

International Nuffield News

December 2009



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New Year greetings...

INTERNATIONAL CHAIRMAN

Peter Nixon
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This Newsletter brings with it the sad news in the last couple of days of the passing of Capt John Stewart and Jane Kenyon (nee Bennett – Evans) who for many years has lived in Kenya. Jane was one of three Scholars selected in the UK in 1947 – the first year of selection. I am sure all Scholars will join me in sending our deepest sympathies to their families.

Also within is an obituary by Gill Bullock who has had close contact with Jane in recent years.

The passing of Jane has led me to reflect on earlier times, the accounts of the experiences of earlier Scholars, the contributions they have made, and the cumulative impact of all this on the experience and opportunities we can offer to our scholars today. I am sure they would be amazed.

What is the essence of Nuffield, 62 years on? Each year it is invigorating to see a new crop of

enthusiastic young agriculturalists embark on their Scholarship - returning with new found energy for their industry, with the ability to contribute measurably. In particular, it is a privilege to witness the personal growth that accompanies this journey. On their return their enthusiasm seems to reinvigorate older Scholars with new ideas and binds together a diversity of ages.

Perhaps this is the key to its success - Nuffield has provided, and refined, a programme which adds real and tangible value to the lives of our Scholars, the industry and the community as a whole.

New Year greetings

With the rapid approach of another year's ending, may I wish you and your families a very happy Christmas, and may the New Year be a little less challenging than the last.

News in brief....

■ Deported Scholars

It is with great sadness that we announce the deaths of the following:

Captain John Stewart - former UK NFST Director
Jane Kenyon - UK NSch 1947
Reg Dobbs OBE - UK NSch 1953
Christine Daniell - NZ Nuffield supporter
Sidney (Eric) Prouse - UK NSch 1963
S Wright - UK NSch 1953

CAPTAIN JOHN STEWART



It is with immense sadness we report that Captain John Stewart, former NFST Director, died peacefully on 20th December after a short illness. The family will be holding a small, private funeral and will arrange for a Memorial Service to be held in the New Year.

Messages of condolence should be sent to: Hugh Stewart, Fetter Hill House, Fetter Hill, Coleford, Gloucestershire, GL16 7LU.

Further information in due course from John Stones, NFST Director - nuffielldirector@aol.com

Nuffield Calendar

Date	Event	Venue	Host
18 - 20 January	2010 UK Interviews	London	Nuffield UK
22 February	Arable Study Group	Argentina	Nuffield UK
6 - 14 March	CSC	Washington DC, USA	Nuffield International
26 Feb - 11 April	Global Focus Programme	Various	Nuffield Australia
12-15 April	Dairy Study Group	Cornwall	Nuffield UK
21-25 April	Autumn Tour	Darwin	Nuffield Australia
29 April	Trehane Trust Dinner	London	Nuffield UK
13 - 16 May	NZ Biennial Conference	Gisborne	Nuffield NZ
20-22 May	Arable Study Tour	North East	Nuffield UK
31 May - 15 July	Global Focus Programme	Various	Nuffield Australia
9 - 10 June	Cereals Event	Royston	Nuffield UK
12 -13 June	Beckett Scholars Annual Mtg	Pembrokeshire	Nuffield UK
10 Sept - 23 Oct	Global Focus Programme	Various	Nuffield Australia
5-6 November	Nuffield Conference	Edinburgh	Nuffield UK
24-26 September	Horticultural Study Group	Brittany	Nuffield UK
27 Feb - 5 March 2011	CSC	Auckland, New Zealand	Nuffield International
25 Sept - 8 Oct 2011	International Conference	Adelaide and Perth, Australia	Nuffield Australia

For further information, please visit www.nuffieldinternational.org



Edel and Tadgh Buckley

The ups and downs of dairy futures

Despite 160 years of innovation, price risk and price volatility remain a major issues in world agriculture, discovered 2009 Irish Scholar, TADGH BUCKLEY. He travelled to the US and New Zealand to learn about dairy futures markets and their potential role in Irish and EU farming.

My trip commenced with a visit to the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME). Now the foremost commodity trading exchange in the world, the CME was formed in 1848 as the Chicago Butter and Egg Board. Its formation arose out of the desire of producers to reduce price risk and remove price volatility. Amazingly, despite 160 years of innovation, price volatility remains one of the major issues in world agriculture.

