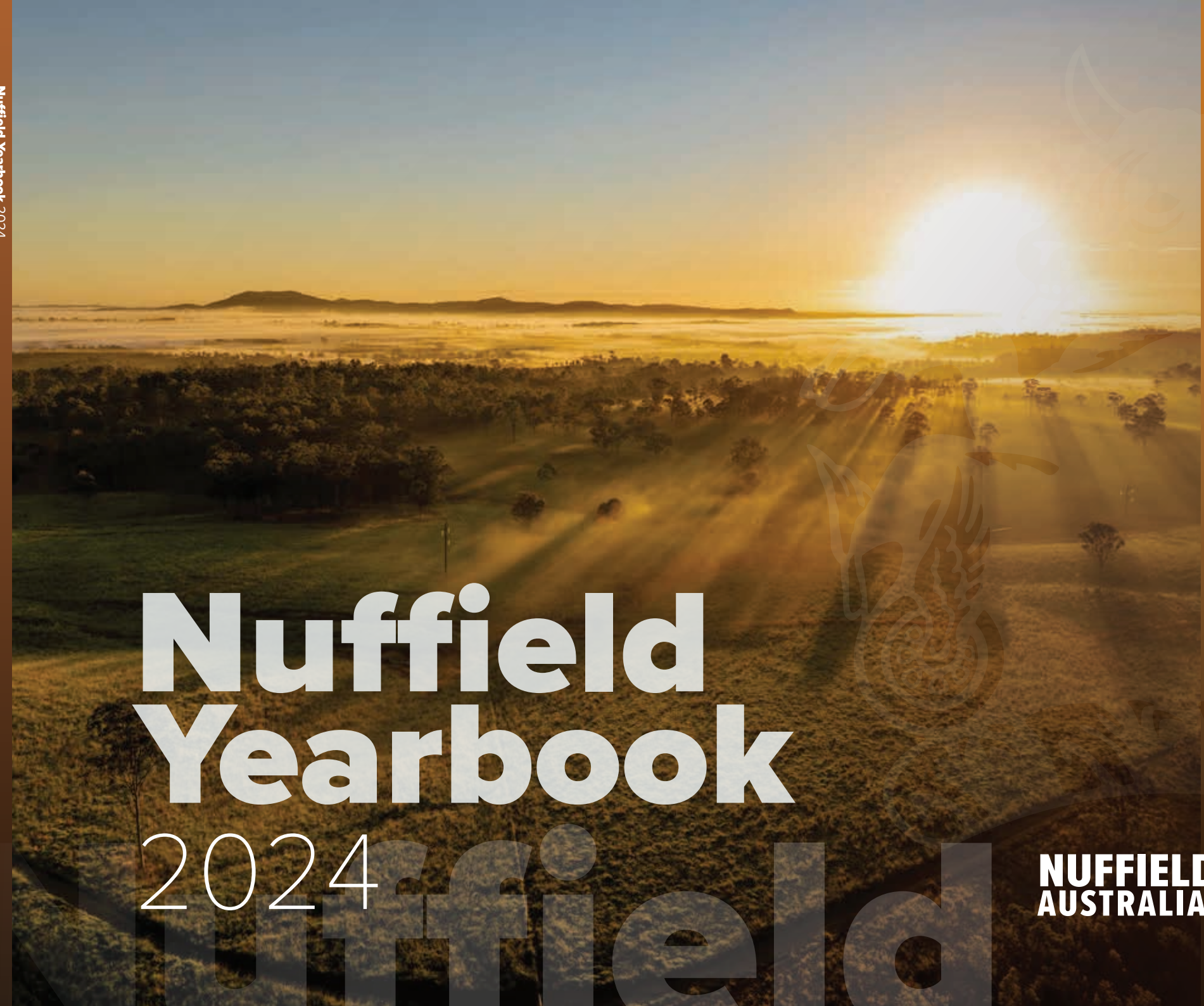




**Nuffield
Australia**
Developing
current,
emerging and
future leaders



Nuffield Yearbook

2024


Nuffield

**NUFFIELD
AUSTRALIA**



Thanks to our 2025 scholarship investors



And our strategic investor: 

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Foundations and futures

A message from the CEO

In Lord Nuffield's lifetime, he saw the change from bicycles to cars to the space race. We now have cars that drive themselves, and access to a phone with more computing power than Houston when they landed men on the moon.

The theme of this inaugural annual publication is Foundations and Futures. We honour our foundations that lie with Lord Nuffield himself and his single-minded focus on change: better cars, better research, better food security through better agriculture for the future. He understood that the world is a very big place but that it can be a very connected place. By leaving his home and factory and traveling to Detroit to research car making, he could achieve so much more than with back-and-forth correspondence. He knew that 'straight from the horse's mouth' is a uniquely powerful way to learn.

It is from this foundation that we have moved into the future. A Nuffield Scholarship, unlike other leadership programs, is not just about completing a course, or having something to put on your resume. The power of a Nuffield scholarship is in the getting out of the day-to-day and seeking learning both alone and with others. If you have a question, there will be someone with an answer. Or someone who can point you in the right direction, or even suggest another direction. That power doesn't end with your scholarship but continues through the alumni network.

2024 began with scholars embarking on their pre-CSC in Canberra followed by the Contemporary Scholars Conference in Brazil. We then sent our 2024 scholars out on six Global Focus Programs (GFPs) to 30 different countries and regions to get a snapshot of global agriculture. Twenty-nine Australian scholars were joined by 35 scholars from 11 other Nuffield countries. The alumni in New South Wales and Tasmania hosted GFP legs and we enjoyed having a GFP group at the conference. We will do this again next year, and plan to have GFPs travel to Australia each year.

Our selections took place across seven states and included dinners for alumni and candidates. The national selection interviews included dinner at the MCG.

We held a very successful conference in Launceston Tasmania where we awarded the 2025 scholars, celebrated the reports of 28 of our finishing scholars and came together with many of our alumni.



NUFFIELD AUSTRALIA



Our podcast series featuring interviews with 10 alumni concluded. It was a fascinating listen. We are honoured to note that our alumni include president of National Farmers Federation, the CEO of new Zero Net Emissions Agriculture CRC, Weekly Times and Coles Farmer of the year, QCL Red Meat Achiever, and various state and local members, just to mention a few accolades.

I want to thank Tessa and Carol who have weathered some staffing ups and downs in 2024 and have been ready and willing to take on any challenge thrown at them. Next year we are looking forward to a settled year with the CSC in Auckland, six GFPs once again, and to choosing another diverse group of scholars representing the breadth and depth of agriculture in Australia.

I hope you enjoy reading about our remarkable scholars and alumni. It is wonderful to celebrate each other's achievements, and I am optimistic about the future of this powerful organisation and our contribution to a strong, vibrant and growing ag sector. I look forward to catching up with many of you sometime during 2025.

Jodie Redcliffe, Nuffield Australia CEO
& Nuffield International CEO (2013 Scholar)

Message from the Chair

Welcome to the first Nuffield Australia annual publication. Our purpose in creating this is to provide both our scholar alumni and investors with an account of what our scholars have been up to during the year and what we as an organisation are doing to support the charitable purpose of Nuffield Australia.

Our charitable purpose combined with the values of Nuffield Australia guide our operational activities and the way in which we select scholars to become part of the Nuffield network.

Over the past year the Board of Nuffield Australia has focused on a number of areas to strengthen the program delivery for the scholarship and the support provided to scholars as they undertake their scholarship journey. This has included developing a formal set of learning outcomes for each stage of the program and delivering training for incoming scholars to support their learning journey.

The cost of delivering the scholarship program continues to grow so in 2024 the Board reviewed both the program delivery costs and the funding sourced from investors to support scholars which resulted in a significant increase in the investor contribution.

