agriculture Program for the Foundation.

The William Buckland Foundation, through its Advancing Agriculture Program, supports initiatives which focus on strengthening the resilience and capacity of regional and rural communities. This includes the support of innovative approaches to farming that increase yield and/or reduce damaging environmental impacts as well ensuring that rural leaders are equipped to inclusively address the challenges and embrace the opportunities that arise through change.

**WEBSITE:** [williambucklandfoundation.org.au](http://williambucklandfoundation.org.au) **LINKEDIN:** The William Buckland Foundation



## Johnny Gardner VICTORIA



THE  
WILLIAM BUCKLAND  
FOUNDATION  
— WBF —

**PHONE:** 0418 508 923 **EMAIL:** southmokanger@outlook.com

From Cavendish, Victoria, **Johnny Gardner** receives a Nuffield Scholarship with support from the **William Buckland Foundation** to research sheep and goat animal management, price incentives, market access and environmental changes across the supply chain.

Managing his family's 1,720-hectare farm in south west Victoria, Johnny runs a 12,000 head self-replacing Coopworth composite ewe flock. The business primarily produces lamb, turning off up to 12,000 lambs each year and selling around 240 bales of 28-micron wool.

With a large proportion of Australian sheep and goat meat exported overseas, Johnny will use his Nuffield Scholarship to research ways to future-proof these markets through a more in-depth understanding of consumers and environmental constraints on the industry.

"I want to explore what drives our largest consumers, including the impacts of animal management on eating quality, industry efforts to reduce emissions, aligning price incentives with consumer demands, and ensuring a diversity of market access for Australian producers," Johnny said.

"It is an exciting time in the red meat sector, with major focus and investment on everything from objective carcass measurement technology to environmental sustainability, through initiatives like the red meat sector's Carbon Neutral 2030 target. I believe there is an immense opportunity to learn from other red meat producing countries and from sectors beyond agriculture, and contribute to a more robust measurement and benchmarking process for industry to strengthen its quality and sustainability credentials."

Travelling throughout North and South America, China, the Middle East and Europe, Johnny will have the opportunity to observe key export market trends firsthand.

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**WEBSITE:** [williambucklandfoundation.org.au](http://williambucklandfoundation.org.au) **LINKEDIN:** The William Buckland Foundation

### Andrew Ham VICTORIA



**PHONE:** 0438 402 552

**EMAIL:** [andrew@windermereoilseeds.com.au](mailto:andrew@windermereoilseeds.com.au)

Supported by the **William Buckland Foundation**, **Andrew Ham** of Windermere, Victoria, receives a Nuffield Scholarship to research ways to increase agricultural efficiencies through alternative renewable energy sources and better utilisation of agricultural waste products.

Andrew works alongside his parents in the family's diversified farming operation which encompasses oilseed crushing and refining, mixed cropping, lamb and pig production. With the majority of his time invested in the oilseed processing and refining side of the business, Andrew oversees the management of 25,000 tonnes of grain storage, the crushing of a variety of oilseeds, and project manages the implementation of new technologies for the business.

As an oilseed processor, Andrew recognises the business' reliance on primary energy sources like coal powered electricity and natural gas, and intends to use his Nuffield Scholarship to explore alternative energy sources and the benefits their use can unlock for agricultural enterprises.

"Facing some of the highest energy and labour costs globally, in addition to increasing consumer pressure to farm in a socially and environmentally sympathetic way, we need to reduce our reliance on non-renewable resources."

"By using excess waste and other secondary resources, we have an opportunity to decrease our reliance on non-renewable energy, which will in turn reduce our carbon footprint, bring running costs down and add economic, social and environmental value to our farming businesses."

Andrew will travel across Europe, Morocco, Israel, Sweden and Japan.