The CME offers a myriad of futures and spot markets for numerous commodities - from lumber to pork bellies. On the dairy side of it, the CME offers a number of futures markets for dairy commodities which gives US dairy farmers the opportunity to hedge their milk output price. This option is currently not available to dairy farmers in most other major milk producing countries. However, the participation rates of US dairy farmers in futures markets is very low, particularly when compared to their grain farming counterparts.

After leaving Chicago, I headed to Wisconsin, 'America's Dairyland'. I based myself at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where Professor Ed Jesse extended a warm welcome and hosted me for a number of days.

Low uptake

During my time in Wisconsin, I met with a number of dairy farmers, dairy processors and commodity brokers, as well as academics from the University of Wisconsin. My main aim was to gain a better understanding of what drives the decisions of primary producers when deciding to hedge output

price or not.

As stated earlier, the use of dairy futures markets in the US is surprisingly low. There are a number of reasons put forward for this. These include a lack of understanding of how futures markets operate, a fear of missing out in a significant price increase, as well as a belief that locking in milk price leads to a loss of control.

Many say that US farmers have learned their lesson from the 2009 collapse in milk price and there will be increased participation in dairy futures markets going forward. However, US farmers endured a similar (although less severe) price collapse in 2000, but this did not precipitate a surge in the use of forward contracts. I remain sceptical, therefore, as to whether dairy farmer participation in dairy futures markets will increase above their current level of 8%.

The New Zealand experience

From the US, I continued my trip to New Zealand, where I was joined by my wife, Edel. Arriving in Auckland, we travelled extensively across the country meeting many intriguing people along the way.

Currently, the New Zealand Stock Exchange is looking at establishing a dairy futures market and hope to do so in the coming months.

New Zealand dairy farmers are probably the most competitive dairy farmers in the world, with a farming model based on a low input grass-based system. This is in direct contrast to US dairy farmers whose farming model is based on high input and high output.



Locking in input prices is not an option for low cost grass-based New Zealand producers.

This high input system is much more suited to the use of futures markets as farmers have the ability to hedge the bulk of their inputs (feed and energy) in conjunction with the milk price. Locking in input prices is not an option for low cost grass-based New Zealand producers, which is a major obstacle to overcome if the use of futures markets is to become prevalent.

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Reflections on a Nuffield experience

CARINE CHASSÉ, 2009 French Scholar



From the heart of Brittany, in the western part of France, my partner and I run a family dairy farm. We have

close to 100 Holstein cows on 150 hectares where we grow all the forage needed to feed the herd (grass, alfalfa, maize) and also rape, wheat and barley as cash crops. Our mild climate, with an average of 650 mm of rain a year, is fairly favorable to what we do.

Over the last 50 years, our region has developed a dynamic net of agricultural businesses to meet the needs of expanding farming production. The goal after World War II was to feed the growing population and, we must say, this has worked out pretty well. However, it has also brought new troubles that we, as farmers, have had to face since the mid-80s - including over production, thus surplus, and water contamination due to the excessive use of fertiliser and pesticide.

To face these issues, the European Union and the French Government voted in such decisions as milk quota (since 1984), restriction on spraying nitrogen and livestock slurries.

The other thing that French farmers have had to deal with in the past few years is to share our farms with

the urban community. Each year, thousands of hectares are being taken out of agriculture for other uses.

This is the situation on my own farm, and I have faced it since 1995 when I started farming. But my feeling is that the times are changing.

I have always been involved in the management of our farm. I sit on the board of a local co-op which buys farm equipment and a co-op that dries our forage (alfalfa). I'm also a member of a group of farmers who share knowledge and think about the strategy for the future.

To understand and plan for the future, I think it is important to know how other farmers live and work in other places. This is why I've joined a group of 8-10 European farmers.

My Scholarship

Based on everything I've done previously, my interests naturally led me one year ago to apply for a Nuffield Scholarship. At that time, I didn't know exactly what this could mean for me. But it has been a complete surprise and experience.

The focus of my study topic is the sustainability of French dairy farms when compared with other systems of producing milk in the world.

