

International Nuffield News

July 2008



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Something New

This is the first issue of an International newsletter which we hope will keep scholars from around the world in touch, and up to date with events in countries outside their own. We aim to produce four newsletters a year which will be distributed by e-mail. Contributions and news items are welcome and we hope “hatches”, “matches” and “dispatches” will be reported.

Please keep contributions “punchy”; news highlights rather than reports; and the occasional picture would add interest too.

The UK and Australian Calendars for the months ahead are included in this Newsletter.

All Ireland Experience '08.

180 Nuffield scholars, wives, husbands and partners enjoyed a feast of visits and events in Ireland commencing on 5th June in Belfast, and concluding in Southern Ireland on 18th June

The whole event was an outstanding success and congratulations to the organizing committee: Jim McCarthy, Campbell Tweed, Thomas Horgan and Grainne Dwyer.

Those with exceptional stamina, re-convened in Scotland for the Post Conference Tour and Highland Show Reception. Congratulations to Louise Roger and John Campbell for an inspiring overview of Scottish agriculture that highlighted the strength and innovation of family run businesses.

From the International Chairman – Peter Nixon

I would first like to congratulate Campbell Tweed for his leadership, dedication and skill in guiding International Nuffield through the last three years.

This period that has seen the development of one



L to R: Attracta & Jim McCarthy, Isobel & Campbell Tweed, Grainne & Jim Dwyer - applauded for a successful conference

International Conference 13/7/08.

An excellent summary of the Kilkenny Conference appears later in this newsletter. Sam Archer, a 2008 scholar, presented this summation to conclude the conference.

International meeting 14/7/08.

This triennial meeting of Nuffield scholars, also held in Kilkenny, accepted reports from all countries that are summarized below.

It was agreed that: -

- Canada will host 2014 conference, following Australia in 2011.
- Peter Nixon from Western Australia was elected International Chairman for a 3-year term.
- Australia will administer the International Secretariat over the next three years.

of the most significant events on the Nuffield Calendar – the Contemporary Scholars Conference at which all new scholars from around the world meet for a week. The first was held in 2006 at Utrecht, Holland, then in 2007 at Calgary,

Canada and in 2008 at Melbourne, Australia.

This highly successful event not only provided an opportunity for scholars from all countries to meet, network and establish friendships, but has allowed the national organizations to consult on a more regular basis.

The new era.

There is little doubt that agriculture is entering a new era – the days of overproduction and suppressed prices are a declining phenomenon. The industry will experience considerable volatility, great challenges and excellent opportunities for a declining farm population.

One of the greatest limitations to agriculture's potential to meet the world's food needs, over the next two decades, is likely to be the lack of farmers in the western world with the critical skills

and experience to manage increasingly complex farm operations.

Nuffield can play an increasingly important role in developing the human capital so essential, in an industry whose importance has been so grossly underestimated by modern western governments and society as a whole.

Nuffield has had 60 wonderful years to date – I suspect the best is yet to come.

It is a privilege and honour to hold this position; I hope I can do justice to the proud record of Nuffield



Peter Nixon - July 2008 pfn@westnet.com.au

Global Production Agriculture: - What part will you play?

The closing summary of the Conference delivered by Sam Archer, 2008 Scholar

As a "young" Nuffield Scholar I feel extremely privileged to have been asked to provide a summary of the conference. My back of the envelope calculation puts the collective agricultural experience of everyone gathered here today at in excess of 4,600 years and in such distinguished company it is an honour to address you.

A testament to the calibre of the speakers is that each and every topic has produced robust debate and questioning. You could not help but notice the noise level at each intermission, it was loud, very loud, and is a reflection of the interest created by each of the six sessions.