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**WEBSITE:** [williambucklandfoundation.org.au](http://williambucklandfoundation.org.au)

**LINKEDIN:** The William Buckland Foundation



## Nicholas Krebs QUEENSLAND



**PHONE:** 0427 323 498 **EMAIL:** [nick@hewittcattle.com.au](mailto:nick@hewittcattle.com.au)

**Nicholas Krebs** from Moura, Queensland, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by **Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA)**. He will investigate new ways to attract and retain more people into beef enterprises and help position the industry as a long-term career choice.

Nicholas is currently the Aggregation Manager of 'Pegunny' for Hewitt Cattle Australia, a role that sees him manage four adjoining cattle properties in Central Queensland, including 10,000 head of cattle across 26,300-hectares and 2,400-hectares of dryland cropping.

"Farm businesses know the importance of finding and retaining the right staff. To achieve this, we need to promote the diversity of roles within our industry, as well as adopt new technologies and approaches to foster a vibrant and professional working culture."

"While other countries have held onto their traditional ways, Australia needs to be on the front foot with innovation if it's to successfully attract young people into agriculture. Whether it's a role in science, sales or out in the field, the opportunities for a long-term career in agriculture are endless."

Throughout his study program, Nicholas plans to travel to North, Central and South America, as well as European countries that are utilising a range of methods and technologies to attract, retain and secure their agricultural workforce.



### SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

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

**WEBSITE:** [www.mla.com.au](http://www.mla.com.au)

**FACEBOOK:** [@meatandlivestockaustralia](https://www.facebook.com/meatandlivestockaustralia)

**TWITTER:** [@meatlivestock](https://twitter.com/meatlivestock)

**YOUTUBE:** [meatandlivestock](https://www.youtube.com/meatandlivestock)



### Thomas Hooke NEW SOUTH WALES



**PHONE:** 0409 399 191 **EMAIL:** tom@elmerinos.com.au

**Tom Hooke**, from Wanganella, New South Wales, receives a Nuffield Scholarship with support from **Australian Wool Innovation (AWI)**. Tom will use his Scholarship to research innovative regenerative agriculture principles to apply to Australian pastoral sheep enterprises.

Tom, together with his brother Marcus, run the family's 25,000-hectare property comprising 9,000 commercial Merino ewes, 1,000 stud Merino ewes and 200 Angus cows across predominantly open pastoral country in the western Riverina region.

As someone passionate about a holistic approach to farming, Tom is keen to further extend the principles of rotational grazing to sheep enterprises in pastoral zones, which largely rely on very low input systems and minimal chemical intervention.

"Improved grazing management practices present a major opportunity for sheep producers in these pastoral zones, and my research seeks to unearth leading examples from around the world that can further strengthen our industry's sustainability efforts," Tom said.

"With the recent drought highlighting the difference in production outcomes from land that is well managed, there has never been a more important time for sheep producers to explore sustainable methods to manage risks in the midst of climatic variability."

Tom will visit Africa, as well as North and South America, to identify long-term production benefits of rotational grazing in the rangelands and regenerative agriculture, with an aim to pass this knowledge on to peers across the sheep production industry and the wider agricultural sector.



#### SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

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

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

**YOUTUBE:** Australian Wool Innovation Ltd



## Catherine Velisha VICTORIA



**PHONE:** 0413 604 903 **EMAIL:** [catherine@velivelisha.com.au](mailto:catherine@velivelisha.com.au)

**Catherine Velisha** from Werribee, Victoria, receives a Nuffield Scholarship with support from **Hort Innovation** to undertake research into how horticultural family businesses can build and harness the skills they need to be competitive in the marketplace.

Catherine recently took ownership of her family's 153-hectare integrated horticulture business, comprising three properties at Tatura, Caldermeade and Werribee South. Across these farms, she grows, supplies and markets cauliflower, broccoli, zucchini, spring onions, kale and a variety of herbs into both wholesale markets and supermarkets.

Recognising the challenges faced by family farms in the horticultural sector, Catherine's study will focus on the opportunities and strengths unique to the family farm business model, and how to better leverage these to obtain and retain a competitive advantage.

