

# International

## Nuffield News

Sept 2009



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## Jottings from the... INTERNATIONAL CHAIRMAN

**Peter Nixon**  
peter@nixonfarming.com.au

**This always appears to be a quiet period of the year for Nuffield - 2009 Scholars are out across the world travelling, 2010 Scholars are yet to be selected. So a good time to reflect.**

An Irish friend of mine recently commented on the difficulty of maintaining the enthusiasm and the momentum for young farmers in, and entering, agriculture. At a time when the financial risks are so high and the rewards so poor relative to their city friends, there is an exodus from agriculture across the western world.

The enthusiasm for agriculture that we see within Nuffield, perhaps from a privileged view of the future, is not reflected by all our fellows farmers. We regularly see the best that is on offer. We are inspired by the



achievements of our colleges. And, can be ahead of the pack with advantage giving innovation.

We talk much about sustainability of the environment, of farming systems, but little about the social/cultural/ political environment so essential in nurturing agriculture, giving it stability today, and the optimism to invest in the future.

Farming is not just about producing food and working the land - it is nurtured within communities.

The challenge facing agriculture this coming century - that of feeding the world - will overwhelm us if we don't pay attention to the three pillars of agriculture: sustainable returns; sustainable farming systems; and sustainable farming communities. All three are essential.

## News in brief...

### Deported Scholars

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

**Alastair Taylor** - UK NSch 1961

**Olwen Griffiths** - wife of **Aled Griffiths** - UK NSch 1974

**C G Tracey** - Trustee of the David Spain Memorial Nuffield Trust (from 1980), Zimbabwe

## Zimbabwe

**Wherever they may be, can Zimbabwe Scholars please contact Faye Sandwith with their up-to-date details - where they are, what they are doing and an email address so she can contact them when the need arises.**

**She can be contacted on -  
Tel. (263) 04 481821,  
Email. faye@hortico.co.zw**

## Nuffield Calendar

Date	Event	Venue	Host
24-26 Sept	Horticultural Study Group	Kent	Nuffield UK
1-3 October	Nuffield Beef & Sheep Group	Yorkshire	Nuffield UK
22 - 25 October	Spring Tour	Sydney	NSW Nuffield
23 October	Scholar presentations	Sydney	Nuffield Australia
23 October	Nuffield Award Dinner	Sydney	Nuffield Australia
30-31 October	2009 Winter Conference	Chester, Cheshire	Nuffield UK
15 November	UK Scholarships application deadline		Nuffield UK
18 - 20 January	2010 UK Scholarships interviews		Nuffield UK
6 - 14 March 2010	CSC	Washington DC, USA	Nuffield International
26 Feb - 11 April 2010	Global Focus Programme	Various	Nuffield Australia
21-25 April 2010	Autumn Tour	Darwin	Nuffield Australia
13 - 16 May 2010	NZ Biennial Conference	Gisborne	Nuffield NZ
31 May - 15 July	Global Focus Programme	Various	Nuffield Australia
9 - 10 June 2010	Cereals Event	Royston	Nuffield UK
12 -13 June 2010	Beckett Scholars Annual Mtg	Pembrokeshire	Nuffield UK
10 Sept - 23 Oct 2010	Global Focus Programme	Various	Nuffield Australia
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](http://www.nuffieldinternational.org)

# BLUES, BEER AND THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

“Money can buy you a plane ticket to any country in the world, but being a Nuffield Scholar opens doors and allows you a unique insight into the people and the culture.” IAN TREMAIN, 2009 Nuffield Scholar, reflects on some of his personal highlights from the 2009 Global Focus Programme.

In May this year I travelled from the UK to Canberra to join two New Zealanders and seven Australians to start the most recent Global Focus Programme.

The group of 10 started our trip of a lifetime with a number of visits and briefings in the capital and past Scholar, Bruce Scott, hosted a reception dinner and a tour of the Houses of Parliament.

On June 3rd, we left Canberra and headed to The Philippines where we spent three days at the International Rice Research Institute. From here we flew to Hong Kong and then inland into China for 10 days. This visit to China changed the way I think about this vast country and the incredible people who live there.

Leaving Shanghai, we headed to Mississippi in the ‘deep south’ of the US. Arriving at Jackson Airport - after a long flight and two weeks in Asia - it was a welcome sight to be met by our hosts from the NRCS, a department of the USDA.