In 2023 we were successful in receiving considerable funding from the Federal Government Future Drought Fund. The Board acknowledges the hard work of our CEO Jodie Redcliffe in working with representatives of DAFF to obtain the original two-year grant funding and the further four-year extension to this funding that was provided in the 2024 Federal Budget.

The value of Nuffield lies not just in the scholarship experience itself but also the international network that has been created over 75 years of international exchange. The Board wishes to thank all the members of our scholar alumni who volunteer their time to supporting the application and selection process and those who contribute to assisting scholars through their scholarship journey. The strength of our organisation lies in the network of people who continue to share and exchange ideas. We encourage all of the Nuffield alumni to continue to participate in State and local functions and to attend the annual conference, as well as to host scholars from other countries visiting your region.

The Board thanks our small, dedicated team of employees Jodie Redcliffe, Tessa Dimond and Carol Millar for their hard work and commitment to supporting our scholars and the Nuffield network. Our staff and Board look forward to seeing you all at the 2025 conference in Adelaide from 8 to 10 September.

Jane Bennett, Chair of Nuffield Australia, (2008 Scholar)



Directors

Jane Bennett
2008 Scholar (External Director and Chair)

Rob Bradley
2009 Scholar

Nigel Corish
2014 Scholar (Chair: People, Culture & Care Committee)

Guy Hebblewhite
2013 Scholar (Chair: Finance, Audit & Risk Committee)

Kara Knudsen
2013 Scholar (Chair: Conference Committee)

Don Madden
2010 Scholar (Chair: Programs Committee)

Donald McGauchie AO
Honorary Scholar (External Director)

Johanna Tomlinson
2019 Scholar (Chair: State Chairs Committee)

Nuffield Australia Charitable Purpose

To advance sustainable and profitable primary production in Australia through the delivery of an outstanding global scholarship experience that builds a prestigious agriculture network.

Nuffield Australia values

Nuffield Australia has six core values that outline its behavioral standards and guide the expectations for Board members, employees, Scholars and alumni when they represent the Nuffield brand:



Humility

We will respect the views and positions of others. We will embrace difference and acknowledge the right to express opinions that vary from our own.



Integrity

We will be inspired by the charitable purpose to make a difference in our industries and communities and be true to our word.



Reciprocity

We will commit to giving back to others and continue our engagement with the Nuffield network after our scholarship has completed.



Respect

We will treat each other and the people who support the Nuffield network with respect. We will show respect for the earth's resources and inhabitants to preserve for future generations.



Diversity

We will embrace the diversity of people and primary production pursuits across the Nuffield network, acknowledging that the network is strengthened by this diversity.



Objectivity

We will open our minds to be curious, embrace new ideas and be solutions oriented. We will support the Charitable Purpose through a continuous learning mindset.

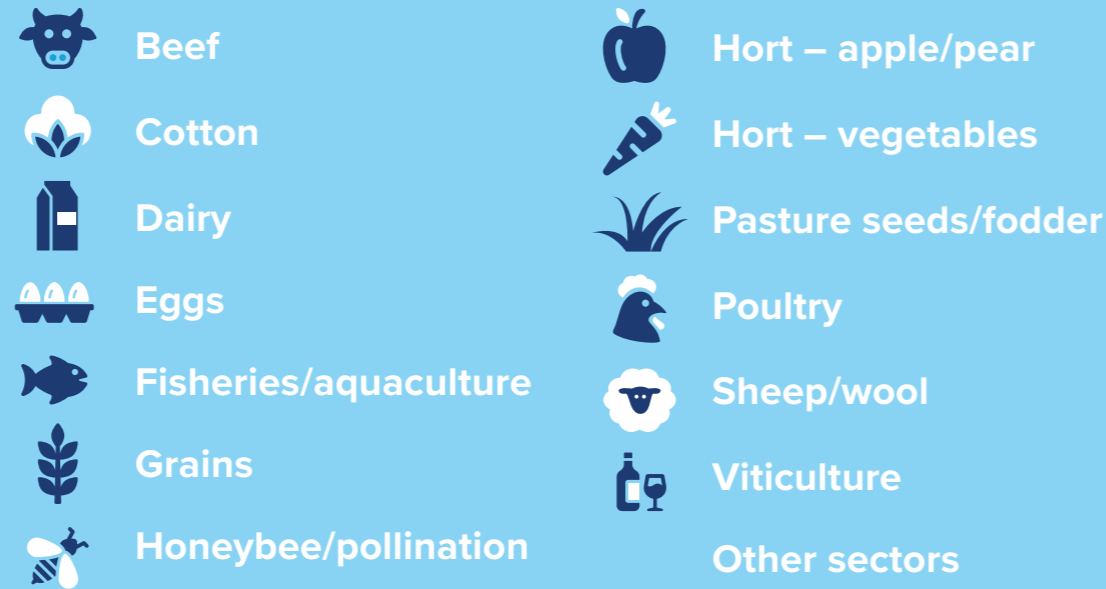
Nuffield by the numbers



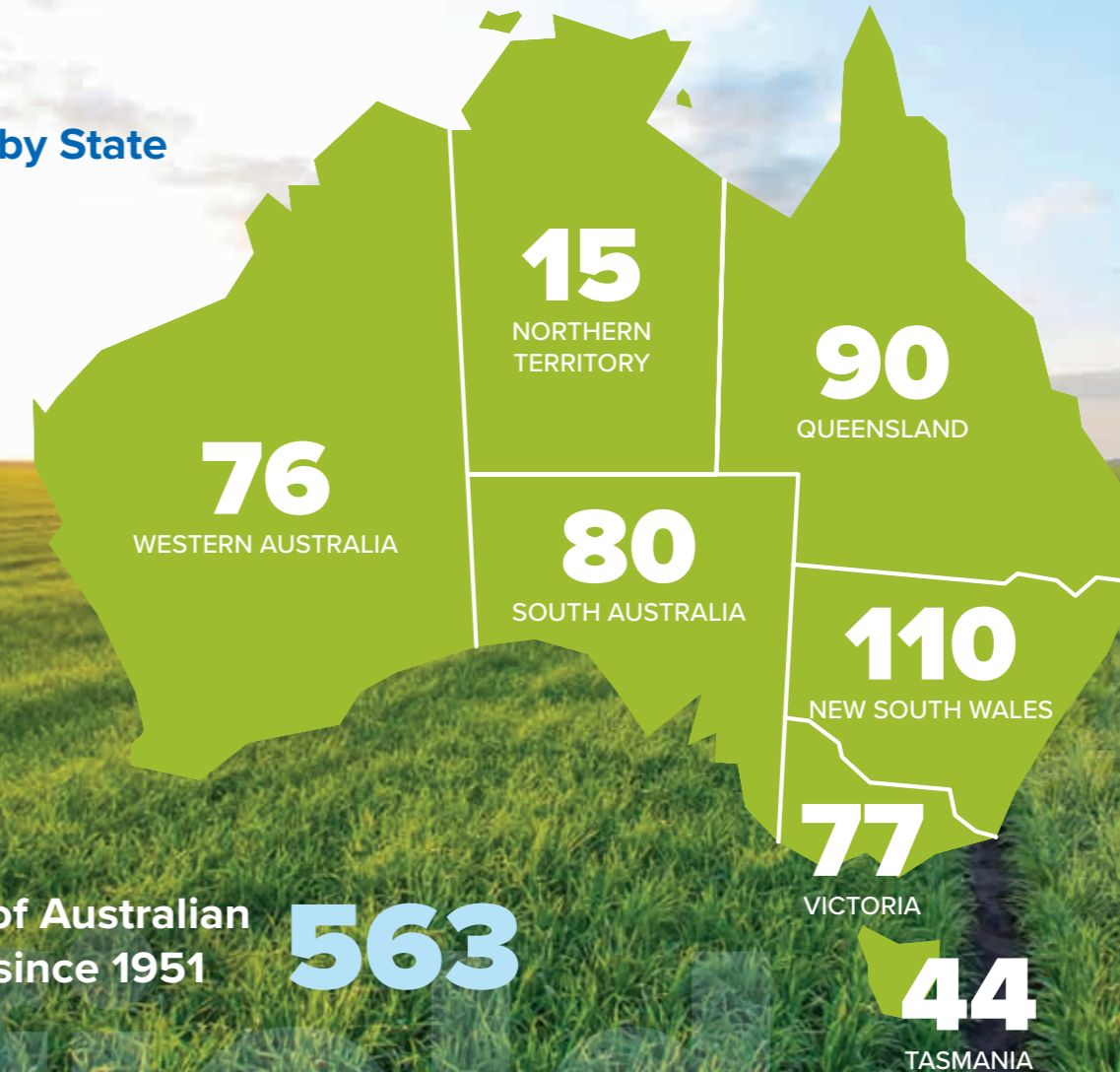
2024 applications

- **259** enquiries
- **104** applications
- **70** State interviews
- **41** National interviews
- **24** scholars selected

