



## **NUFFIELD AUSTRALIA 2018 NATIONAL REGIONAL TOUR – NORTHERN VICTORIA**

### **FRIDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2018**

#### **7.30am Depart Melbourne**

#### **9:00am Australian Fresh Leaf Herbs**

Jan Vydra, 2016 Scholar, is the co-founder and executive director of Australian Fresh Leaf Herbs (AFLH) at Clyde. They are one of the country's leading producers of fresh leaf greens, with niche markets focusing on culinary herbs, micro-greens, edible flowers and novelty cresses. Under Jan's leadership, AFLH has expanded and diversified from producing 2000 bunches of basil each week in the late 2000s to current peak spring production of 160-180,000 units of product per week and employs 40 FTE staff.

#### **12:00pm Arrive Yering Station**

As chief viticulturist for Yering Station (part of the Rathbone Wine Group) in the Yarra Valley, Andy Clarke, 2016 Scholar, is responsible for all viticultural programs and vineyard management on the property. Yering Station is Victoria's first vineyard, planted in 1838 and currently has 95 hectares planted, predominately the core varieties Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Shiraz. Recognised for its landmark winery/restaurant complex, the building sits harmoniously within the landscape of heritage architecture and the beautiful vineyards from which our winemakers craft award winning wines.

#### **3:00pm Arrive Valley Seeds**

Valley Seeds specialises in breeding grasses to help farmers address the winter feed gap as well as breeding heat and drought tolerant varieties. Valley seeds has positioned itself as being a very competitive international seed company being the first company to develop, licence and export an Australian bred and certified variety of grass. Chair and Managing Director, Donald Coles, is Director of the Australian Seed federation and Deputy President of the International Seed Federation. Anthony Leddin is the only fully qualified plant breeder working in the private sector of the pasture seed industry in Australia. Jo Tanner is the National Sales and Marketing Manager and is a qualified Agronomist. Jo has worked in the Falkland Islands as Head of Agronomy at the Department of Agriculture.

#### **5:30pm: Arrive Shepparton, check into accommodation**

Shepparton, situated in the heart of the Goulburn Valley, is the fourth largest provincial centre in Vic. The Goulburn Valley is often referred to as the "Food Bowl of Australia" as around 25% of the total value of Victoria's agricultural production is generated in this area

#### **6:30pm: Dinner, Parklake, Shepparton**

Guest speaker at the dinner is Reg Weine, Managing Director of SPC since May 2015. Immediately prior to joining SPC Reg was Chief Executive Officer at Bulla Dairy Foods for four years. Before joining Bulla Dairy Foods in 2009, Mr Weine was the Director of Sales and International for the publicly listed Blackmores Limited where he served on the Executive Team and had responsibility for Australia, Thailand, Malaysia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan and the UK. Reg's 20-plus year career in fast moving consumables also includes Senior Leadership, and Executive positions with The Smiths Snackfood Company, Pepsi Cola Bottlers, and Sara Lee Corporation.

#### **9:30pm: Day one close**



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### **SATURDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2018**

**7:45am Depart hotel**

#### **8:00am: Arrive SPC Ardmona**

SPC Ardmona is one of Australia's oldest and most loved fruit processors and remain the largest producer of packaged vegetables in Australia. Owned by parent company Coca Cola Amatil, the tour will visit SPCs premises in Shepparton to understand its operations. They want to see a vibrant and successful food manufacturing industry in Australia and work closely with growers to ensure that products contain the highest-quality Australian fruit. They also work hard to communicate the importance of paying a little extra for quality Australian products.

#### **10:15am: Arrive Toland Merino**

Toland Merino have developed highly productive fine merinos excelling in heavy cutting elite wool. Their breeding objectives are to produce free growing, bright, soft, long stapled wools under 19 micron, grow large framed sheep producing heavy, supreme quality wool, breed fertile sheep with high growth rate and early maturing progeny and develop increased worm resistance and improved carcass quality. Anna Toland and her family will showcase their business.

#### **12:15pm: Arrive David Cook's Pine Lodge Farm**

David Cook, 2013 Nuffield Scholar, runs a farming operation North East of Shepparton. In the past 10 years they have moved from a diverse mixed enterprise farm to a continual cropping program (based around a winter crop rotation with opportunistic summer cropping) however they have found that cover cropping has had its challenges on duplex soils prone to water logging. Livestock made a return last year and they have been assessing the use of long season companion crops that can be grazed and harvested. David has been ruminating on farm tourism, commodity value adding and off farm investment opportunities since completing his Nuffield Scholarship. A major step in this direction was taken last year when he purchased the local hotel with a 40-bed accommodation unit. David says, "*It can be best described as a renovator's delight, but it has unlimited potential!*"

#### **3:45pm: Arrive Biomix**

Biomix is a large privately operated organic composting business. This company diverts thousands of tonnes of food and green waste from landfill each month by converting it into premium quality compost that is sold to farming operations for organic farming and also farmers who want to improve their soils. Its location in Stanhope in Northern Victoria enables Biomix to service the needs of farmers, councils and food processors in the important Murray-Goulburn foodbowl region.

**5:30pm: Return to Shepparton, dinner**

### **SUNDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2018**

**8:30am: Check out of hotel, depart Shepparton**

**10:30am: Arrive Melbourne Tullamarine Airport. Tour concludes.**