I soon discovered the complexity of the world; that we must be able to feed the world, to preserve

the environment, to use the research without danger and all about globalisation.

At our first Nuffield meeting in London at the CSC, one of the Scholars asked me about the European Agricultural Policy (quota, subsidy, environmental restriction) and finally said: "You guys are going straight into the wall". Ever since, this comment has always been on my mind and it still helps me to develop and further my own way of thinking. It's also changed the way I see other people.

My experience

I think one of best things about the Nuffield experience is to be able:

- To confront tough opinions
- To ask myself if I'm right or wrong
- To understand others

I have to admit that the language barrier has been, for me, what I call a handicap - but also a challenge to deal with or to fight. Despite this, I've made very strong connections through my travels in Denmark, China and New Zealand. Being able to share ideas, information and emotions has been valuable and is just what drives me through my life.

SPECIALISTS NEED GENERALISTS

...where farmers come into their own!

Farmers should value their role as 'generalists', says 2005 Australian Scholar, LEIGH VIAL. In a world where specialisation is unavoidable, the well-rounded and straight approach of the farmer - with a capacity to piece together the new technologies and innovations - is the key to delivering results.

Peter Jennings was amongst a special group of agricultural researchers that gave birth to the Green Revolution. Working at the International Rice Research Institute in the 1960s, he discovered the semi-dwarf gene in rice.

The first semi-dwarf variety, IR8, thrust the rice world forward to a new yield horizon. Decades later, the same Dr Jennings warns that the solutions to coming production and sustainability challenges may lie less with the specialized breeders, molecular biologists, physiologists or soil scientists, but more with making the whole gambit work as a system.

Generalists in demand

"We need the generalists; they are the ones that can best piece together the technologies and innovations for a net result," he commented. That's quite an admission for a well-trained specialist!

He laments that the well-regarded generalist is now a rare species in agricultural R&D.

One unavoidable consequence of mankind's progression is specialisation. In the 1700s, Adam Smith detailed how much quicker you can make pins if it is done by a number of people with each doing one task. It is well-past impossible to know everything about everything, so to progress in most professions one has to know more-and-more about less-and-less.

With this has come the challenge of how to move forwards when more than one specialty is involved - which in turn creates a real place for those 'that know a bit about most things'. In agriculture, farmers of the world are best placed to do this.

Farmers well placed

For the past 16 months, I have been pursuing a PhD in sub-tropical rice systems in Lao PDR. The compulsory process of abandoning the general for the specific has driven me - and especially my supervisors - to distraction. My Lao colleagues have found the process of placing me in a specialised 'box' equally challenging. Depending on the day, I might be an 'expert' in tillage, soil compaction, herbicide, mechanics, grain quality, legume nodulation, irrigation, land-forming or economics.

Alas, I will become an authority in one of these shortly. Needless to say, the process takes longer than your average Nuffield Scholarship, but the experience

has heightened the value of a Nuffield in my eyes.

In my time here, I have lost count of the occasions when I have acted as a 'bridge' between specialists - talking to a breeder about market demand, a research station manager about herbicide resistance or a soil scientist about the opportunity cost of water. These bridging moments are not often heralded in the world of science, but they are fundamental in helping it deliver a result.

It is a truism that when you have a hammer, every problem looks like a nail. Every specialised researcher is armed with their hammer, but it is the job of the generalists to expose them to the tech-screws, rivots or spot-welds that accompany the nails.

Farmer contributions

Australia has been wise to embrace farmers in agricultural R&D, be it through membership of RDC boards, advisory committees or the plethora of farming programmes that are dotted around. Rest assured, this is not common in the world; so often farmers are treated as clients, customers, targets or at best 'stakeholders' (jargon if ever I have heard it!).

Farmers should value their role as generalists - and the well-rounded approaches this often brings. But do not take it for granted, especially as Nuffield alumni, your knowledge, perspective and networks can be the perfect complement to the specialists.

Farmers should also not underestimate their value to R&D systems, both in Australia and abroad. If our political representatives look to reform agricultural R&D away from farmer involvement, it should be resisted.

And, a final caveat: Do not under-estimate what the well-informed Aussie farmer can contribute to agricultural development around the world.