Applications by industry



Scholars by State



Number of Australian scholars since 1951 **563**

The Origin of Nuffield Australia's Capital Fund

The very first Australian Nuffield Scholars, Bert Kelly and Neil McNeill, were selected in 1951. Their scholarships were funded by the Nuffield Foundation in the UK, which, at the time, wished to spread the concept of Nuffield Farming Scholarships to other Commonwealth countries.

For the next two decades, two scholars would be chosen every year from Australia to receive the prestigious award of a Nuffield Farming Scholarship. In the early days, scholars embarked on a six-week journey to the UK by sea, and then, in some cases, were given a bicycle for transport when they got there!

In 1971 however, Robert Beggs (1970 Scholar), returned from his scholarship with the news that the Nuffield Foundation of the UK would withdraw support of the farming scholarships to Australians in 1975. There simply wasn't enough money to continue.

On Robert's urging, George Wilson (1952 Scholar) rallied the alumni scholars together and formed the Australian Nuffield Farming Scholars Association.

The Management Council of the ANFSA then made thorough nuisances of themselves soliciting funds from all and sundry for Nuffield. Donations ranged from \$50 to many thousands of dollars.

By now Ron Baillieu (1958 Scholar) had become George Wilson's 2IC. The funds were invested in fixed interest instruments, with all the income accruing to the corpus, under George and Ron's careful eyes.

The value of the fund increased substantially over the high interest period of the 1980s. For example, in 1983 the fund was valued at \$160,000. In 1990, it was worth \$347,000.

In 1996, Harry Perkins (1972 Scholar) succeeded Ian Macintosh (1965 Scholar) as Chairman, with the fund worth \$570,000. An investment committee was formed, whose function was to manage the funds in co-operation with the Trustees. Ron Baillieu remained on this Committee until his death in 1997; George Wilson only retired in 2001.

When Nuffield was incorporated in 2000, the Association handed over a portfolio of shares to the corporate entity valued at \$720,000. To allow for tax deductible status, a public fund was established, and the reserve funds were transferred to this fund. The official name of the fund is the **Australian Nuffield Farming Scholars Public Fund**.

It has been known to scholars colloquially as the Harry Perkins Public Fund or simply the Harry Fund, in recognition of the significant contribution made by Harry Perkins as Chairman in the transition of Nuffield in Australia to a corporate entity and in the establishment of the Public Fund with significant capital donations he secured from public companies such as Rural Press, CBA and Wesfarmers.

The primary purpose of the Public Fund is to maintain a capital reserve in the event of any extraordinary circumstances which could threaten the viability of the scholarship program. In addition, income from the capital fund is used to support scholarships which are not fully funded and to support non-recurrent budget items such as strategic planning that underpin the organisation.

Today we refer to the Public Fund by its official name, the **Australian Nuffield Farming Scholars Public Fund**. This is to make it easy for scholars who may be considering a bequest to the fund in their will to use the correct name, ensuring the committed funds can be released from an estate. Over the years, some older scholars have generously made a provision for the Public Fund in their will in recognition of the impact that a Nuffield Scholarship has made to their lives and businesses.

Nuffield Australia is very appreciative of these gifts. The Board of Nuffield Australia remains committed to the

George Wilson (1952)

principles established for the fund in 2000 and continue to grow the corpus to retain the relative value of the fund.

Nuffield Australia is a registered charity, and we are dependent on contributions from corporate investors and support from our alumni to deliver an outstanding scholarship experience. We encourage all Australian Nuffield Scholars who have benefited from the scholarship experience and becoming part of this network to consider contributing to the **Australian Nuffield Farming Scholars Public Fund** to ensure the future of our network for generations to come.

This article was prepared with the assistance and insight of Jim Geltch, Bill Poynton, Duncan McDonnell and Jane Bennett.

Cultivating the Nuffield network

By Katherine Seddon, freelance writer

Andrew Fowler is a Life Member of Nuffield Australia and a former Chair of both Nuffield Australia and Nuffield International.

He and his wife Marie farm over 50,000 ha with his family outside Esperance, producing canola, barley, wheat, lamb, wool and beef, with focus on livestock and crop synergies. Andrew completed his Nuffield Scholarship in 2000 when he studied the future for genetically modified (GM) crops in Australia.

Andrew was just 25 when he received his Nuffield Scholarship, setting him on a path that would shape both his career and personal life. “I was one of the younger ones to receive a scholarship,” Andrew reflects. “It wasn’t just about the travel or the research. It was the lifelong connections that have made the most profound impact.”

Those connections have shaped not only his career but also his personal life—he even met his wife while on his Global Focus Program (GFP) in Brussels. That’s taking the Nuffield lifelong commitment very seriously!

Andrew’s Nuffield research focused on a pivotal issue for Australian agriculture at the time: the commercialisation of GM crops. “Back then, we were only doing GM cotton,” he explains. “I looked at the environmental and commercial risks, as well as the costs of adopting the technology. My conclusion was that Australia needed to embrace GM crops as soon as possible because the technology was inherently safe. The longer we delayed, the more we risked falling behind countries like the US.”



ABOVE: Andrew Fowler (right) with his wife, Marie, and 2001 Scholar, Neil Smith.



This forward-thinking approach highlighted a challenge that Australian farmers still face today. “In North America they have increased their yield in crops like corn and soybeans, compared to Australia, which has had a depressing effect on our prices,” Andrew points out. “That was clear back then, and it’s even clearer now.”

But for Andrew, the Nuffield experience was about much more than research. “The Nuffield network is something truly special and unique,” he says. “It brings an incredible depth of expertise and knowledge to your experiences, whether personal or professional.”

One of the things Andrew values most about Nuffield is the openness and willingness to share within the community. “I’ve seen it time and time again on tours, at conferences, lunches, and events. There’s no sense of competition, just a genuine desire to help each other grow,” he explains. “The insights I’ve gained have been invaluable—not just for my farming business but for life in general. My Nuffield experience, and the connections that followed, have been incredible.”

These connections led to Andrew pursuing leadership roles beyond his own agricultural business in Esperance, Western Australia. His journey from local leadership to chairing both the Nuffield Australia Board and the Nuffield International Board, has had a significant impact on his farm’s success back home.

Andrew and his family run a successful mixed-enterprise farm, spanning 50,000 hectares of owned and leased land. One-third is dedicated to sheep and cattle, while the remaining two-thirds is devoted to crop production in a 400mm to 600mm rainfall zone.

“The opportunity to step up and contribute to something larger than my own farm was invaluable,” he says. “It had a direct impact on how I approached leadership in my own business.”