You never get a second chance to make a first impression. And, our hosts certainly extended a very warm welcome to us all. It was a warm welcome in more ways than one, as the temperatures were very hot for a Brit, where daytime temperature rose to 90 degrees f, with high humidity too.

## Southern hospitality

Within hours of arriving, we were sampling good ole’ Southern hospitality. Food is a very important part of life in Mississippi, with America being the most obese nation on earth and Mississippi being the most obese state in the USA. Much of what we ate was deep fried and a real contrast to that of China.

Mississippi is a large agricultural-producing state with a long history of producing food and fibre. A third of all jobs are in some way connected to agriculture or forestry. Due to the favourable climate and excellent soils, land has long been used for food production and traditionally tobacco and indigo were



grown. But in 1790, cotton was introduced which changed the fortunes of the state and also changed the political landscape too.

Many slaves worked on the cotton plantations which, until the mechanical cotton picker was invented in 1947, was planted and harvested by hand. Slavery was the issue that divided the North and South, which led to the civil war of 1861- 65.

## The unique Mississippi Delta

The Mississippi river has also had a great influence on farming and the trade of agricultural and forestry products for the state. And, of course, is the cause of the uniqueness of the Mississippi Delta.

The Delta is an alluvial flood plain which is created as the river brings silt from upstream. When high water causes the river to overflow it’s banks, it then deposits highly fertile silt on land, leaving behind some of the most productive soils in North America.

In the early 1900s, after the invention of refrigerated rail cars, Mississippi grew crops such as tomatoes, peaches and many other fresh fruit and vegetables, which would supply much of the eastern states of America. While cotton is still grown in Mississippi, today soya and corn are gaining in size and importance.

As far as livestock is concerned, the state is a large producer of chicken. However, aquaculture plays a large part too. Catfish is an important industry, with over 100,000 acres of fresh water ponds.

## Catfish on a mammoth scale

One of the visits we made was to Tackett Farms, the world’s largest catfish producer. This one operation has 8,000 acres of water. Stocking density is 5,000 fish per acre. So, with a capacity to produce 40 million fish, it was no surprise to find they ran their own hatchery producing 150 million fingerlings. Of these, 30 million were sold to other producers, and the remainder were used in their own operation.

A quick look at the maths and you can see there is a very high rate of mortality in young catfish. It takes 200 days to reach a weight of 1.5lbs. Tackett Farms own their own processing facility and have a part share in the feed mill, which produce the 32% protein feed.

One of the greatest benefits of being a Nuffield Scholar is not just the access to businesses like Tackett Farms, but the chance to get beneath the surface of the culture and spend some time with people who open up their homes and their hearts to you.

The staff at the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), who were our hosts for the week, organised a full and hectic programme, which allowed us to see so much in just one week - with visits ranging from Mississippi State University, cattle ranches, research farms, the Agriculture & Forestry museum, Delta Council and the BB King museum.

## Blues and beer

Food, music and hospitality is a big part of southern culture and one of the highlights for me was a lunch we had at Ground Zero blues club in Clarksdale.

Clarksdale is the home of Mississippi Delta blues, and today Ground Zero is owned by the actor Morgan Freeman, who grew up in the town and wanted to ensure this bit of southern culture was preserved.

Up and coming blues musicians perform everyday and we were treated to a great set by a young 20-something girl with a guitar. We played pool and drank beer while we were waiting for lunch to arrive. Stepping



inside this old building, which is still full of life and beat up guitars, made me feel we’d stepped back in time about 50 years.

Some of the most valuable understanding, I discovered, came not during the powerpoint presentations, but by the conversations that come about late at night with a beer in hand.

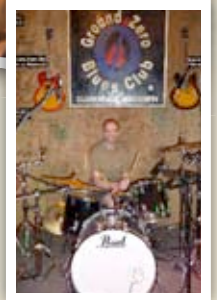
For instance, talking to our African American bus driver about the influence of the blues, or more specifically



the Mississippi Delta Blues, on the culture and the character of the region, on the current racial tension that exists since hurricane Katrina, or after the election of Barak Obama.

Or, on the other side, talking to a couple of red necks on the veranda of a shooting lodge who have been stock-piling guns and ammunition since the election; as they too have concerns about racial prejudice and the 2nd amendment to the constitution, which gives them the right to bear arms.