Bureaucrats, cynical politics and waste abound. Straight talk and straight action can be just the tonic to this system, at times. It is not everyone's cup of tea - or curdled yak's milk - but it can be an excellent personal diversification strategy in your agricultural career.



Above: Leigh and his family with two Lao ladies in their life, Khone and Tholani, the Lao goddess of the soil.

Below: Mr Inta, an accomplished generalist who hosts Leigh's PhD trials. He can do a plethora of things, including finding a tasty rodent when lunch beckons.



Above: Leigh's son, Digby, enjoying the ferry ride across Nam Ngeum River, Lao PDR with a very experienced generalist returning from her riverside garden.

Peter Jennings article appeared in the April-June 2007 edition of Rice Today, published by the International Rice Research Institute. It can be found at www.irri.org and following the links.

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Competitive advantage

While in New Zealand some of the dairy farmers I encountered were among the most efficient anywhere in the world, there are clearly more reasons than their ability to grow grass which explains their efficiency. Some of the other factors I observed include:

- **Sharemilking:** This model gives a clear path for new entrants into the industry. The vibrancy and enthusiasm of the many sharemilkers I met on my travels is much less evident in both Ireland and the US where there are distinct barriers for new entrants to enter into the industry.
- **Focus on cost of production:** There is a strong knowledge and understanding of the cost of production and the drivers of same. This is now

becoming more prevalent in Ireland, but is much less apparent. A similar story applies in the US where the majority of producers do not know exactly what their cost of production is.

- **Dairy processing industry:** There is much less of a "them versus us" attitude between farmers and processors in New Zealand. While there is a healthy amount of suspicion, farmers view Fonterra largely as their business partners. New Zealand has now developed a most efficient processing industry, particularly given the disadvantages of their seasonal milk production.

There are also some lessons that I believe New Zealand can learn from Ireland. For example, the work/life balance of farmers in the industry is an area that could be looked at for both farmers and their staff members.

My travels also gave me the opportunity to sample both the New Zealand and US lifestyle. It also gave me the chance to view some incredible scenery, particularly in the South Island of New Zealand, some of which was truly breathtaking.

My Nuffield travels to date have given me an invaluable insight in global agriculture and an amazing insight into the dairy production sector in both the US and New Zealand. They have also allowed me the opportunity to meet some fascinating characters - something which would not have been possible without the vast network of contacts Nuffield provides.

I look forward to completing my study with a visit to the European Commission in Belgium in the New Year, while also reassured in the knowledge that the friends I have made in the past year through Nuffield will last a lifetime.

Around the globe



Australia

Once again the end of another year approaches. Harvest is as good as complete in the Eastern states of Australia, with the West still harvesting up to Christmas. It has been another year of dry weather in some parts and we wish those well in those areas in the hope that they do get a break soon.

Australia is a diverse country with parts too wet, some parts too dry, other parts too cold and, most recently, some parts too hot. Climate change or weather patterns? That is the debate that is being had. It has cost political leaders their careers and is a hotly debated topic in all facets of life. There is no doubt that we should do something, but would it not be wiser to wait until we see what the rest of the world does, as Australia accounts for only 1.4 % of world emissions.

We have experienced the global financial crisis and, in most cases, people in Australia would be

saying what is all the fuss about? Australia has been very fortunate to have weathered the storm, but one wonders if there is not more pain to come.



New Scholars awarded

Nuffield Australia has recently selected 18 new Scholars. As the programme has expanded, we have moved into new industries, so this year as part of the group we have three from aquaculture, two from the vegetable industry and one apiarist, as well as the more traditional industries. For details of the 2010 Scholars go to: www.nuffield.com.au/schols_f/winners.html

We are proud of the programme we offer and are very pleased with this year's winners. Next year we are offering three Global Focus Programmes,

expanding into India. This will add another facet of global agriculture in what are great learning experiences.

We recently held our Spring Tour, where we heard from our most recently returned Scholars. The presentations were excellent and the debate lively. There is no doubt that Nuffield Australia and its international network is making a difference.

Oxford Farming Conference

On a personal note, I look forward to travelling to the UK in early January to present a paper on risk management at the Oxford Farming Conference. Nuffield has certainly opened many doors for me and it has influenced my business.

