



Nuffield Farming  
Scholarships Trust

# Nuffield New Zealand

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**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**



## Introducing David Campbell, Canterbury and Nicola Waugh, Waikato

October was an exciting month as we interviewed the short listed applicants and made our selection for next year's Nuffield scholarships. It amazes me the quality of those we interviewed, as always it was a challenge to make a selection.

In this newsletter you are introduced to our newest scholars, David Campbell and Nicola Waugh. I am sure you join me in welcoming them as Nuffield scholars and will make yourselves known as the occasion arises.

All scholars should have received a copy of the findings of the Austin-Smith report commissioned by the trustees. This report looks into the future of our funding and the structure of the Nuffield secretariat. If you haven't, could please contact Barbie Barton to have a copy forwarded to you.

The trustees are committed to implementing the recommendations to ensure that the scholarship continues well into the future. There is no doubt that the Nuffield scholarship is recognised and valued within New Zealand and many other parts of the world. Our great strengths are our strong alumni association and a strong and healthy international network. It is so important that we maintain these.

A crucial part of developing that international network is the recent innovation of the Contemporary Scholars Conference (CSC) where all the Nuffield scholars from around the world for that year meet in one place for week.

Having now experienced two such conferences it is a powerful event where 60 odd new scholars mingle and have their thoughts challenged and debated over the seven days.

New Zealand is hosting the next Contemporary Scholars Conference in early March 2011. The programme is being organised by Dick Davison and will be based in Wellington and Hanmer Springs. We are looking forward to an exciting event.

**Stuart Wright, Nuffield New Zealand Chairman**



## Nuffield New Zealand recipients 2011

This year the Nuffield Scholarship selection panel had another tough decision to make with limited funds and outstanding applicants.

The new selection process worked well with the involvement of the returning scholars on selection day and the announcement of the successful scholars at a cocktail function later that evening. This year we used the cocktail function to provide a platform to showcase Nuffield and provided an opportunity for sponsors to be photographed with our two new scholars.

As part of the cocktail function the returning 2010 scholars reported on their study. Each gave a ten minute presentation. I take considerable satisfaction in seeing the previous years' scholars development. The immediate evidence of personal growth, increased confidence and skill levels coupled with fresh ideas and innovative thinking will add to rural New Zealand's human capital.

I look forward to seeing Nicola and David back in twelve months and to hearing all five at our conference in two years.

**Julian Raine, Nuffield trustee**

## And in their words—David and Nicolas' introductions



I am one of the two lucky recipients of a 2011 Nuffield scholarship. Already I am discovering the benefits of being part of such a fantastic network of people and possibilities. I was born and raised in the Manawatu and developed a love of agriculture from an early age. After graduating from Massey University in 2002 with a Bachelor of Veterinary Science, I worked in dairy practices in the Waikato and Manawatu where I was encouraged and supported to develop skills in herd health and productivity.

After a year's working holiday in the UK, I returned to an exciting opportunity in Canterbury where for two years I worked with the team at Robindale Dairies. The farm is a 3,200 cow property with a single 80 bale rotary cowshed and a staff of 20. I was responsible for developing and implementing large herd strategies for livestock health, welfare and productivity. I currently work for Synlait, across all their 14 dairy farms. Synlait is a vertically integrated dairy farming and processing company with 13,500 cows and just over 4,000 hectares.

I live in Darfield with my lovely wife Sue surrounded by our animals. My study topic is: 'Understanding our Asian customers and optimising opportunities for New Zealand agriculture'. Asia is on our doorstep and presents a developing, rapidly growing and incredibly large opportunity for our primary industries. I want to gain an in-depth understanding of what is unique about these customers and their markets compared to our more traditional markets. What we can do to capture a sustainable position in them?

I am looking forward to the challenges ahead, to discovering new opportunities and to further developing my leadership capability.



I have been working for AgFirst Waikato as a consultant, predominantly in the dairy sector for 3 years, doing one-on-one consultancy and special project management. I am involved with discussion groups, Rural Mentor programme, cost and on farm implications of reducing nitrogen leaching in the Upper Waikato, and looking at different land use opportunities. I am heavily involved in the Young Farmers at a club, district and regional level.

Prior to AgFirst Waikato, I completed a Bachelor of Applied Science in Agriculture and Agribusiness followed by an Honours year at Massey University. I have worked on a range of farms.

My Nuffield project is looking at farmer adaptation to change. New Zealand agriculture is currently going through a period of volatility and change in a number of different aspects including financial, climatic and environmental. I will focus on the environmental challenge whilst taking into account financial and climatic volatility. There are huge pressures on the agriculture industry to reduce the impact we are having on the environment. These pressures are going to lead to the need for farmers to adapt either voluntarily or through regulatory pressure.

There are a number of countries around the world which have experienced large-scale systems change through regulation, subsidies and other methods in the recent past. I will look into the different roles of industry and private institutions in terms of farmer adaptation and what methods of education/extension and regulation have worked better than others. I'm keen to look at each level of the industry from policy makers, regulatory bodies, extension agents (both public and private) through to farmers. What opportunities do we have in NZ to learn from these countries and can we develop an industry strategy to facilitate adaptation to change for the greater good of the country whilst maintaining or improving profitability at a farmer level?