Or the antique dealer in Greenwood who has seen record sales since the credit crunch started, as people who have seen the value of property and shares plummet are far more likely to invest in a piece of antique furniture or artwork.



# THERE AND BACK TO PLANET EARTH... the experiences of a Scholar's spouse

**SABRINA PAULING, wife of Nuffield Scholar, Sam Archer, speaks on behalf of the many 'that are left behind doing the hard yards' - the ups, the downs and the end rewards.**

**There was a flurry of wild activity the week before Sam took off on the Global Focus Tour in February 2008.**

Amidst the rush of getting organised, deciding what to pack and reminding me of this and that, he found time to squeeze in an hour-long tutorial on exactly how he wanted me to pay the bills, maintain the books and reconcile the aforementioned and bank statements on the computer (he was an accountant in a previous life).

Exactly what Nuffield meant still wasn't apparent and I'm sad to say our daughter, Amélie, and I were immensely relieved when Sam finally left. We could now get on with what we had put off doing whilst getting "the Nuffield Scholar" ready for his big adventure.

## Can you deal with this!

The grim reality of what I was in for dawned on me the day after Sam's departure. I strolled into the office and noticed a bound sheaf of papers on his desk where his laptop normally sat. On the cover was a note with "can you deal with this" written on it. It was the cropping program Sam had put together with our agronomist. I vaguely remembered we had decided to plant fodder crops, but it's not something I had been involved with in the past nor had we previously done it on such a scale.

I read through the program thinking, "it's all Chinese to me!" and instinctively 'phoned Sam only to get his message bank. With a feeling of resignation, I realised I was on my own.

This was a critical moment in my Nuffield journey because I felt that my actions and how I dealt with the situation would undoubtedly determine how I managed the farm, the family, and my life during Sam's absence. It would effectively set the standard for while he was away.

So after contemplating the circumstances for a few moments and feeling sorry for myself, I rang the agronomist who kindly explained the whole program. Then for the first time I priced, sourced and bought the different grain, fertiliser and other inputs we needed and contacted the various contractors to book us in.

Once everything was in motion, I relied substantially on our farmhand to follow up and make sure it all fell into place.

The result, thanks to the timely rain more than my ability to take things in hand, was a glorious range of crops (at least in my eyes!) good enough to harvest and sell.

The whole cropping incident sounds easy now, but at the time I experienced a steep learning curve heightened by the pressure of feeling like I had to perform flawlessly to stand up to Sam's expectations.

In retrospect, I realise it wouldn't have mattered one iota if the crop had failed as far as Sam's opinion of me and my abilities

were concerned. He returned from seven months of exhaustive travels with very obvious appreciation and love for his family and me.

## Family connection

Nuffield came about as a result of Sam periodically mentioning it for over 10 years. He had an uncle, David Asimus, whom he held in high esteem and who was awarded a Scholarship in 1958, hence the connection.

I had never heard of Nuffield before, but was supportive of Sam applying for a Scholarship and I believe it was ultimately my endorsement that prompted him to finally sit down and fill out the lengthy application.

The outcome was successful and we headed off to Fremantle (Western Australia) for the 2007 Australian Spring Tour and Awards ceremony.

I had a wonderful time in Fremantle and found the whole experience very stimulating. I loved meeting the other new Scholars and their partners (an outstanding and very connected group) and being able to mingle with past scholars and Board members. It was a wonderful opportunity to ask questions and absorb as much information as possible.

Sam and I found the pre-travel briefings helpful, in particular one about the emotional ups and downs Scholars could expect to experience during, and after, their Scholarship. I also enjoyed the Scholar's presentations and thought the various organised tours were terrific.

## Realisation

However, despite the briefings, advice and listening to individual stories, I didn't fully grasp the extent of what the whole Nuffield experience would mean for us both until Sam had left and, perhaps, not even till he returned. It took several months after he got home before I felt he was well and truly back on planet Earth.

Scholars and their spouses inevitably manage the Global Focus Tour and subsequent travelling differently. Some couples travel together and some families enjoy holiday time whilst overseas.

Personally, I found meeting up with Sam during the course of his Nuffield experience to be extremely challenging. From my perspective, he was in another world, distracted by what he was trying to achieve and organise. He was temporarily devoid of basic relationship communication skills, and



*Above Sabrina Pauling with her children Amélie, Marcel and Blaise.*

*Right Crop of lupins.*



his absent presence only disrupted the flow within the family that had been established since his initial departure.