Finally, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

David Brownhill, Chairman
gowrieoffice@bigpond.com

United Kingdom

Piloting the Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust over the next two years is a brand new team of JACK WARD and STEPHEN WATKINS, who were appointed Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively, at the 2009 AGM.



JACK WARD: A 2004 Scholar, Jack is currently CEO of City & Guilds NPTC which is the largest provider of vocational qualifications to the land based sector. Jack is also part of the senior management team for the City & Guilds Group which is the largest provider of vocational

qualifications in the UK and overseas, with an extensive operation in 80 different countries. Prior to joining City & Guilds NPTC as its CEO, Jack was Regional Director for the NFU in the East Midlands for nine years and before that he ran one of the NFU's head office operations when it was based in London. Having worked for the NFU since leaving Seale Hayne in 1982, Jack's claim to fame is that he has pretty much been at the forefront of every major agricultural crisis affecting the last generation.

He is married and has two teenage daughters.



STEPHEN WATKINS: A 2002 Scholar, Stephen returned to the family farm in Worcestershire after graduating from the RAC and a gap year working principally in Australia and Canada. Farming in partnership with his wife, Sarah, they took over the 500-acre farm in 1994, when they also started to share machinery with a neighbouring farmer. Today, this has developed into a business occupying 2,500 acres, working with seven main co-partners, growing fourteen different crops and a further eight partners involved with livestock and diversification enterprises.

Stephen represents the CLA at a county and national level, and also stands on the NFU's Horticultural & Potato Board. He is a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Farmers and was awarded an Associateship of the Royal Agricultural Societies in 2009. As well as a trustee, he is a selector for the NFST.

Experiences to inspire

The experiences of 29 Scholars from the UK and Ireland were recounted at the 2009 Nuffield

Conference. More than 200 delegates at the two-day event listened to what farming's future may hold and how, for many, their Nuffield Scholarship had literally changed their lives.

Newly elected Chairman and programme compere, Jack Ward, captured the spirit by describing it as a fabulous occasion. "Above all, it was extremely positive and delegates would go home inspired," he said. "The presentations were engaging, interesting and brought brand new information to the fore, while the Scholars themselves demonstrated in abundance their passion, sophistication and technical capabilities."

It was these skills that would help them put their findings into practice - from farm to supermarket, and beyond - and help UK agriculture and horticulture compete with the best in the world.

Written reports from all 2008 Scholars will be made available over the next 12 months on the international website - www.nuffieldinternational.org.

Bullock Award for innovation

The 2009 Steven and Gill Bullock Award, which recognises Scholars who have best used their Scholarship experience and findings to develop businesses and careers, went to **LYNDON EDWARDS**.

A 1999 Scholar, Lyndon runs a 240-acre organic dairy farm, plus office buildings and a veterinary centre in Chepstow, Monmouthshire. He is a director of the organic milk co-operative, OMSCO, Chairman of the Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers and advises Government on animal health policies.

The judges of the Bullock Award were impressed with his leadership style, which they described as "practical, patient and inclusive - bringing people on side without confrontation". They also appreciated his ambition and vision for his business, for local farmer cooperation and for the industry as a whole.



Lyndon (left) with two of the award judges - Stephen Fell NSch and banker, Norman Coward.



Triumphant 2008 Nuffield Scholars, at the 2009 Nuffield Conference held at Chester.

Investing in human capital...

Working across a range of industries, one thing that strikes me is the different emphasis which industries place on investing in an individual. For some companies, investment in human capital is second nature. But for agriculture this is often more difficult.

In a capital hungry industry, the pressure for new investment in machinery, buildings and stock is intense. Consequently, investing in yourself is often lower down the list of pressing priorities.

Nuffield offers the opportunity to put this right by investing in you and your future. It provides a chance to move outside the confines and constraints of your day-to-day business and explore new avenues and ideas anywhere in the world. It provides an opportunity to challenge yourself, understand your full potential and then hopefully sets you on a path to realising that potential.

There aren't many other organisations which offer this exciting development opportunity, and this is one of the reasons why Nuffield is such a unique and worthwhile experience.