“Being involved in governance gave me the chance to grow, to learn from some incredible people. I’ve been to six Contemporary Scholars Conferences—it was amazing. I feel like I’ve gained so much from my time on the boards, more than I could ever give.”

“One of the most important lessons I’ve learned is the value of good people, regardless of the business, industry, or location,” Andrew explains. “It’s something I encountered repeatedly during my GFP—through the network of scholars, mentors, and leaders, and through my time on the Nuffield Australia and Nuffield International Boards.”

Andrew views people as the most critical asset in any business. “I used to think it was about having the best machinery or land, but I’ve come to realise that great people are what make a business truly successful. We employ around 70 people now, and we’ve built such a good workplace culture and have such a strong reputation as an employer that we rarely need to advertise for staff—it’s one of our greatest competitive advantages,” he says.

While Andrew can point to numerous business benefits from his association with Nuffield, he believes the personal growth and development it offers is what truly changes lives. “There’s nothing better in terms of personal development than completing a Nuffield Scholarship,” he shares.

One of the fellow Nuffield scholars who has made a big impact on Andrew is Chris Reichstein, who passed away in 2021 and left a generous bequest to Nuffield International. Chris’s vision was to support scholarships for people from developing countries, giving them the chance to experience the benefits of the Nuffield network.

“Chris had no spouse or children, and before he got sick, he made sure his legacy would have a lasting impact,” Andrew explains. “He wanted his bequest to provide opportunities for people from disadvantaged and remote

areas. It’s already making a difference, helping scholars from countries like Chile and Zimbabwe access the same kind of life-changing experience that we had.”

Chris’s bequest, which emphasises giving a “hand up, not a handout,” is designed to be sustainable. “Chris believed in creating lasting change by helping people help themselves,” Andrew says. “He’d be proud to see how his bequest is already starting to build momentum.”

These days, Andrew finds himself stepping into the role of mentor, guiding younger scholars as they embark on their own Nuffield journeys. “Giving back to Nuffield has been incredibly rewarding,” he says. “I still feel like I’ve gained so much more than I’ve given.”

When asked what advice he would offer to those just starting their Nuffield journey, Andrew is clear: “When you become a Nuffield Scholar, you’re joining a powerful and engaged network. So get involved, go to the events, ask questions, and stay connected. This is a network that delivers immense value, but only if you engage with it.”

For Andrew, the Nuffield experience has not just been about advancing his business—it has been about building lasting relationships, learning, and importantly, giving back.

TOP: Andrew Fowler on his property.

TOP (from L–R): Equipment lined up on Andrew’s property; staff meeting on the farm; Andrew standing in one of his vetch crops.

2024 National Conference report

The 2024 National Conference in Launceston saw a bumper crop of scholars presenting their findings, as well as some very inspiring guest speakers. For the first time we brought in a scholar as MC. Claire Taylor (2023 UK Scholar) did a sensational job along with various state chairs and board members who acted as session chairs.



LEFT: Jo Ferreira Mendes (2023) with Session Chair Rob Bradley (2009)



TOP LEFT: MC Claire Taylor (2023 UK) listens to guest speaker Su McCluskey, Special Representative for Australian Agriculture.

ABOVE FOUR (from L-R): Munro Hardy (2022); Tessa Dimond (2023); Iain Field (2023); Regan Lynch (2023).

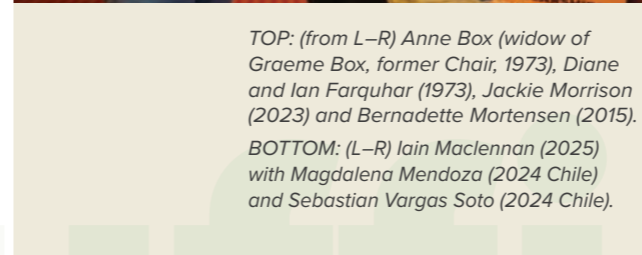
LEFT: (from L-R) Jess Moody (2022), Adam Williamson (2022) and Jessica Conlan (2022).



LEFT: Jo Ferreira Mendes (2023) with Session Chair Rob Bradley (2009)

Presenting scholars

Engaging with the crowds



TOP: (from L-R) Anne Box (widow of Graeme Box, former Chair, 1973), Diane and Ian Farquhar (1973), Jackie Morrison (2023) and Bernadette Mortensen (2015).

BOTTOM: (L-R) Iain MacLennan (2025) with Magdalena Mendoza (2024 Chile) and Sebastian Vargas Soto (2024 Chile).



TOP ROW (from L-R): Emma Leonard (1993); James Carter (2025); Andrew Rolfe (2021).

MIDDLE ROW (from L-R): Viv Rolland (2023 CSIRO Fellow); Elizabeth and Donald McGauchie with Sarah Crosthwaite (2023); (from L-R) Murray Gmeiner (2002) with Richard Gardner (2003).

BOTTOM ROW (from L-R): The coffee cart sponsored by Ashgrove Cheese was very popular; Kyota Yoshikawa (2024 Japan, GFP 6).

Nuffield Awards Dinner

Presentation of 2025 Nuffield scholars

The Awards Dinner was held at the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Launceston. All the new scholars were presented with their tie or brooch. More than 220 people enjoyed this fantastic occasion.



ABOVE: Guest speakers were given a lovely memento in the form of a handmade wooden chopping board, complete with Nuffield logo, expertly made by Tasmanian scholar, Ian Farquhar (1973).



TOP: Stuart Tait (2017), New South Wales State Chair alongside Andrew Ham (2020) and Kate Flynn.

MIDDLE: Paul (2025) and Danielle Evans, along with Tom (2025) and Lizzie Polkinghorne.

FAR LEFT: Tim Napier (2005) Tasmanian State Chair and Alina Bain enjoying catching up with Robert (2000) and Jane Dent.

LEFT: Alison Watkins, Chancellor of the University of Tasmania, gave the keynote address the George Wilson Oration.



TOP FAR LEFT: MC for the evening Richard Gardner (2003) keeping everything on track and the audience amused.

TOP MIDDLE: Rob (2011) and Sue Nichols.

TOP RIGHT: Jodie Redcliffe (2013), Johnny Gardner (2020) and Andrew Ham (2020).

MIDDLE LEFT: Robin Tait (2018) and Bernadette Mortensen (2015) admiring the lovely flower arrangements organised by the ladies of Tasmanian State Committee.

MIDDLE RIGHT: James Stacey (2018), South Australian State Chair, who will be hosting the 2025 Nuffield Conference.

BOTTOM FAR LEFT: Rob Bradley (2009) with Michael Bennett (1979).

2025 Scholars

Presented at the 2024 National Conference
in Launceston, Tasmania



Nuffield Yearbook 2024



Jock Barnett Delungra, NSW
Diversification and its impact on drought preparedness – Future Drought Fund



Cailan Byrnes Tolga, QLD
Cost-effective beef eating quality boost – Meat and Livestock Australia



James Carter Brisbane, QLD
Leveraging technology to improve carcass yields – Northern Pastoral



Claire Catford Halbury, SA
Thriving farmers and vibrant communities key to industry success – GRDC



Krystal Caton Yaamba, QLD
Post harvest opportunities for lychees – Viertel Charitable Foundation



Tyson Cattle Perth, WA
Investigating and measuring the value of policy – Future Drought Fund



Campbell Chesworth Rawsonville, NSW
Looking to circularity to drive resilience and profitability for Australian dairy – RAS Foundation & NSW Nuffield alumni



Lucy Dodd Bordertown, SA
Supporting Australia's small scale poultry producers – Future Drought Fund



Joe Druce Baynton, VIC
Exploring various capital options to unlock sustainable business growth – William Buckland Foundation



Paul Evans Streaky Bay, SA
A global pursuit to boost oyster quality – Fisheries Research and Development Corporation