Amélie was distressed when we told her he was leaving again after his first visit and refused to speak with him on the 'phone or Skype thereafter.

On the other hand, it gave me a glimpse of what Sam was going through - the stimulation, fatigue, and loneliness - and I sensed the tedium he was experiencing from the relentless pace of moving and endless hotels.

There were moments when I thought Sam was having all the fun, while I was doing the hard yards, and on the odd occasion I felt twinges of resentment for being left behind to manage the farm and family on my own.

More often though, I felt envious of what he was undertaking - I would have liked to have seen the places he visited and met those people who are doing amazing things to enhance their farms, their business or the environment.

## New dimension

Working through the various challenges during the course of Sam's Scholarship has inevitably led to personal growth. The experience has enriched us both and brought a new dimension to our lives.

For me it has been enormously rewarding and I now feel very much part of the Nuffield family. I also greatly value the friendships I have developed with other Scholars and their spouses. But, above all, I'm happy to have Sam back.

# Around the globe



## Australia

**Nuffield Australia completed a strategic planning session for the next five years. This took two days in Cairns and then another day in Canberra to finalise. This has set a clear path for Nuffield Australia.**

As with all these processes, they generally create more work. The Nuffield Australia Board has set about managing the outcomes, and Jim Geltch, our CEO, is beginning to implement the changes and improvements to the programme.

### Spring & Autumn Tours

We currently hold two annual Nuffield events in Australia. These are the **Spring and Autumn tours**. We use these events to catch up with the alumni, meet the new Scholars and visit key agricultural businesses in the regions we visit. These tours enhance the learning experience of both new and old Scholars.

The Spring and Autumn tours rotate around Australia, and generally last for four days. We had an excellent Autumn tour in



Far North Queensland, with over 100 in attendance.

**Selection for our 2010 Scholars** is nearly complete, with final interviews to be held on 31st August and 1st September in Melbourne.

Once again, we have a dinner planned as part of the final selection process which will ensure that even unsuccessful applicants gain something from the experience. In Australia, we have 20 Scholarships available this year.

### Global Focus Programme

Our 2009 Scholars have completed the **Global Focus Programme** and most are finishing their individual travels. We look forward to their reports, and listening to their presentations which will begin in Sydney in October at our annual **Spring Tour**.

Jim Geltch has started work on developing a third Global Focus Programme, which will include India and other parts of Asia. Once again, Nuffield



*On the Mississippi leg of the Global Focus Programme, Jim Geltch with Pete Heard; a man who believes the security of a nation is based on 'the top six inches'.*

Australia extends our invitation for Scholars to participate in the Global Focus Programmes.

Finally, as Australian agriculture attempts to throw off a predicted el Nino, I wish you all the best in your agricultural pursuits. And by the way, congratulations to England for winning the Ashes. (Ouch, That hurt!!)

**David Brownhill, Chairman**  
gowrieoffice@bigpond.com

## United Kingdom

### Award winners announced

**From a strong field of candidates, two accomplished agri-business managers have been announced winners of the UK's 2009 Frank Arden Memorial Award.**

**David Gardner**, Head of Fruit Operations at The Co-operative Farms, and **Lindsay Hargreaves**, Farm Manager of the Elveden Estate in Suffolk, are successful joint winners of the 5th Frank Arden Award which carries the study theme of 'The appliance of new science and frontier technologies to transform the UK agriculture and food sectors'.

The aim of this special award is to identify the technologies which could prove of most value, and explore how best industry can access and apply them to both differentiate and significantly improve the competitiveness of the UK agri-food sectors.

Our congratulations go to David and Lindsay, both recognised and highly successful leaders of our industry, and both worthy winners of this timely award. They now have a tight timetable,

being expected to travel and study over the next six months, and submit their final reports in advance of an industry conference in March/April 2010. Help from Scholars worldwide, with relevant contacts and information, would be a bonus.

**Email David and Lindsay on - david.gardner@co-op.co.uk and lh@elveden.com - respectively.**

### In memory of Steven

**Gill Bullock would like to thank all those who have sent cards and letters, and provided tributes in memory of former NFST Director, Steven Bullock. "They have all been extremely moving and are greatly appreciated," says Gill.**

The Memorial Service to celebrate the life of Steven went ahead in June, at St James Garlickhythe, London, where his two sons, gave rare and heartfelt insights into Steven as a father and figurehead.