"With the majority of Australian farming businesses being family owned and operated, it's paramount these businesses can be sustainable and grow into the future," Catherine said.

"I'm keen to identify and evaluate the external factors influencing the performance of family horticulture businesses, and ultimately develop a 'tool box' to help family businesses stay competitive in our industry."

Travelling to the United Kingdom, United States, Europe and China, Catherine intends to explore the structures and strategies that enable family businesses to thrive in these advanced and competitive markets and bring those lessons home.

**Hort  
Innovation**

### SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

Hort Innovation is a not-for-profit, grower-owned Research and Development Corporation for Australia's \$9 billion horticulture industry. Hort Innovation invests more than \$100 million in research, development and marketing programs annually.

**WEBSITE:** [horticulture.com.au](http://horticulture.com.au)

**FACEBOOK:** @hortinnovation

**TWITTER:** @Hort\_Au

### Richard Quigley NEW SOUTH WALES



**PHONE:** 0409 473 722 **EMAIL:** richiequig@bigpond.com

**Richard Quigley** from Trangie, New South Wales, receives a Nuffield Scholarship with support from the **Cotton Research & Development Corporation** and **Cotton Australia**. Richard will investigate cropping systems and methods to retain more crop residue in zero-tillage farming systems.

With his family, Richard manages their mixed farming enterprise consisting of sprinkler and furrow irrigated crops (predominantly cotton), dryland wheat, barley, chickpeas, canola, and opportunity dryland cotton, as well as a grazing operation focussed on breeding and finishing sheep and cattle.

With the wide adoption of zero-tillage farming, Richard will look at enhancing the method by retaining more crop residue above ground. He believes this will increase infiltration rates and the ability to store moisture, as well as limit erosion and the rate of water evaporation.

"As farmers in marginal cropping areas, we usually find moisture to be our most limiting factor. If we can utilise techniques that help us preserve more moisture, it could produce a range of benefits, from increased productivity, soil health, yields and reduced weed pressures," said Richard.

"The outcomes of the research could provide increased planting opportunities within, and outside, traditional planting windows, opening up potential to grow different crop types in marginal environments, including increasing the viability of rain-grown and semi-irrigated cotton production."

Richard plans to visit well-established cotton and grain production areas like Brazil, United States Canada, and England, where growers are using a range of methods and technologies that may be applicable in Australia.



#### SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

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

**WEBSITE:** [www.crdc.com.au](http://www.crdc.com.au) **TWITTER:** @CottonResearch

Cotton Australia is the peak body for Australia's cotton growing industry, supporting over 1,500 cotton farming families in NSW, Queensland and now into Victoria.

**WEBSITE:** [cottonaustralia.com.au](http://cottonaustralia.com.au) **FACEBOOK:** @CottonAustralia **TWITTER:** @CottonAustralia  
**LINKEDIN:** Cotton Australia **YOUTUBE:** CottonAustralia



## Sarah Keough SOUTH AUSTRALIA



**PHONE:** 0428 782 225 **EMAIL:** sarahk@bleasdale.com.au

**Sarah Keough** from Strathalbyn, South Australia, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by **Wine Australia**. She will use her scholarship to investigate new and emerging irrigation methods to reduce vineyard crop losses and sustain fruit quality during extreme heat events.

As a viticulturist at Bleasdale Vineyards and member of the Langhorne Creek Grape and Wine Association, Sarah works closely with the region's growers, as well as those in the Adelaide Hills and McLaren Vale. She believes her Nuffield research will be a valuable extension to existing work in the sector on reducing the impact of heat in vineyards.

"A gradual increase in the number of days reaching 40 degrees has prompted local growers to look at new approaches, such as mulching and alternative irrigation schemes, to reduce the soil temperature and enable vines to endure prolonged heat stress," said Sarah.