Nikki Gilder Merriwa, NSW
Empowering women to be on-farm decision makers: strengthening the productivity and climate resilience of farms – The Yulgibar Foundation



Maggie Jarrett Orange, NSW
Extracting maximum value from ESG reporting – Agrifutures Australia



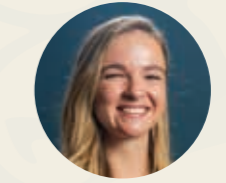
Alice Jorgensen Myall Creek, NSW
Helping farms integrate more perennial pastures for greater resilience – Woolworths Group



Kate Lumber Moree, NSW
Making every drop count on cotton farms – Cotton Research and Development Corporation & Cotton Australia



Iain MacLennan Orange, NSW
Exploring how apple growers can benefit from carbon capture initiatives – Hort Innovation Apple and Pear Fund



Kari Moffat Darwin, NT
Taking stock of ag's sustainability commitments – Future Drought Fund

Nuffield Annual Yield 2024

2025 Scholars (continued)



Trudi Oxley Katherine, NT
Building soil organic matter in tropical environments – Northern Pastoral



Tom Polkinghorne Dunkeld, VIC
Delivering environmental outcomes and financial results – Natural Resources Conservation Trust



Tarun Richards Darwin, NT
Sharing costs and benefits of ESG reporting – ANZ and Fisheries Research and Development Corporation



Jonathan Richetti Perth, WA
CSIRO fellow participating in the Contemporary Scholars Conference and the Global Focus Program



Hamish Robertson Hamilton, VIC
The Future of the Wool Industry – Future Drought Fund



Thanh Truong Melbourne, VIC
Exploring horticulture's social media opportunities – Rabobank & Vic Nuffield alumni



Connor Wass Kingston, TAS
Digital technology roadmap for aquaculture businesses – Public Sector Pension Investment Board



David Woods Toobeah, QLD
What are we missing in rural mental health? – GrainCorp



Tom Youl Killiecrankie, TAS
Seeking fodder conservation options to boost resilience – Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture & JM Roberts Charitable Trust

Where are they now

Paul Lambert (2011 Scholar)

Giving back: Helping farmers get a start



Paul farms at Merseylea in Northern Tasmania, currently milking 800 cows and growing potatoes and poppies. Paul is the Chairman and a shareholder of Circular Head Farms. He has previously served on boards and committees including the Tasmanian Dairy Industry Board, the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture Board and the Elliot Research Station Farm Management committee. He is a 2011 Nuffield Scholar and has studied large scale dairy farming around the globe. Paul featured at the recent National Conference in Launceston.

When Paul embarked on his Global Focus Program (GFP) as part of his Nuffield Scholarship in 2011 it changed his perspective both on and off farm.

“It really opened up my eyes to just how big the world is and how vital it is to produce food,” Paul recalls. “The sheer

size of food production in places around the world was astonishing. It made what we do here in Australia seem almost insignificant in comparison, particularly in dairy.”

When Paul returned to his dairy farm in northern Tasmania, he had gained a new perspective. Instead of coming home with a list of things to implement, he found that his scholarship taught him what not to implement. One of the biggest lessons was about robotics—something he had initially believed would be a game changer for his farm.

“I went into the GFP thinking I’d come back and transform everything to robotics,” he says. “But I realised that wasn’t the right solution for us. In places like Holland and Denmark, robots are used extensively to produce vast quantities of milk. While I think robotic dairies do a great job at milking cows, the things that put me off were the difficulty with pasture management, time taken in training cows, dry cow application and price point for large herds. It just wasn’t going to work efficiently for us.”

Despite this, Paul has embraced other technologies to significantly improve his farm’s productivity. He’s introduced virtual fencing and WiFi-enabled systems that monitor and measure his cattle and irrigation in real time. He’s open to robotics in the future, more around the humanoid type, particularly with tasks like feeding calves and milking at 4:30am which is not exactly a favourite among his team. However, Paul is adamant that technology should not replace people but instead free them up for the work they enjoy and increase productivity.

“The great thing about these technologies is that they don’t replace people. They let us work smarter, not harder, and focus on jobs that are more fulfilling.”

At the core of Paul’s philosophy is a deep passion for people and communities. He believes in keeping farms in Australian hands and helping aspiring farmers who don’t have the financial resources to buy their own land to get a foot in the door.

For the past 11 years, Paul has been the Chair of Circular Head Farms, a share-farming organisation that raises funds from local investors to buy properties and matches them with farmers to run. With 80 investors and \$160 million in assets, Circular Head Farms has become a vital pathway for those looking to start their journey in dairy farming.

“It’s a way for people to enter farming without having the capital upfront,” Paul explains. “It can take seven or eight years for share farmers to go from managing a farm to buying cows and building their herd, and eventually, they

can get into land ownership. Recently, one of our share farmers was able to purchase a farm from Circular Head Farms.”

Paul believes this model has potential beyond dairy farming and could be expanded to other industries like wheat and beef. “It’s not a common model, but it works. It’s also great for succession planning—shares of a farm can be divided among children more easily and managed outside the family.”

Paul has remained actively involved in the Nuffield community in Tasmania, continuing to learn from new scholars and alumni. The connections he has made over the years, both locally and globally, have opened doors to incredible experiences. From touring an underground potash mine in Canada to meeting policymakers in the EU, the Nuffield network has proven invaluable to him.

“There are Nuffield connections in all areas of agriculture, at all levels, and being able to tap into that knowledge and influence is priceless,” Paul says. “You can really make a difference with the connections you form.”

For anyone considering a Nuffield Scholarship, Paul offers wholehearted encouragement. “Your world will expand through the friends you make, the people you meet, and the exposure to agriculture worldwide. It’s a daunting experience, but it will give you a new, healthier perspective.”

Where are they now

Robert Dent (2000 Scholar)

Sharing the Nuffield experience and gaining an invaluable network

Robert and his wife Jane, operate a seed production, processing and sales business just outside Launceston, Tasmania. Rob has over 40 years' experience in the seed industry, including production, processing and marketing through Ardent Seeds and plant breeding through Tasglobal Seeds. He currently chairs both the Tasmanian Seed Industry Group and the Whitemore Irrigation Scheme. During his 2000 Nuffield Scholarship, Rob studied seed storage and drying. Along with Paul Lambert, Robert featured in the popular 'Where are they now?' segment at the National Conference.

Robert's journey through the Nuffield Scholarship started with a focus on researching the benefits of a larger seed cleaning operation. However, as he delved deeper, his research evolved, shifting towards seed industry development. Today, Rob and his wife Jane own and operate Tasglobal Seeds and Ardent Seeds.

The Nuffield experience has been a shared journey for both Rob and Jane. Together, they reflect on how the scholarship has not only transformed their business but has enriched their personal lives as well. Jane recalls how Rob's involvement in Nuffield became the catalyst for her to step more fully into the business.

"When Rob was away travelling for Nuffield all those years ago, I had to take on more responsibility in the business. It was the push I needed to leave my off-farm job, and from that moment, it really felt like a partnership. I can see the progress we've made, both as a couple and as business partners, and much of that can be traced back to Nuffield," Jane says.

The Nuffield experience gave Rob a new perspective on the world and their business. It encouraged him to look beyond the immediate challenges and take the "blinkers off." Travelling and meeting other scholars provided him with a sense of reassurance, seeing that many others



Robert Dent with his wife Jane at their seed processing plant near Launceston, Tasmania.

were facing similar challenges. This realisation became a source of comfort and confidence during difficult times.

The Nuffield community has been another unexpected gift for both Rob and Jane. Time and again, they've found themselves surprised by the support and camaraderie within the network. They recall a particularly challenging time when they were in the midst of drought. While on a Nuffield tour, they met a South Australian scholar who was facing similar struggles but remained incredibly positive. His optimism was exactly what they needed to shift their perspective.