### Summer socials

**A series of Nuffield show receptions were enjoyed by many over the summer months, in spite of the weather, both rain and shine.**

Receptions were staged at the Royal, Royal Welsh and the Royal Highland Shows, and were attended by Scholars, their families and guests.

The Trust is indebted to HSBC Agriculture, Coutts, Tesco Scotland and The Farmers Club for their generous hospitality and support for these valuable social events.



*Pictured with Vice Chairman, Jack Ward, the Trust's Patron, HRH The Duke of Gloucester, provided a 'right Royal send off' to a Nuffield presence at the last ever Royal Show at Stoneleigh Park.*

### Website makeover

**It's always good to report exciting developments and improvements to the Nuffield websites.**

A new UK website has now been posted - at [www.nuffieldscholar.org](http://www.nuffieldscholar.org) - with a fresh new look and some brand new content, including sections on Scholar testimonials and Scholars today.

This work will be followed shortly with an update of the Scholars' database, with improved back-room functionality, but no requirement to change existing user names and passwords.



F/L John Stones, David Gardner, Tony Pexton and Lindsay Hargreaves.

# New Zealand

The selection process has started for the 2010 New Zealand Scholarships with applications closing at the end of August and final selection taking place in mid October.

Once again we have had a strong field of potential Scholars applying and the trustees are looking forward to what again will be a testing selection process.

The 2009 scholars - **Alec Jack, Mandi McLeod** and **Greg Pardoe** - have all taken part in one of the Australian-organised Global Focus Programme and have completed, or nearing the end of, their own study topic. All will be in Wellington to present feedback to our funders and assist with hosting our 2009 applicants during the selection process.

The planning for the **New Zealand Nuffield Biennial Scholars' Conference** - to be held in Gisborne in May 2010 - is well underway, with Dennis Munroe and Liz Greenslade overseeing the organisation. Details will be supplied to New Zealand Scholars in the near future and we would welcome any visiting Nuffield Scholars, past or present, to join us in what is always an enjoyable event.

**Barbie Barton, Secretariat**  
nuffield@fedfarm.org.nz / rogbar@xtra.co.nz



# Ireland

**Thomas Horgan, the current Chairperson of the Irish Nuffield Farming Scholarship Trust, outlines the progression of the Nuffield Farming Scholarship Trust in Ireland.**



Nuffield Ireland held its first annual dinner in the Adam Suite of the salubrious Shelbourne Hotel on Stephens Green in Dublin in late January 2009. With sponsors and partners of Irish Nuffield Scholars in attendance, the event was a lively affair which allowed for the exchange of ideas and the opportunity for friendships to be renewed.

There are now 43 scholars in Ireland and partners are welcome participants at events.

During the course of the evening we were presented summary reports of completed studies, while this was followed by the formal presentation of 2009 Scholarships by the relevant sponsor to Tadgh Buckley, Derek McCabe, Seamus Holland, Shane Delahunt and Brian Reidy.

Competition for Scholarships is intense and we expect the Shelbourne event to be an annual such occasion to provide a forum for Irish scholars to showcase their studies and achievements.

Meanwhile, much has changed in Ireland with a collapsed property market and an economy in decline. Development land values have fallen from 60% to 80%, while property values are down about 40%. The rental market has slowed with the economy, thus property owners are under pressure. Banks are being supported by the Irish government and a newly formed body, the National Asset Management Agency, will take an estimated €90 billion of the riskiest loans off the books of the banks to get lending to small businesses and individuals operating efficiently again.

2009 is a difficult year for Irish farmers with welcome signs that the bottom of the commodity cycle has been reached in some sectors. It is officially the wettest summer on record (though we prefer rain to drought) which has served to drive cost up for farming operations.

Farmgate prices are up to 50% down across a range of commodity sectors and tight control is needed on the cost element for those with debt burdens. For instance, in the dairy sector 25 cent/litre is the breakeven price of milk and prices are at 20 cent/litre presently.

Ireland has made great economic strides in the last 20 years. The challenge in the coming years will be to retain that progress.

A lack of political leadership is evident in terms of making difficult decisions and progress to remedy a costly civil service system is slow. We hope for a more economically favourable end of year, though it will take many years to reduce the debt burden across the economy and create a new balance in the Irish economy.