The common themes heard throughout the conference have been:

1. Population growth and affluence will drive market demand;
2. Additional productive agricultural land is limited;
3. Energy demand and policy have had, and will continue to have, a significant influence on agriculture;
4. Global trade mechanisms must be efficient if they are to deliver agricultural progress and productivity;
5. Technology has delivered great advances for agriculture, but we need to bring the wider community along with us if technology is to continue providing benefits to all mankind;
6. Science should not be viewed in absolute terms of "good" and "bad". We should determine an appropriate balance between the risks and benefits of adopting a particular scientific application and how it might then be used;

7. Good people are critical to the success of every business and you get the staff you deserve.

The key points we heard were:

- Asia is resource constrained, especially with land and increasingly water. China and India have 42% of the world's population and only 15% of the available arable land;
- Agriculture's capacity to supply markets is also being impacted by bio-fuels, energy costs and climate change;
- Key drivers of demand in developing economies are life style, health and wellbeing;
- Food demand is forecast to double over the next 50 years.
- The world's food and fuel needs will far exceed current available farming land;
- Throughout the world there is limited new farmland that can be utilised without critical environmental impacts;
- Only three regions have the potential to develop significant additional agricultural land. These are the USA, Brazil and sub Saharan Africa;
- We are faced, therefore, with a decision: "do we take more farming land from nature or use biotechnology";
- Our world trade framework under the World Trade Organisation is slow and cumbersome and has stalled agricultural progress and productivity gains;
- In coming years we are likely to see increased protectionism between trading nations as they look to secure their own national interests. (For a country such as Australia which exports

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60% of it's agricultural produce, this does not bode well);

- It has also been suggested that it is not the responsibility of the developed world to feed the developing world, but to enable them to feed themselves;
- To do this we will need a vibrant agricultural research and extension base together with people, profit and passion. I am sure that you will agree that these qualities are epitomised by Mariano Bosch, whose presentation on farming in Argentina and his business model was inspirational.

I am halfway through my scholarship year having travelled through the Americas and Europe, and will shortly visit Asia. What I have seen so far is that the issues we face as an industry are the same throughout the world - many of which have been raised throughout today's conference. These are; climate change, food and water security, increased input costs, an aging rural population, a growing rural-urban disconnect, production constraints due to limited new farmland, land prices driven by proximity to urban centres, and an urgent need for research and development.

Each country, however, chooses to address these issues with some differences, influenced in large part by their political systems but also by their historical and cultural legacies.

Few participants here today would deny that our industry is faced with challenges and we are required to manage significant risks: climate risk, production risk and financial risk. John F. Kennedy said, "history will not accept difficulty as an excuse"...so what do we need to do to ensure we can participate in global production agriculture?

We need good science, good economics and good policy.

I know that as an industry we are often frustrated by failures in these three critical areas. But I am confident that with the experience, leadership and demonstrated innovative capacity of Nuffield Scholars that we are well placed to drive and embrace the necessary changes to take advantage of the exciting times ahead for agriculture.

Sam Archer, 2008 Scholar

Around the Globe

- Summary of the National reports delivered to the International Meeting in Kilkenny.

Australia



- Growth in scholarships awarded from 12 in 2005 to 16 in 2007
- Continuing enhancement of the Global Focus Program with the addition of China, Brazil, Mexico and the Philippines as destination countries
- Formal invitation for the United Kingdom to select two Scholars and Ireland to select one Scholar annually for participation in the GFP
- The announcement of an Innovation Award for alumni that have been returned for at least 5 years and have made a significant contribution to agriculture. It will carry a cash prize of \$5,000 and has been modeled on the UK award.

- In summary, the immediate objectives are to increase the value of the bursary, to continue to raise the profile of Nuffield and to continuously improve the scholarship program.

France



- France's objective was to select one Scholar per year
- Construction of the French website has been completed and will be online shortly.

New Zealand



- In a significant move, Barbie Barton, wife of New Zealand Scholar Roger, has been appointed Secretary for the NZ organization. NZ Federated Farmers will continue to financially administer the trust.
- A capital fund has been formed with generous donations from NZ alumni. The purpose of the fund was to assist the Scholarship program where possible
- The NZ executive is reassessing the overall program with the immediate objective to; Lift the brand awareness; maintain a high quality of selected Scholars; and to maintain a financially viable organisation.