Travelling for Nuffield also provided countless opportunities to connect with other farmers. Robert reminisces about their time in the U.S., where they were consistently welcomed by fellow farmers who opened their homes and shared their experiences. "We sat around so many dinner tables, chatting, learning, and sharing ideas. It's one of the most valuable parts of the Nuffield journey," Rob says.

The network continues to play a pivotal role in their business. Recently, Rob faced a complex question and knew exactly where to turn for help. "I called a fellow scholar who worked in the seed industry. His advice was spot on, and it worked perfectly."

Rob and Jane continue to immerse themselves in the Nuffield community whenever they can, attending conferences and connecting with scholars worldwide. On a recent trip to the UK for the Groundswell conference, they were amazed by the thriving Nuffield network.

"Everywhere we turned, there was someone in a Nuffield Scholar tie. It was amazing to feel so connected to this global community," Robert says.

For the Dents, the Nuffield experience has been more than just professional development—it has connected them into a rich, supportive community that continues to impact their lives.

2024 Scholar update

During the past year, the 2024 cohort of scholars have all been in ‘peak’ travel mode. They have all attended the pre-CSC in Canberra as well as the CSC in Brazil. Almost all of them have completed their GFPs and most have done, or at least planned, most of their individual travel. Reports are starting to be written. We spoke to two of them in more depth to get an idea of what they have been up to.



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Catherine Marriott took a novel approach to her scholarship

Embracing the middle-aged gap year

When Catherine Marriott (2024 Scholar) talks about her year-long Nuffield Scholarship, her enthusiasm is contagious. “I call it my ‘Middle-Aged Gap Year’ – my MAGY,” she says with a laugh. “It’s a privilege to spend 12 months fully embracing an opportunity like this. The experience has been nothing short of life changing.”

In 2020, Catherine started learning about Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) policies and their impact on Australian farming. Having spent most of her life immersed in agriculture, and with Australia being predominantly an export market, she recognised the need to better understand the international policy landscape in both the public and commercial sectors. Her Nuffield research took her to many countries, including Zimbabwe, Brazil, Europe, and Japan, where she gained insights that were both enlightening and challenging.

“What Nuffield gave me was the opportunity to pause, reflect, and learn about ESG from a global perspective,” Catherine shares. “It’s one thing to be curious about a



topic but having the time and space to truly delve into it with no distractions – that’s a gift.”

Catherine is passionate about ensuring Australian agriculture continues to thrive amidst global challenges. “We’re at a critical point,” she says. “Developed countries are moving away from food production, environmental policies are being developed without economic or

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practical understanding, and food security remains a major challenge in most of our markets. If Australia can get it right by proactively investing and innovating in the right areas, we have the potential to be world leaders in sustainable agriculture.”

Her Nuffield travels were not only about research; they were also an opportunity to connect with other like-minded scholars. “I travelled with nine other scholars who were smart, diverse, driven, and curious,” she recalls. “We’d have deep discussions and challenge each other in a supportive way. It wasn’t about winning or being the smartest in the room; it was a safe space to grow and reflect on our ideas.”

One particularly memorable moment during the Nuffield journey occurred in the first week of the Global Focus Program (GFP), when Catherine and her fellow scholars visited a cattle station in the Kimberley, a region where she had worked for many years. “The other scholars challenged me on some of the practices they observed at the station,” she says. “It was difficult to hear, but it was also an incredible moment of reflection. Are we doing things as well as we could? It made me question my thinking more deeply about what we do because it’s always been done like that in agriculture.”

This ability to reflect and challenge established ways of thinking is something Catherine considers the most valuable aspect of her scholarship. “We don’t often get the chance to have our biases and ideas questioned in such a constructive way,” she says. “It’s rare, and it’s made me a better, more open-minded person.”

Throughout her travels, Catherine gained insights into how different countries navigate agricultural challenges. “It made me reflect on what success truly means. It’s not just about wealth; it’s about happiness, sustainability, balance, and resilience.”

Her time in the EU and the UK was equally profound. “Wealthy nations are actively moving away from food production, particularly in the livestock sector. This really got me thinking about the developed vs. developing world dynamic, where food is produced, and the human and environmental implications of single-issue, narrowly focussed decisions. With the shifting geopolitics globally, shouldn’t food security and sovereignty be paramount?”

Catherine’s research focused on how ESG is shaping the future of agriculture and gave her a newfound clarity and confidence. “Before Nuffield, I knew that ESG policy would likely impact how we farm in Australia. Now, I understand the intricacies of different country processes, their priorities, and the risks and opportunities associated with international markets. This knowledge enables farmers to be proactive in their decision-making, rather than reactive.”

One of the tangible outcomes of Catherine’s scholarship has been a new consulting role that aligns perfectly with her expertise. “I’m now working as an ESG Sustainability Advisor for Yougawalla Pastoral Company,” she says proudly. “It’s a dream job for me, and it’s a direct result of the Nuffield Scholarship. I’m developing and implementing their ESG strategy, and I get to spend time in the Kimberley working for great people in an industry I really love.”

For Catherine, simplifying the complexities of ESG for farmers is a key motivator. “The big question driving me is, how can we make things streamlined for farmers? There’s so much talk about ESG, and it’s confusing. Policies are rapidly changing, and they’re often made without a practical understanding of their impact on businesses, communities, and the environment. My aim is to be a grounded voice in this space – to ensure that ESG policies are sensible, practical, and truly benefit the people working on the ground.”

Catherine is immensely grateful for the opportunities her Nuffield Scholarship has afforded her. “The connections you make through Nuffield are unmatched,” she reflects. “Not only do you gain a wealth of knowledge, but you also meet people who challenge and support you in ways you never imagined.”

In the end, Catherine’s Nuffield Scholarship has not only shaped her understanding of global ESG policies but also solidified her commitment to making Australian agriculture more resilient and sustainable for the future. She has become an advocate for ensuring that farmers are equipped with the tools and knowledge they need to thrive in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.



Paul McGorman’s travels prompt a pivot

Making connections and broadening perspectives

When Paul McGorman (2024 Scholar) first embarked on his Nuffield journey, his research focus was on improving efficiencies in broadacre cropping through the use of drones. But as he recognised the incredible opportunity that Nuffield presented, he wanted to pursue a topic he felt had greater potential impact. “I felt like the drone research was too light,” Paul admits. “I wanted a deeper topic that would benefit more people and have a global impact, and that’s when I decided to look at biochar.”

Biochar, a form of charcoal used in agriculture to improve soil health and sequester carbon, piqued Paul’s interest after a visit to Brazil during the Nuffield Contemporary Scholars Conference (CSC). “Brazil really opened up my eyes,” he explains. “I realised I wanted to do something bigger, something that would have a broader impact.” Paul’s research now focuses on biochar production methods, feedstocks, and

its applications across various sectors—from livestock feed supplements to soil amendments and even construction materials.

Paul’s Global Focus Program (GFP) took him from Indonesia to Denmark, California to Chile, connecting him with a diverse array of people, industries, and agricultural practices. One of the key takeaways, he says, has been gaining an understanding of agriculture on a global scale. “The volumes that other countries are producing are amazing,” he says, reflecting on his time in Brazil. “In Australia, we’re efficient, but when you see how other countries operate, it gives you a new perspective. It’s easy to judge from afar, but when you’re there, you see the complexities and challenges they face, much like we have in Australia.”

Throughout his travels, Paul has been struck by the generosity of the people he’s met. “The willingness of people to share their knowledge has been incredible. If

you ask the right questions and show genuine interest, people will talk for hours,” he says. This ethos of open dialogue has been a hallmark of his Nuffield experience, with the diversity of his fellow scholars adding richness to every interaction. “We had a guy from Zimbabwe managing a massive piggery and hearing his stories of growing up with constant challenges made me realise the privilege we have.”