A lot fewer houses will be built in the next few years! However where there is change there is opportunity and a rebalancing was inevitable for an economy too highly skewed on the property sector.

**Thomas Horgan, Chairman**  
thorgan@bmi.ie

# Canada

Plans are well underway for the Annual Meeting of Nuffield Canada in Ottawa on 2nd and 3rd December.

Day one will consist of farm tours in the Ottawa area. Day two will be the AGM, banquet and final report presentations from last year's Scholars. We are requesting a meeting with the Federal Minister of Agriculture while in Ottawa to inform him of our activities in the development of farm leaders through Nuffield.

Nuffield Canada is very pleased to have received seven applications this year. This is the most interest that has been expressed in the Nuffield programme. Interviews have begun and final selections and notifications will be completed in September.

Nuffield Canada is also pleased to be involved with planning for the CSC in Washington DC and Pennsylvania in March 2010. We have been impressed with the active participation by the American officials, particularly from Pennsylvania, in the preparation of a programme which will challenge all participants.

Nova Scotia (in March) and Manitoba and Saskatchewan (in June) successfully hosted GFP tours. Nuffield Canada thanks John Lohr in Nova Scotia and Wally Doerksen in Manitoba for coordinating these events. We were impressed with the calibre of candidates. We also appreciate the opportunity to host.

Canadian farmers are starting fall harvests. For the most part, Eastern Canada has been cool and wet, with summer arriving in just the two past weeks. Parts of Alberta are experiencing drought. Most of Manitoba and Eastern Saskatchewan have had sufficient rain.

**Barry Cudmore, Chairman**  
barrycudmore@pei.sympatico.ca



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## Keep on learning

**What's Nuffield about if not maintain and enhance the learning experience? If you are visiting the UK this summer and autumn, UK Nuffield invites worldwide Scholars to join one of our many study group meetings.**

Coming up shortly, on 18th/19th September, is a new Media and Communications Group - borne out of the increasing need for Scholars to promote themselves, their study findings and their business, products or services.

Also in September, on the 24th-26th, is the Horticultural Group tour based in Kent, with programme highlights including Thanet

Earth, Intercrop Salads and Brogdale Research Institute.

Moving into the autumn, the Beef and Sheep Group will then meet on 1st-3rd October, with visits based in Yorkshire, courtesy of Stephen Fell NSch. Stephen has brought together a programme incorporating a 4,000-ewe easy care system, a 150 Stabiliser suckler cow herd and a visit to the Fell family farm, inclusive of the Meatlinc Sheep flock and their 650-acre turf business.

For further information, please visit the Nuffield international website.

## Open invite

**An open invite is also offered to all Scholars to attend our annual Winter**

**Conference, to be held at the Queen Hotel, Chester, on 30th/31st October.**

Our biggest yet, a total of 29 returning Scholars will present their findings, together with an update from the 2009 Frank Arden Scholars. Further details on the UK and Nuffield international websites.

## November deadline

**Just a reminder... The closing date for UK applications for 2010 Nuffield Farming Scholarships is 15th November 2009.**

Do please make every effort to encourage potential candidates to apply, to take a step back from their day-to-day pressures and try for a life changing Nuffield award.

# 2009 Irish Scholarship Awards



## Nuffield Ireland ICOS Award

### DEREK MCCABE

(Mounthugent, Co. Cavan)  
Email. derek@roebackhouse.ie

**Study: Forestry carbon rights in small forestry holdings with a view to transposing a suitable model or systems into the Irish situation.**

Derek is married to Yvonne and has three children. He farms a 200-acre mixed farm, with enterprises including beef, Irish draught horse breeding, forestry and tourism accommodation ([www.roebackhouse.ie](http://www.roebackhouse.ie)).

A Civil Engineering graduate from Bolton St. College, Derek went on to establish his own company - Sheelin & McCabe Planning Services Ltd - which provides residential and commercial design and planning services in the local rural community.

He is presently owner and project manager of a new website - [www.CO2.ie](http://www.CO2.ie) - which provides CO<sub>2</sub> footprint reduction advice to the business sector and provides a green directory and an e-commerce booking engine for building energy rating nationwide.