"While growers have seen great success by using undervine misters, low volume overhead sprinklers and misting fans, there is a need to look at more cost-effective and water-efficient alternatives. In particular, my research will look to unearth new technologies to better manage and improve irrigation scheduling."

Through her Nuffield Scholarship, Sarah will meet with water irrigation leaders in Israel, investigate innovative irrigation methods being used in semi-arid climates like Argentina, and visit America's Napa Valley, which is increasingly experiencing higher than average temperatures.

## Wine Australia

### SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

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

**WEBSITE:** [www.wineaustralia.com](http://www.wineaustralia.com) **FACEBOOK:** @WineAustralia **TWITTER:** @Wine\_Australia

**LINKEDIN:** Wine Australia **YOUTUBE:** Wine Australia

### Albertus Hanekom WESTERN AUSTRALIA



**PHONE:** 0439 280 444 **EMAIL:** albertush@icloud.com

From Kununurra, Western Australia, **Albertus Hanekom** receives a Nuffield Scholarship with support from the **Fisheries Research & Development Corporation (FRDC)** to research pathways for the aquaculture and Barramundi industries to grow more seafood and better manage stock levels.

A nursery manager for Marine Produce Australia's Cone Bay Ocean Barramundi in the Kimberley, Albertus is involved in the production of 3,000 tonnes of prime Barramundi each year, supplied to Coles and other Australian markets.

With the Australian Atlantic Salmon industry more effectively using on-land nurseries to grow stock before transferring to sea cages, Albertus will use his research to explore the viability of replicating some of their practices in the Barramundi industry.



"Seed stock security is vital for every aquaculture industry, and a better understanding of the methods of on-land nursery rearing of Barramundi fingerlings, will allow us to better control stock, be able to time nursery stock transfers and monitor performance more effectively," Albertus said.

"At present, Barramundi farmers avoid producing fingerlings at certain times due to poor performance in colder months, which creates a gap in production for large volume producers. If we can more effectively use on-land nurseries as seed banks, we will unlock better surety of supply and grow more fish in a shorter time frame."

Exploring on-farm nursery systems in Tasmanian and South American Atlantic Salmon farms, and Barramundi farms in the Middle East, Albertus will observe methods of growing larger stock on-land and gather insights on best management practices and associated technology uses.

#### SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

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

**WEBSITE:** [www.frdc.com.au](http://www.frdc.com.au) **FACEBOOK:** @FRDCAustralia **TWITTER:** @FRDCAustralia  
**INSTAGRAM:** @frdc\_au



## Billy Browning NEW SOUTH WALES



**PHONE:** 0429 892 223 **EMAIL:** [billy@browningfamily.com.au](mailto:billy@browningfamily.com.au)

**Billy Browning**, from Narromine in New South Wales, receives a Nuffield Scholarship with support from the Australian Department of Agriculture and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority. He will investigate the value adding of irrigation water and increased utilisation of low-flow water.

Having previously worked in the financial and agribusiness sector, Billy now operates a 3,500-hectare mixed cropping operation with his family, producing a combination of wheat, barley, canola and chickpeas, as well as cotton and other opportunity crops when water permits.

Faced with the growing issue around reduced water reliability and a drive for return on assets managed, Billy sees a real opportunity to investigate alternative irrigation options and multiple uses from a single water source.

"Water is a highly topical issue within the agricultural sector at the moment. In particular, the cotton industry is facing a significant water reliability issue, which is driving all farmers to be more resourceful with what little water they have," Billy said.

"The aim of my research is to open up alternatives that enable farmers to best utilise the valuable resource of water, in the most sustainable and productive way. It will also look to investigate renewable solutions, such as solar pumps or battery storage for bore and river water."

Billy will visit Brazil, Europe and the United States to see how farmers there are addressing similar issues, as well as research and consult with leading irrigated growers here in Australia.



Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture



### SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

The Australian Government Department of Agriculture develops and implements policies and programs to ensure Australia's agricultural, fisheries, food and forestry industries remain competitive, profitable and sustainable, and supports the sustainable and productive management and use of rivers and water resources.

**WEBSITE:** [www.agriculture.gov.au](http://www.agriculture.gov.au) **TWITTER:** @DeptAgNews

With the enactment of the Water Act 2007, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) was established as an independent expertise-based statutory agency. The MDBA aims to achieve a healthy working Basin for the benefit of the Australian community.

**WEBSITE:** [www.mdba.gov.au](http://www.mdba.gov.au) **FACEBOOK:** @MDBAuth **TWITTER:** @MD\_Basin\_Auth

### Alexandra (Tess) Camm QUEENSLAND



**PHONE:** 0458 440 018 **EMAIL:** [tess@signaturebeef.com.au](mailto:tess@signaturebeef.com.au)

**Alexandra (Tess) Camm**, from Rockhampton, Queensland, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by **The Yulgilbar Foundation**. Tess will investigate ways to improve the relationship between producers and abattoirs to increase the value of premium offal, as well as understand new markets, and methods of processing and packaging for beef co-products.

A fifth-generation grazer, Tess works on the family's northern grazing properties, feedlots and seed stock operations in Central Queensland. Prior to this, she was involved in regenerative grazing training and AI breeding programs across the beef industry.

"Currently, the high variability of retail beef prices can negatively impact consumption at the high end or, alternatively, farm gate returns at the low end. We can potentially create greater stability by lifting demand for co-products, and deriving more value from the entire carcass," Tess said.

"My research will seek to bolster the promotion and appeal of premium offal through better communication between producers and abattoirs, and look at post farm-gate methods such as the development of new consumer markets and packaging to achieve premiums for co-products."

Tess will share her findings with producers and processors to decide whether the costs of producing and processing these products is viable for their respective operations. She will visit leading enterprises across Europe, USA, Brazil and China to inform her research.



The Yulgilbar Foundation

#### SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

The Yulgilbar Foundation is a family run Private Ancillary Fund and was established in 2001 by Baillieu and Sarah Myer. The Yulgilbar Foundation's area of focus is rural, regional and remote Australia and more specifically, education, environment, capacity building and Alzheimer's research. The family have had a long-standing involvement in rural industries, particularly in Northern NSW, and are passionate to see rural and regional Australia prosper.

**WEBSITE:** [www.yulgilbar.com.au](http://www.yulgilbar.com.au)





## Luke Cantrill NEW SOUTH WALES



**PHONE:** 0401 888 745 **EMAIL:** [luke@cantrillorganics.com.au](mailto:luke@cantrillorganics.com.au)

From Nashdale in New South Wales, **Luke Cantrill** receives a Nuffield Scholarship with support from **Woolworths** to research drivers of success in overseas horticulture and viticulture businesses, international production systems, export opportunities and the cold chain.

Based near Orange, Luke currently grows fresh, organic cherries across two orchards with over 8,000 cherry trees. Supplying produce to local markets and supermarkets, Luke is keen to evolve the exporting side of his business and the cherry industry as a whole.

“Like many growers, we are challenged by high volumes and low demand in the domestic market. Using my Nuffield Scholarship, I want to bring back lessons from successful and profitable overseas enterprises and identify new market opportunities for our industry,” Luke said.



“By exploring international cherry varieties and cold chain infrastructure, I hope to get a better understanding of where the market is heading and anticipate what might be coming to market in the short term.

“I also see emerging ‘second tier’ markets in China, in places like Sheyang, Xi’an and Quhan, as holding great potential for Australian growers, and want to evaluate access pathways and opportunities in these markets.”

Luke will travel throughout Canada, the United States, Chile, China and New Zealand on his Nuffield research, gathering insights into emerging trends, markets and technologies important to the growth of the Australian horticulture industry.

### SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

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

**WEBSITE:** [crs.woolworthsgroup.com.au](http://crs.woolworthsgroup.com.au) **FACEBOOK:** @Woolworths **TWITTER:** @Woolworths

### Harry Kelly VICTORIA



**PHONE:** 0458 646 644 **EMAIL:** [hjkelly@live.com](mailto:hjkelly@live.com)

**Harry Kelly** from Caramut, Victoria, receives a Nuffield Scholarship with support from **Rabobank Australia**. He will research ways for the Australian agriculture industry to multiply profitable business models, retain the right people and embrace change to become a more attractive investment.

Harry runs a diversified Angus beef, prime lamb and Merino and cross-bred wool business across his 1,200-hectare farm in Victoria's south west. Since his full-time involvement in 2014, on-farm expansion projects have seen the business grow to turn off Angus weaners into both the feeder and Asian live export markets, prime lambs, and broadacre wheat, canola and beans.

Passionate about how primary producers can embrace change over the coming generation, Harry intends to use his Nuffield Scholarship to research ways to secure a stronger, more sustainable future for Australian agriculture.

"I see key challenges and opportunities for the sector over the next generation, as attracting good financial and human capital becomes more competitive," he said.

"If we are unable to keep pace with other industries and compete for investment, then the industry is at risk of stagnation. I want to unearth pathways to growth for farming businesses by positively embracing change and capitalising on the opportunities it can bring through diversification of the primary production portfolio."

Exploring and comparing different investment and funding models for agricultural enterprises, from the state-owned to free market enterprise, Harry will travel throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia.



**Rabobank**

#### SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

Rabobank Australia and Rabobank New Zealand are a part of the international Rabobank Group, the world's leading specialist in food and agribusiness banking. Rabobank has 121 years' experience providing customised banking and finance solutions to businesses involved in all aspects of food and agribusiness.

Rabobank operates in 38 countries, servicing the needs of approximately 8.3 million clients worldwide through a network of more than 900 branches and offices. Rabobank Australia and Rabobank New Zealand are among their countries' leading rural lenders and are significant providers of business and corporate banking and financial services to the Australian and New Zealand food and agribusiness sector. Rabobank has 93 branches and offices throughout Australia and New Zealand in all major agricultural regions.

**WEBSITE:** [www.rabobank.com.au](http://www.rabobank.com.au)

**FACEBOOK:** [@RabobankAustralia](https://www.facebook.com/RabobankAustralia)

**TWITTER:** [@RabobankAU](https://twitter.com/RabobankAU)



## Bernie Byrnes NEW SOUTH WALES



**PHONE:** 0417 146 022 **EMAIL:** [bernie.byrnes@gmail.com](mailto:bernie.byrnes@gmail.com)

**Bernie Byrnes** from Gunning, New South Wales, receives a Nuffield Scholarship from **Westpac Agribusiness**. He will investigate the current opportunities and risks associated with purchasing farmland, seeking to identify trends relating to agricultural land values and lease rates.

A young owner-operator with plans to expand his farm business, Bernie currently manages a self-replacing Merino flock of 1,200 ewes, producing up to 400 crossbred lambs and 50 bales of superfine Merino wool a year, on his property in NSW's Southern Tablelands.

Despite recent adverse seasonal conditions, Bernie believes the value of Australian agricultural land continues to grow, and sees an unprecedented opportunity to examine this appreciation in farmland to bolster the decision-making process for primary producers.

### **Agribusiness**

"Purchasing land is often the biggest financial decision a farmer will make. While Australian farmland values continue to rise, often outstripping operational returns, farmers need to have access to better, more reliable market data to inform their purchasing decisions," Bernie said.

"My global study program will assess different perspectives and trends on agricultural land values at a local, regional and international level, to help farmers consider the best allocation of their capital to purchase or lease land, as well as the risks and rewards.

Bernie will predominantly travel to North America's Midwest, which experiences some of the largest and most liquid farm sales globally, as well as Canada, which has a comparable operating environment to Australia.