For Paul, the Nuffield journey has also been deeply personal. He talks about the challenges of balancing the scholarship with family life and business commitments. “The first six months were challenging,” he admits. “I was away for two months, and that put a different spin on relationships and the business. But the opportunities have been worth it.” Paul and his family have hosted Chilean Nuffield scholars in their home. “We’ve learned so much,” he says. “By taking these scholars, who are winemakers, to local farms, we were able to connect with our local community more than we ever had before.”

As Paul looks ahead to the remainder of his Nuffield journey, there’s a sense of both excitement and purpose. He’s already planning his next travels, with upcoming trips to the U.S. and Italy to continue his biochar research. “I hope to really understand the commercial potential of biochar and possibly even set up a manufacturing facility,”



he says. But beyond the technical aspects of his research, Paul has gained something even more valuable—a renewed perspective on life. “The last few years have been super stressful, and this journey has helped me manage that better. I’ve come out of it with lower blood pressure,” he laughs. “It’s helped me see the successes in life and get a bigger perspective.”

Paul’s Nuffield journey is far from over, but he’s already seeing doors open and opportunities unfold that he didn’t anticipate. “It’s not just about the research,” he reflects. “It’s about the connections, the people you meet, and the broader perspective you gain. That’s been the real gift of Nuffield.”



2023 Scholar update

For most of the 2023 group of scholars, they are nearing the end of their formal scholarship journey. All but one have completed their GFP, most have completed their individual travel, and the National Conference in Launceston saw many presentations by 2023 scholars. Owing to the report backlog caused by COVID, most of their reports are completed but may not have been published yet. We have picked two of the 2023 scholars to tell us a little more of their experience.



Iain Field, farming close to nature

Persistence pays off

Not that long ago, Iain Field (2023 Scholar) was working as an academic, but now you'll find him alongside his wife Kate, running their dairy goat farm in southeast Tasmania.

Iain wasn't raised on a farm so the opportunity that Nuffield offered - to learn more about the industry and be part of an incredible network - was too good to miss.

"I'm not from an agricultural background," Iain explains, "so I was very keen to understand the industry inside and out. After four tries, I finally got the chance."

Running a goat farm in Australia comes with its own set of challenges. Australia's farming heritage is deeply rooted in sheep and cattle, leaving goats, as Iain puts it, "on the fringes of the industry."

Globally, though, goats are a massive industry. Countries like France, Spain, and India have large goat dairy and meat markets. "Seeing the industry firsthand was eye-opening" Iain reflects, "it reinforced my belief that there's untapped potential in Australia's goat industry."



On his own farm, Iain and his wife Kate have taken a more natural approach to goat dairying. They milk once a day and leave the kids with their mothers until they wean naturally. "We don't dehorn, and we work hard to maintain a balance between the herd and the land. Farming is all about balance," he says. "The closer we work with nature, the more resilient our systems become. But modern pressures often push us to maximise output at the cost of sustainability."

Through the Nuffield Scholarship, Iain has been studying ways to increase biodiversity on farms and integrate it into everyday farming practices. “Farmers have been working with nature for generations, often not for environmental rewards, but because it improves profitability,” he explains. No-till farming is an example of where many farmers have adopted the practice which boosts productivity, but also maintains soil biodiversity.

Iain’s Nuffield travels took him from Singapore and northern Australia to the US, the Netherlands and to Norway.

“What struck me was the similarities of the challenges farmers face — labour shortages, market pressures, and the increasing demand for resilient, sustainable farming systems,” he reflects.

The Nuffield Scholarship has expanded his reach beyond his small farm in Tasmania. “I’ve been able to engage with policymakers, politicians, academics and companies like Bayer and Rabobank, on issues of biodiversity and sustainability. It’s opened up opportunities to give back to the broader community some of what I have learnt. I also think it’s created a link between the academic world and farmers.”

For Iain, the Nuffield Scholarship has been life changing. “It’s broadened my understanding of farming and connected me with progressive farmers worldwide. I’d recommend it to anyone who’s serious about agriculture.”



Kate and Iain Field on their property in southern Tasmania.



Jodie Mitchell, stepping out of her comfort zone

Overcoming public speaking nerves

For Jodie Mitchell (2023 Scholar), a vivacious, energetic, and humble Northern Territory cattawoman, the decision to pursue a Nuffield Scholarship was a daunting one. But once she made the leap, there was no looking back.

“I wasn’t sure I was good enough for it,” she admits, reflecting on the whirlwind decision that saw her apply just three days before the deadline. “A friend of mine who I really look up to, encouraged me. It was an incredible opportunity to step out of my comfort zone and take a broader look at the industry I love.”

Jodie’s study focuses on early weaning strategies for cattle in northern and subtropical environments, a topic she’s passionate about. “Weaning early can have huge benefits in certain climates and with environmental challenges, such as drought, but it’s about finding the right approach,” she explains. “I want to bring those insights back to the cattle station and really help improve the processes we’re using.”

The scholarship process, she admits, was both intimidating and exhilarating. “The interview process was terrifying,” she says with a laugh. “But it’s all part of the journey, and I’ve absolutely loved every second of it.”

Jodie is no stranger to breaking new ground. Growing up in Sydney, she didn’t come from a farming background, but she found her way into agriculture through her love of horses. “I was horse mad,” she recalls. “That passion led me into different industries, and eventually, I found my way to the ag industry, it was so welcoming—it felt like home. Everyone was so generous with their knowledge, and that’s what I’ve loved about Nuffield too.”

Her Nuffield journey took her all over the world, including Singapore, the USA, the Netherlands, and Norway. The experience was eye-opening. “The biggest takeaway for me was getting a global perspective. I saw how small and connected the agricultural community actually is. No matter where you go, we’re all working toward the same goals.



We face the same challenges and pressures and seeing how others tackle those problems really opened my eyes. I absolutely loved the experiential learning, just being able to learn by seeing things firsthand was such a gift.”

Another moment of great learning for Jodie was her presentation at the Nuffield conference. “It was terrifying and exciting all at once,” she says with a smile. “I’ve never done anything like that before. It was so rewarding to share my findings and step out of my comfort zone in that way.”

Now back home, Jodie is brimming with ideas. “I’m so excited to bring everything I’ve learned back to the station. I’ve got a hundred ideas I want to implement,” she says, her energy bubbling over. “We’re doing a great job

already, but there’s always room to improve, and I can see how we can do it even better.”

The Nuffield experience, she explains, wasn’t just about her personal growth—it was about giving back to the broader community. “I also want to help the younger generation on the station, share what I’ve learned, and hopefully inspire them. It’s not about me; it’s about contributing to something bigger.”

Jodie’s learning journey is far from over. “I hope this is just the start,” she says with enthusiasm. “It’s opened up my eyes and I want to keep growing, keep learning. I’m so lucky to work with great people who support me and who I can bring these new ideas to.”

For Jodie, the Nuffield Scholarship wasn’t just a career milestone—it was a life-changing experience. “It’s given me so much more than I ever expected. It’s broadened my horizons, built a network of incredible people, and made me prouder than ever to be part of this industry. I just hope I can give back as much as it’s given me.”

Nuffield International report

By Jodie Redcliffe (2013 Scholar)



2024 Scholars group before dinner at Parliament House.



ABOVE: Aussie Scholars at the pre-Contemporary Scholars Conference in Canberra.



RIGHT: Jodie Redcliffe with 2024 Nuffield International scholars, at the Contemporary Scholars Conference in Brazil.

The close relationship between Nuffield Australia and Nuffield International provides great benefit to our Australian scholars, giving them a front row seat for global opportunities and connecting them to all the Nuffield countries.