Nuffield Australia Calendar

September	1-2	Final selection Melbourne
October	8	Scholar briefing/debrief Hobart
	9	ABARE Conference Hobart
	9-12	Spring Tour in Hobart
	10	Scholar presentations Hobart
	10	Nuffield Awards Dinner Hobart

Canada



- A very successful Canadian AGM was recently held in Cuba with a large contingent of Canadian Scholars and Alan and Anne Beckett and Campbell and Isobel Tweed from the UK attending.
- The exotic location made for an excellent turnout, with a good opportunity for Scholars to network and re-engage with the Canadian Association.
- Canada will organise a visit to California in March 2009 to coincide with the Global Focus Program
- The objective identified in Cuba is to select three Scholars annually from each of the regions; Maritime Provinces, Central Canada and Western Canada
- It has been recognized, post Calgary 2007, that the profile of Nuffield within Canada needed raising to encourage sponsorship. The first objective is to widely circulate the profiles of Nuffield Scholars.

Republic of Ireland



- The number of Scholars selected has increased from two in 1996 to five in 2008 and a total of 35 have been selected since inception.
- It was the objective to continue to increase the number of Scholarships while ensuring the quality of candidates was maintained
- Kevin Comyns was the first recipient of the Peter Daley Memorial Scholarship awarded in 2008
- Thomas Horgan had instigated a strategic review of the Scholarship Program in Ireland in 2006
- The benefits of this review were bearing fruit with the Irish Nuffield program "rocking and rolling"
- Ireland was seriously considering holding their own Annual Conference in 2009

Zimbabwe



- The passing of David Holman. Mrs. Holman passed on her thanks to the Nuffield for the condolences and support she received from Nuffield worldwide
- Alan Butler and Stan Schur's vision in bringing Zimbabwe into the Nuffield fold were recognized.
- The current political and farming scene in Zimbabwe - confidence that there was a bright

future for Zimbabwe once regime change has occurred.

United Kingdom



- The UK celebrated their 60th birthday in 2007
- Seven new sponsors came on board in 2008 which reflected the integrity of the Nuffield brand
- There are eight Country and regional Scholar groups (3 countries, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales plus 5 English regions) within the UK that groom prospective applicants
- 18-24 Scholars are selected on an annual basis with varying study topics that reflect new and emerging issues within UK agriculture
- Nuffield UK convened a special one off conference to report on and discuss the impact of carbon footprint on UK agriculture. This had elicited excellent coverage for Nuffield.
- The awarding of the Bullock Award for Excellence in agriculture to UK alumni.

Nuffield UK Calendar		
July	22	Scholar's reception at Royal Welsh Show. HSBC Pavilion 17.30 – 19.00
Aug	2	West Midlands & North East Family Day at Congleton. Info: Julie@UKagriculture.com .
Sept	10	Fruit Event at Wilkin & Son's, Tiptree, Essex. Organiser Chris Newenham. cwn@tiptree.com
	17/18	Dairy Event, Stoneleigh Nuffield exhibiting.
	23	Executive Board
	25/27	Horticultural Group in Bristol area. Details Gill Bullock 01825 762 928 grtbullock@hotmail.co.uk
Oct	5/6	2007 Scholars debrief & presentation skills course. Stoneleigh Park– to be confirmed
	8	East Midlands Group Visit & Dinner, Grantham. Contact John Strawson john@strawsons.co.uk
	tbc	Northern Region function
	16	Central Region Farmers Trust Nuffield Dinner. Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, 7.30pm. Info: nuffielldirector@aol.com
	31	(Winter Conference (Thistle Hotel, Exeter
Nov	1	
	15	Closing date for applications for 2009 Awards
Jan 2009	19-21	Interviews for 2009 Awards Nuffield Foundation, Bedford Square
Feb	10	Executive Board
Mar	1	2009 Contemporary Scholars Conference in Europe.
June	10/11	Cereals event, Vine farm, Wendy. Nuffield display in attendance
	26/28	Beckett scholars in Herefordshire