Derek is a founding member, chairman and director of Cavan Monaghan Rural Development Co-op Society Ltd which has successfully delivered three European Leader Programmes, a number of Peace I & Peace II programmes and a Rural Social Scheme in Cavan and Monaghan since 1991.

He is also Commissioner for Oaths (since 1995) and a member of the review of Decisions Panel with the Department of Agriculture in Northern Ireland.



## FBD Trust Award

### TADHG BUCKLEY

(Sarsfield, Wilton, Co Wicklow)  
Email. g.buckley@a.b.ie

**Study: The role price risk management tools can play in European agriculture**

A graduate of agribusiness from University College Dublin, Tadhg works as an area agri-manager with AIB, covering the south of Ireland.

His role involves providing agri-finance for capital projects, as well as devising bank agri-strategy. In addition, he is actively involved in the day-to-day running of a 60ha dairy farm in conjunction with his father.

Tadhg's study entails examining the role price risk management mechanisms - in particular agri futures markets - can play in reducing market volatility for food producers.



## IFA / Irish Farmers Journal Award

### SEAMUS HOLLAND

(Tubberboe, Durrow, Co Laois)  
Email. holland.seamus@gmail.com

**Study: Optimum use of labour and the grazing platform on a dairy farm**

Seamus is farming in the midlands of Ireland. His core business is dairying, comprising 130 dairy cows and followers run on 73 ha of which 20 ha is leased. He is actively involved in IFA, which represents Irish farmers in Ireland.



## IFA / Irish Farmers Journal Award

### SHANE DELAHUNT

(Brittas Bay, Wicklow, Co Cork)  
Email. furzeditch@eir.com

**Study: Thoroughbred evaluations and selections by international stud books**

Shane farms in the south east of Ireland. Enterprises include pedigree Blonde d'Aquitaine cattle, an Irish sport horse stud and forestry.

His study will explore the methods other international studbooks evaluate the thoroughbred for inclusion in breeding programmes. It will also compare the ways and systems in which each stud book selects and assesses the thoroughbred traits that will best enhance and be of value to their sport horse future performance.



## Peter Daly Trust Award

### BRIAN REIDY

(Carrowreagh Cooper, Tubbercurry, Co Sligo)  
Email. brainreidy1@eircom.net

**Study: Land succession and land transfer**

Brian has recently married Caroline (August 2009). He leases the 82-acre family farm from his parents and also leases an additional 96 acres to milk 110 cows, supplying mainly the liquid milk market.

In 2009/2010, Brian will visit New Zealand and Australia and also the UK and main land Europe, preferable France and Denmark as part of his studies. Brian's interests include basketball, Gaelic football and socializing.

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## Those top six inches

Our final evening in Mississippi was spent in the home of Pete Heard, from NRCS, who has dedicated his life's work to conservation and wildlife. A man who believes the security of a nation is based on "the top six inches".

Surrounded by his colleagues, family, children, grand-children and 11 Nuffield Scholars from four different countries, we realised that, as farmers and custodians of the land, there is far more that unites us than divides us.

Money could buy you a plane ticket to any country in the world, but being a Nuffield Scholar opens doors and allows you a unique insight to the people and the culture of the country you visit.

Or, as they say in Mississippi: "Money can buy you a dog, but only love can make it wag its tail."

Leaving Mississippi, we headed north and spent a week being hosted by past Nuffield Scholars in beautiful Canada.

We then moved back across the border to the US with three days of visits and meetings in Washington DC. This allowed us all to understand more of the

politics which drive agricultural policy which not only affect farmers in North America, but all of us across the world.

Our final 10 days were spent back in Europe, with a flying visit to Paris and then a wonderful week in Ireland, both sides of the border.

Coming from a European country myself, I understand much of how and why the EU operates as it does. However, travelling in a group with unsubsidised primary produces from another continent, I saw it with different eyes and have a far greater understanding of how the EU looks to the outside world than ever before.

It's always hard to put a value on time spent away from home and the daily routine of running a business. But for me, having nine new best friends, understanding more about the world and more about myself - priceless!

I am extremely grateful to Jim Geltch and Nuffield Australia who extended the invitation to me and arranged this programme. To my knowledge, I am the first UK scholar to have taken part in this life changing journey which has certainly got me thinking outside of the box, and given me a truly global focus.

## Stay in touch!

[www.nuffieldinternational.org](http://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  
Email. peter@nixonfarming.com.au

## 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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