Spotted in Wellington networking, 2010 scholars Paul McGill, Desire Reid and Ian Knowles talk to Kirsten Bryant from Beef+Lamb New Zealand at our Nuffield cocktail function.

## Linking you up — national and international Nuffield news



### **Joan Wright farewells a friend— Nuffield New Zealand scholar Robin Mitchell**

Robin travelled to the UK on his Nuffield scholarship in 1974 with John Horrell and Alex Wright. He also visited South Africa. He worked at the freezing works after leaving school and worked his way into the dairy industry. During Robin's early farming years he was an entrepreneur and a farming leader both on and off the farm. He and Judith farmed on the Kairanga Plains along with a number of other dairy and bull beef enterprises and for a time he also had an interest in a dairy farm at Culverden. He was a great travelling companion and a good friend. Robin had been unwell for a couple of years now and died in Palmerston North at the end of September.



### **Jim Geltch—Nuffield Australia CEO**

Nuffield Australia is offering three Global Focus programmes for 2011. In March/April we visit New Zealand (for the Contemporary Scholars Conference), Brazil, Mexico, California, Ontario Canada, Washington DC, France and Scotland. In June/July scholars travel to Philippines, China, Virginia, Washington DC, Maritime States Canada, France and Ireland. In Sept/Oct we head off to India, Bahrain, Turkey (including Gallipoli) Syria, Ukraine, France, Washington DC and Nebraska. All 2011 Nuffield scholars from around the world are invited to participate in these programmes. The Sept/Oct program was trailed in 2010 to very positive response. Nuffield Australia considers it a bonus when scholars from other countries are able to participate on these tours – we enjoy having New Zealand and Irish scholars on our tours.



### **Peter Nixon —Nuffield International president**

Peter is the International president of Nuffield. It is his job to facilitate good communications between the countries. Two of the ways that he does this is by International Nuffield website and international newsletter (both can be viewed using this link, [www.nuffieldinternational.org](http://www.nuffieldinternational.org)). His aim is that the website will become the primary link between scholars in all countries by informing us of upcoming international events and conferences and by sharing news. We are all welcome to contribute stories, reports and photos. This is a great way to stay in touch. (Ps comment by Ali; there is also a Nuffield web based chatroom and Facebook site but these struggle through lack of use. You can get to them via Google or Jim Geltch [jimgeltch@nuffield.com.au](mailto:jimgeltch@nuffield.com.au)



### **Welcome home John and Diane Weston-Arnold kiwi farmer and UK Nuffield scholar**

After graduating at Massey University and three years working round the world John returned to dairy share farming in 1958. He married Diane, a Whangarei girl, in 1960 and two years later was imported by the late Rex Paterson to assist in the development of low-cost dairying in Wales, ultimately managing 10 dairy herds and three dry stock farms totalling 2000 acres with a staff of 19. John immersed himself in agricultural training and the basics of dairy farming that most kiwis take for granted, e.g. rotational grazing, raceways, circular water troughs, block calving, etc. In 1969 Nuffield UK enabled John to study dairy beef in Europe and to enjoy visits from many scholars and others including the European Dairy Farmers Congress held in Wales. Over the years numerous agricultural committees and councils have taken him all over the country. The first of our

three farms was acquired in 1981, later additions permitting the establishment of a son and a daughter onto the farming ladder, the introduction of share farming to the UK and to compare organic v. conventional dairying. Now we have retired to Ngunguru, Northland where we first met. We plan return visits each year to our family farming in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, Wales.



### **Craig and Roz Mackenzie — travel prize**

It was good to hear that Craig and Roz have been awarded second prize in the South Island Farmer of the Year competition run by Lincoln University and the Agmardt Innovation award. The judges recognised that Craig had applied his Nuffield learning to his home farm, which has included patenting their own technology and developing an agri-advisory service. Well done, it is great to see Nuffield scholars excelling.



### **The findings of 26 scholars from the UK and Ireland generated news and industry inspiration**

at the 2010 UK Nuffield Farming Conference early November. Attended by over 200 delegates, including scholars, potential scholars and guests, the two-day event gave good insight into farming and food production around the world. It also provided clear recommendations of how best some of the new found knowledge could be applied positively to the benefit of UK farming. Opening the conference Jack Ward, NFST Chairman, said, "Nuffield is about people; special people. Special people that want to make a difference - a difference to themselves, a difference to their businesses and a difference to their industry and, in some cases, all three." Travel-

ling to the UK—check out what's on the Nuffield calendar. This photo is of Jim Shanks who won the best presentation award.

**Nuffield 2010 sponsors** are thanked by Stuart Wright at the October cocktail function in Wellington.



**DairyNZ**



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**Mid Canterbury Farmers Charitable Trust**



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**Nuffield International Conference**



**September—October 2011**

Register now

[www.nuffieldinternational.org](http://www.nuffieldinternational.org)

**Come for part or all**

Meet up with friends  
Share fellowship  
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**Australia 2011**

**Our next Enuff is March 2011**  
Please email **Ali** your stories and photos; [aundorflay@gmail.com](mailto:aundorflay@gmail.com)  
Copy deadline 25th of February.