Jack Ward, NFST Chairman
jack.ward@nptc.org.uk

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New Zealand

The New Zealand Nuffield Scholarship Trust completed its selection of 2010 Scholars in Wellington during October, awarding three new Scholarships.

This year the interviews were held prior to the returning Scholars of 2009 presenting to our sponsors and the successful candidates were announced at the conclusion of the evening. The format was judged a great success by all who attended. It also enabled the new Scholars to sit in on the following morning's annual debrief of those who had just returned - which was invaluable for them and for the trustees.

Scholarship award winners

The successful applicants, who are all 31 years old, are as follows:

PAUL MCGILL, Manager for Jim and Lois Reynolds, Mayfield, Masterton. This property is a 380 ha mixed cropping and lamb finishing operation. Paul has already accomplished a lot in the wider agricultural community. He has entered a number of scholarships and awards, including the Ballance Farm Environment Awards, National Bank Young Farmer of the Year, Wrightson AGMARDT Young Farmer of the Year and numerous others.

Paul proposes to use his Nuffield Scholarship to study 'Systems approach to farming - with a focus on catchment strategies'.

DESIREE REID, owner of a 132 ha dairy farm at Winchester, South Canterbury. Desiree currently serves on the Fonterra Shareholders Council and

previously sharemilked with her husband on a 580-cow herd. She has a strong financial background and a strong interest in corporate governance. With her Nuffield Scholarship, Desiree proposes to look at 'Developing growth strategies for co-operatives'.

IAN KNOWLES is currently the Director of Farms at Telford Rural Polytech in Southland, working as part of the farm team to manage the commercial dairy, sheep, beef and deer units. An important part of his responsibilities is to liaise with the academic staff to make best use of learning opportunities for students on the Telford farm units. Ian proposes to study 'The training requirements of the agricultural sector, with a focus on integrating the hands-on learning sector with the more academic environment of the universities'.

NZ Nuffield Trust Secretary

BARBIE BARTON has been in the role of secretary for two years bringing enthusiasm and an understanding of the international Nuffield network and ethos. Married to Roger Barton, a 1995 Scholar, they farm a sheep and beef operation near Greytown in the Wairarapa at the south of the North Island. Barbie is the first contact point for any inquiries regarding anything Nuffield in NZ.

Barbie Barton,
Secretariat
nuffield@fedfarm.org.nz /
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Canada

Canadian Nuffield farmers, like most farmers in Canada, have experienced a difficult growing and harvest season because of excess moisture. Fortunately, weather conditions improved in November allowing harvest to be completed.

AGM and Conference

Nuffield Canada has just completed its AGM and Conference. We had quality time with the Federal Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Mr John Knubley. He left the meeting understanding that Nuffield provides agricultural scholarships, gives candidates a world perspective on agriculture, and creates rural and agricultural leaders. We were also pleased to have UK visiting Scholar, Rob Bebbington, attend our AGM and Conference.

This year's Conference coincides with the Outstanding Young Farmers Conference as part of which current Scholar, Karen Daynard, is taking a lead role in organising.

It was agreed at the AGM to hold the 2010 conference in Western Canada in late November or early December.

Other news

Nuffield Canada has been successful in securing the Canadian Embassy in Washington DC for a reception during the



Contemporary Scholars Conference in March 2010.

In other news, Carolyn Fuerth, Scholar 1999, and Dan Cornwell, Scholar 1985, have recently returned from an agricultural and medical mission in Guatemala.

The Nuffield Canada website is also under reconstruction. The revamped site is scheduled to be up and running by the end of the year.

Officeholders

BARRY CUDMORE, **BARB COTE** and **ROD BRADSHAW** have been re-appointed as Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary-Treasurer for a one year term.

We look forward to the next year with a commitment to strengthen Nuffield Canada and increase interest in the Nuffield programme. Nuffield Canada is committed to increasing the number of Scholars, seeking out long-term sponsors and securing paid staff.

In conclusion, we wish all Scholars a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2010, and look forward to seeing some of you in Washington DC next March.

Barry Cudmore, Chairman
barrycudmore@pei.sympatico.ca

Below: Barry Cudmore congratulates Greg Braun NSch 2008 on completion of his programme and his presentation at the Nuffield Canada AGM.