#### **SUPPORTER INFORMATION:**

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

**WEBSITE:** [www.westpac.com.au/business-banking/industries/agribusiness/](http://www.westpac.com.au/business-banking/industries/agribusiness/) **FACEBOOK:** @Westpac  
**TWITTER:** @Westpac **LINKEDIN:** Westpac **YOUTUBE:** Westpac Banking **INSTAGRAM:** @westpac

### Tammy Kruckow NORTHERN TERRITORY



**PHONE:** 0419 315 614 **EMAIL:** [tammy.kruckow@pastoral.com](mailto:tammy.kruckow@pastoral.com)

From Katherine in the Northern Territory, **Tammy Kruckow** receives the Northern Pastoral Scholarship, supported collectively by the **Australian Agricultural Company, Consolidated Pastoral Company, Elders and S. Kidman & Co.** Tammy will use her scholarship to research how the northern pastoral industry can successfully retain and develop its workforce.

As part of the Consolidated Pastoral Company (CPC) portfolio, Tammy and her husband currently manage 'Manbulloo' Station and several agistment properties in northern Australia. A large-scale breeding, backgrounding and finishing enterprise, it comprises 16 staff that oversee the export of 25,000 head of cattle.

Tammy previously coordinated CPC's recruitment and training programs across all of its 16 properties located in the NT, QLD and WA. During that time, she observed the narrow pipeline of talent coming through and the need to have adequate succession plans in place.

"Australia's northern beef industry faces major challenges around attracting and retaining the right staff, especially at the middle management level. With younger people looking elsewhere, on top of an ageing workforce, we need to promote the industry as a long-term career choice," Tammy said.

"My study program is focussed on identifying successful retention and development strategies from around the world, with a goal to apply those learnings to an Australian context and help build a more skilled and sustainable workforce for northern beef enterprises."

Tammy will examine HR strategies from leading farm businesses in China, New Zealand, North America and South America, as well as developing countries such as Indonesia, to understand the importance of culture to drive productivity.



#### SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

The Northern Pastoral Scholarship was launched in 2018 by the Australian Agricultural Company, Consolidated Pastoral Company, Elders and S. Kidman & Co.

Recognising the need to foster the Northern Australian pastoral sector, these four iconic agricultural companies joined forces to create the scholarship with the aim of enabling recipients to become leaders in their field.

**AACO:** [www.aaco.com.au](http://www.aaco.com.au) **CPC:** [www.pastoral.com](http://www.pastoral.com) **ELDERS:** [www.elders.com.au](http://www.elders.com.au)

**S.KIDMAN & CO:** [www.kidman.com.au](http://www.kidman.com.au)



## James Alexander NEW SOUTH WALES



**PHONE:** 0439 390 840

**EMAIL:** james\_alexander90@hotmail.com

**James Alexander** of Boorowa, New South Wales, receives a Nuffield Scholarship supported by the **NSW Department of Primary Industries**. He will research how mixed farming businesses can solve common land management issues, such as reduced ground cover and soil health.

Having worked as an agronomist for several years, James is currently employed on a large scale, organic and biodynamic grazing property in southern NSW. Additionally, his family runs a nearby composite ram breeding stud and commercial prime lamb operation at Cootamundra.

"I believe Australia can be a leader in sustainable agriculture. In particular, my scholarship will seek to build on the philosophies of regenerative agriculture, and to identify practical solutions across a wide range of industry challenges," James said.

"My research aims to unearth potential ways that regenerative approaches could lead to greater landscape functionality, improved social wellbeing of farmers, and increased profitability of farm businesses.

"Importantly, my research has potential to be applicable across the wider agricultural sector, and align with a growing interest to invest in initiatives that contribute to the sustainability of our soils, our farms, and our futures."

James plans to visit the United Kingdom and the United States to attend regenerative agriculture industry events, as well as visit key farms in Argentina, Spain, France and Italy, which are practicing key principles of regenerative agriculture and building greater pasture diversity.