Above: Barry Cudmore (left) and Rod Bradshaw (centre) with John Knubley, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, at the Nuffield Canada AGM.



Ireland

Applications for the 2010 Nuffield Scholarships were to a high calibre with 21 candidates accepted for interview at the Irish Farm Centre on the 17th December. The successful applicants are as follows:



JULIAN HUGHES (Kells, Co Kilkenny) - 'Innovative technologies to increase efficiency of crop production' - *Sponsored by IFA/IFJ*

KEVIN KILCANE (Carrowenabrickna, Roscommon) - 'Investigation of the first thinning stage of the forestry management process' - *Sponsored by ICOS*

BILL O'KEEFE (Church Clara, Co Kilkenny) - 'New technologies for Irish grass-based milk production systems' - *Sponsored by FBD*

KEVIN NOLAN (Grangeford, Bennekerry, Co Carlow) - 'GM crops and their benefits to Irish agriculture and the environment' - *Sponsored by 151 Trust*

BILL O'KEEFE (Knockmoure, Conna, Co Cork, Cork) - 'Growing with your staff' - *Sponsored by the Peter Daly Trust*

Thomas Horgan, Chairman
thorgan@bmi.ie

CANADIAN SCHOLAR - generous to society

Attendees at Nuffield Canada's 2009 AGM held in Ottawa were delighted to hear of a gift of \$100,000 by one of our alumni.

"I want the gift to fund 14 to 15 new Scholars at \$7,500, with the Canadian public and private agricultural industry contributing another \$7,500 to raise the award to \$15,000," said the donor.

While wishing to remain anonymous to the larger world, our benefactor was given a standing ovation at the meeting and awarded our Canadian recognition - a "William Morris Fellow" - at our banquet.

Another William Morris Fellow, Wally Doerksen 1989, said: "Jack Rigby (NSch 1994) started this at our Halifax AGM in 2001. He challenged us that if we wanted others to give to our association, we had to be willing to give ourselves. That has begun to create a culture of generosity in

our association. There's something contagious about that."

The gift prompted the meeting to adopt the new level of Scholar funding at \$15,000.

Also at the meeting, Greg Braun NSch 2008 and Steve Laroque NSch 2008 presented their final reports. Both reports were very interesting and resulted in much discussion. They can be seen online at www.nuffield.ca.

New Scholarships awarded

The 2010 Canadian Scholarship Award recipients were announced at the meeting. They are **SHANE EBY** and **SARAH MEGENS**. Shane will be studying the production and marketing of hops. Sarah will be studying production in greenbelt areas surrounding cities.

John Lohr
NSch 1997

'OUT AND ABOUT' IN CHINA

Organised by Nuffield Australia, the 2009 trip to China visited three main regions:

- The tropical region in the south around Taishan
- The central province of Shaanxi around Xian
- The north around Beijing

We visited very small family farms, as well as very large cooperative farm businesses. We also toured a series of research centres, factories and processing plants and spoke with the leaders in these businesses. The visits gave us at least a snapshot of where 'China is heading'.

As a country, China generally has a strong desire to modernise and improve living standards. They also aim to have the "world's best" enterprises and are

not shy about getting the world's best enterprises - in expertise and systems - to get there. As part of their modernisation, they are also building roads, railways and airports at a breathtaking speed and scale.

It will be interesting to see what changes take place at the village and small farm level in the next few years. No doubt many will shift to the cities.

Travelling with past and present Nuffield Scholars, as well as other growers and our delightful Chinese interpreters, made the China trip even more worthwhile. One of the unexpected highlights was the food - 14 banquets in 11 days!

Allan Mayfield, Clare, SA

For a more detailed report go to: www.nuffield.com.au/report_f/f_reps/Agricultural%20Developments%20in%20China.pdf

Orchid production - equipment and expertise direct from the Netherlands.



Brendon Smart checking out the strainer posts for this massive kiwi fruit plantation.

United Kingdom *Continued from page 4*

Ian Pigott scoops Farmers Club Award

2002 Scholar, **IAN PIGOTT**, has scooped yet another award on being named 2009 winner of 'The Farmers Club Cup' in recognition of his pioneering work on 'Open Farm Sunday'. The Cup was first awarded in 1993 and recognises a person or organisation that has made an outstanding

contribution to British agriculture. Ian (right) is pictured with The Farmers Club Chairman, John Reynolds.