Department of  
Primary Industries

### SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

The NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) ranks in the top 1% of global research organisations for the fields of Agricultural Science, Plant and Animal Science and Environment and Ecology. DPI works to increase the value of primary industries and drive economic growth across NSW. NSW DPI manages a broad range of initiatives from resource to industry, including natural resource management, research and development, pest and disease management, food safety, industry engagement, and market access and competition.

**WEBSITE:** [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au) **TWITTER:** @nswdpi

## Paula- Lee Pownall WESTERN AUSTRALIA



**PHONE:** 0419 378 496 **EMAIL:** paula@grubsup.com.au

**Paula-Lee Pownall** from West Coolup, Western Australia, receives a Nuffield Scholarship to investigate how to scale an insect production facility using the latest technology and research. She will also study the policies, procedures and supply chains of the emerging insect protein industry.

Paula-Lee is the founder of Western Australia's first edible insect farm, Grubs Up. Established in 2016, the business produces, processes and manufactures high-protein insects, most notably domestic house crickets and mealworms, for human food and animal supplements.

"Our goal is to become commercially viable and be as sustainable as possible. For instance, our business currently utilises vegetable waste to feed the insects, recycled egg cartons to house the crickets, and turns all manure and exoskeletons into a natural fertiliser product," Paula-Lee said.

"My research aims to identify the necessary steps to scale this type of insect production facility while continuing to produce a high-quality product for human and animal consumption. To achieve this, I will look at existing procedures, policies and incentives, and explore what other industry leaders are doing well."

Through her Nuffield Scholarship, Paula-Lee plans to visit leading commercial insect production facilities in Canada, Germany and Thailand, as well as speak with human food and animal feed regulators in the United Kingdom.



### SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

Western Australia branch of Nuffield Australia



## Brooke Barkla QUEENSLAND



**PHONE:** +62 81 1724 2527 **EMAIL:** bbarkla@outlook.com

**Brooke Barkla** from Toowoomba, Queensland, receives a Scholarship supported by **ANZ Bank** and **Nuffield Australia Alumni**, which in 2020 is entitled the 'Ian Macintosh' Scholarship. She will research the socio-economic impacts of the Australian live export industry in existing and emerging markets.

Brooke is the Quality Assurance Manager of JJAA Indonesia, which forms part of the Consolidated Pastoral Company (CPC) portfolio. For the past three years, she has been instrumental in driving business productivity and building stronger relations with its Australian operations.

As someone on the frontline of the live export industry, Brooke is proactive in sharing the company's high animal welfare standards, and has direct involvement with the local community through the business's various Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives.

"The sustainability of the livestock export industry is built on its social license to operate responsibly and transparently. We need to communicate the diverse benefits our industry can deliver while securely and safely supplying high quality protein to key markets," said Brooke.

"My research will focus on how the Australian live export industry can continue to supply a high quality protein to consumers, while also facilitating the creation of new jobs, training, and the transfer of knowledge and skills in importing countries," Brooke said.

"The second component will examine the socio-economic impacts of a transition away from importing of live Australian cattle to higher volumes of boxed beef in mature markets across Asia."

Brooke will visit Asia, Brazil, India, Mexico and the Middle East.



### SUPPORTER INFORMATION:

ANZ is one of the five largest listed companies in Australia and the number one bank in New Zealand. ANZ operates in 34 markets with approximately 45,000 staff across Australia, New Zealand, Asia, Pacific, Europe, America and the Middle East.

ANZ was named Canstar's Agribusiness Bank of the Year in Australia in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. This was awarded for a combination of products and value, market leading industry insights as well as programs that provide long term benefit to regional communities.

**WEBSITE:** [www.anz.com.au](http://www.anz.com.au) **FACEBOOK:** @ANZAustralia **TWITTER:** @ANZ\_AU **YOUTUBE:** ANZ Australia





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