Fellowship goes to Aled Griffiths

1974 Scholar and leading egg industry producer, **ALED GRIFFITHS**, has been awarded a Fellowship of Harper Adams University College, Newport. At the 2009 graduation ceremony, he was one of three leaders recognised for their work, influence and contribution to the UK poultry industry. Aled is pictured with Chairman of the Governors, Alison Blackburn.



Haygrove wins World Business Development Award

1991 Scholar, **ANGUS DAVISON**, founder and MD of Haygrove Ltd, is the winner of one of ten World Business and Development Awards for his part in creating 'Gambia is Good' - a fair trade horticultural marketing company set up in partnership with Concern Universal. Today the business collects from more than 1,000 farmers in Gambia, supplying 20 tonnes of produce per month to more than 40 hotels and restaurants.

William tops Royal Welsh honours list

The young farmer category of the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society's 2009 Agri-Environment Awards went to 2006 Scholar, **WILLIAM SCALE**, who, according to the judges, is 'bringing an impressive degree of innovation and thought to his present and future farming methods'.



IN MEMORY OF Jane Kenyon NSch 1947

Welsh-born Jane Kenyon (nee Bennett-Evans) passed away at her own cottage hospital in November, having suffered ill health for several years. Jane was one of the first three Scholars to receive Nuffield Farming Scholarship Awards in 1947, when the Scholarship scheme was born. The tribute below is by GILL BULLOCK.

Born in 1922 to a Welsh farming family, the Bennet-Evans, Jane was immersed in farming activities from a young age. Her father was a dominant force in her life, though she achieved her own independence early on. Educated at St Mary's Wantage and showing considerable prowess at sport, Jane had hoped to study physiotherapy at the Middlesex Hospital. This hope was dashed by her asthma problems and she returned to the family business. During the war she worked with the Timber Corp and at home she became Chairman of the Young Farmers Club. Finally, her father bought her a 375 acre farm in Shropshire which she ran with three men.

Having seen an advertisement for the newly established Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust, aged just 23, Jane applied with little hope. She was interviewed on her own farm and by a panel in London. To her amazement she was awarded a Scholarship to study hill sheep farming in New Zealand. She was one of the first three Scholars to receive Awards. She had to set up all her visits and never having flown before set off for New Zealand via the States. A full description of her tour can be found on the UK Scholars website (Jane - my story).

On her return to the UK, Jane decided to follow John Kenyon to Kenya where he had been appointed Agent to Lord Delamere. They had met when judging for the YFC. Her father was so angry that he sold the farm over her head.

Whilst living at OI Pejeta near Nanyuki, John and Jane bought their first farm, Sera. She had to deal with fencing, stocking and employing help single handed. From there they eventually bought Mogwooni, also near Nanyuki, where again Jane had to establish the boundaries armed with a theodolite and a team of eight men. She ran water pipes from the river to tanks and even built a bridge over the river. Having lived through the times of the Mau Mau she had no intention of leaving at Independence when many did.

John joined Jane on Mogwooni in 1971 and took over much of the organising work. The property eventually covered 16,000 acres. They renovated the house and Jane became very active in the neighbourhood helping to establish the Nanyuki Cottage Hospital in 1951. She also took over a tannery in 1971 and established it on the farm with 25 employees. This ran for several years. Attempts were made by the Masai to grab back some of the land but this failed. Their daughter, Markie, emigrated to the States, but as their son, Jackie, grew up he joined in the family business. With his wife, Mandy, he worked in partnership with John and Jane until Jane passed away in her own cottage hospital in November, having suffered ill health for several years.

Jane showed her amazing pioneering spirit throughout her life and established a high standard for subsequent Scholars to follow. She will be sadly missed.

Stay in touch!

www.nuffieldinternational.org

It is our aim that the Nuffield international website will become the international link for all Scholars - providing easy access to Scholar reports, forthcoming national events and conferences, links to relevant websites and news. Please take a look. Your comments and suggestions would be most welcome.

Peter Nixon, International Chairman
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Contributions welcome...

If you have news to report or success stories to share, please let us know! Send full details to:

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