Nuffield International plays an important role in ensuring Nuffield is a truly global organisation, one that is cohesive and has an inclusive global footprint. They hold two flagship events. The annual Contemporary Scholars Conference (CSC) brings together each year's global cohort of scholars. This is now around 90 scholars from 14 countries. Next year's CSC is in Auckland New Zealand, and 2026 is in Japan. The second event is the Triennial held every three years. The next Triennial is in Ireland in 2026, then likely back to Australia in 2029.

When new countries become involved in Nuffield, they are encouraged and supported to become a fully independent Nuffield organisation. Brazil achieved this in 2021 and USA in 2024. Some countries currently being supported by Nuffield International with fledgling organisations are Japan, Chile, Germany, Poland, Denmark and Taiwan. Nuffield International has ten full member countries that are represented on the Nuffield International board.

A very important part of a country's establishment and success is their ability to both attract funding, and to award excellent scholars. Since 2015, Nuffield International has awarded 58 scholarships in eight countries.

The most significant development for Nuffield International has been the enormous boost received from the legacy of Chris Reichstein, 2014 Western Australian scholar.

Chris believed in the power of Nuffield to contribute to global agriculture through scholarships. He wanted his bequest to make an impact quickly, not to grow in perpetuity. Since the Chris Reichstein Philanthropy Fund's inception in 2022, Nuffield Australia have partnered with other Nuffield International investors to co-contribute to scholarships in Zimbabwe, Brazil and Chile. It has also enabled delegates from Kenya, Paraguay, Argentina and Chile to attend the CSC and to understand the Nuffield organisation and strengthen Nuffield Australia's ties in those countries.

Chris particularly loved Argentina during his own Nuffield travels, and when that economy stabilises, it will be wonderful to award the first Argentinian scholars supported by Chris Reichstein's legacy. This legacy is a

humbling demonstration of both the impact Nuffield had on a farmer from WA, and the impact that his gift has been able to make, and continues to make, in multiple countries.

Nuffield Australia provide administration and CEO services to Nuffield International and have been directly involved since its inception. Peter Nixon as the first Chair of Nuffield International, and Jim Geltch as the first CEO, did sterling work to set it up. Nuffield Australia continue to be involved because we believe in the power of Nuffield International to directly influence not only Nuffield scholars around the world, but influence agriculture in communities everywhere for the better.

Contemporary Scholars Conference in Brazil

The 2024 the Contemporary Scholars Conference (CSC) was held in Brazil in March and organised by Nuffield Brazil. The CSC embodies Nuffield’s mission to build a global framework for leadership, cooperation and development in agriculture.

Since the CSC began in 2006 it has been the kickstart of global scholars’ scholarship journey and in Brazil there was an extremely high level of engagement between all the scholars. Several scholars continued their travels visiting new connections from the CSC throughout a range of different countries.

The calibre of scholars across all countries is high. All scholars benefited from the conversations and learnings from each other over the course of the week, with what was a very diverse group of nationalities, industries, occupations and personalities. We could describe this as the ‘wisdom of the crowd’: understanding complex topics by interactions among a very diverse group to create collective opinions that have more truth than individual preconceptions.

The CSC is an intentionally intense week. The aim is to extend scholars and take them out of their comfort zone. This is achieved in several ways: challenging knowledge, perceptions, and physical and mental discomfort. The 2025 CSC will be held in Auckland, New Zealand. It is sure to be a fascinating week.



TOP: CSC 2024 group in Brazil.
MIDDLE: On a field visit in Brazil with David Brownhill (1998), NI Board Member third from the left.
LEFT: Jodie and Wayne Redcliffe speaking with a guide in Bonito, Brazil.



Pre-CSC in Canberra

To prepare our scholars for their international travels, we held a pre-CSC week in Canberra for the 2024 cohort of scholars, immediately prior to their departure for Brazil. Members of the Nuffield Australia Board also attended.

The week included meetings with DAFF/FDF, including the Secretary of DAFF, Adam Fennessy, Special Representative Su McCluskey and senior FDF executives. Also represented were the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), GRDC, Agrifutures and the National Farmers Federation.

The ABARES Outlook Conference provided much food for thought as well as a field visit to CanTurf and a very interesting afternoon spent with CSIRO at their Black Mountain venue.

The week was capped off by dinner at Parliament House for the scholars and board members.

LEFT: Sally Higgins and Michael Taylor in good company preparing to lay a wreath on behalf of Nuffield.
MIDDLE: The 2024 Scholar group at DAFF office in Canberra.
RIGHT: National Farmers Federation President David Jochinke (2007 Scholar) with Jodie Redcliffe at pre-CSC in Canberra.

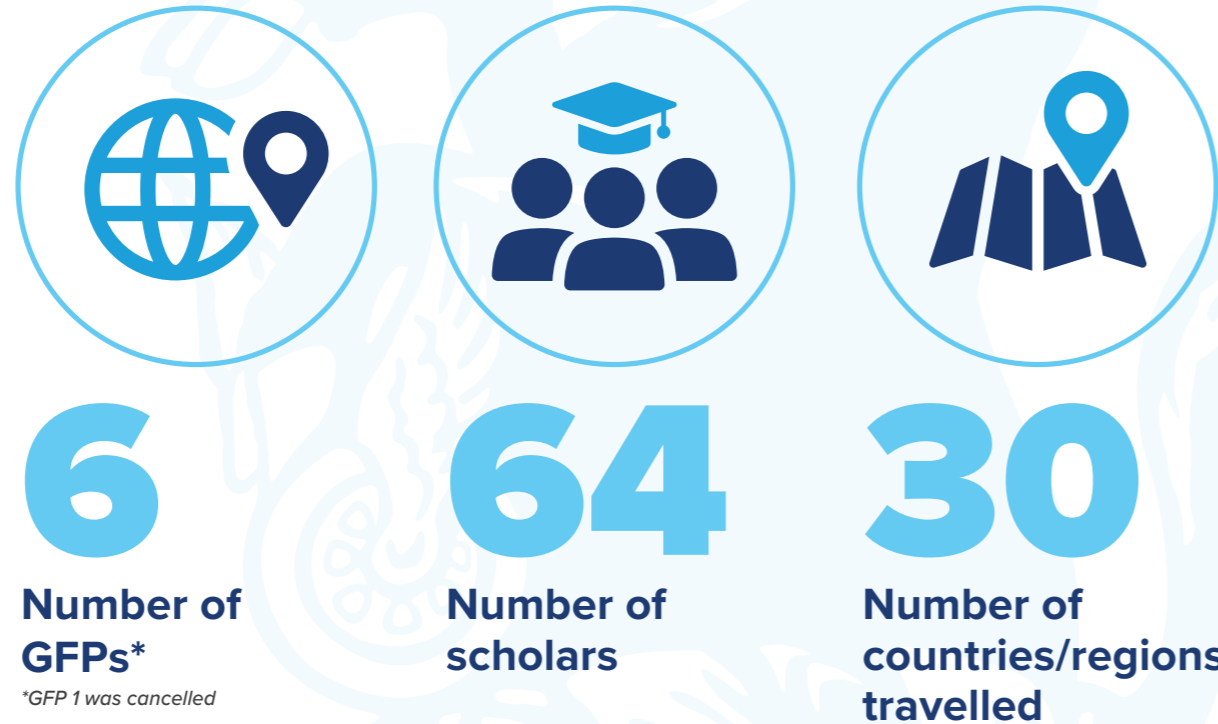


A Global Focus – 2024

The Global Focus Program (GFP) is a bit like the jewel in the crown of the Nuffield scholarship experience. While only one component of the scholarship, it is often the most precious and valuable part.

When recipients initially get awarded a scholarship, it can feel like an individual achievement. Scholars focus on their chosen topic and planning their individual travel, but it is the group activities – the Contemporary Scholars Conference (CSC) and the GFP that are often the most memorable.

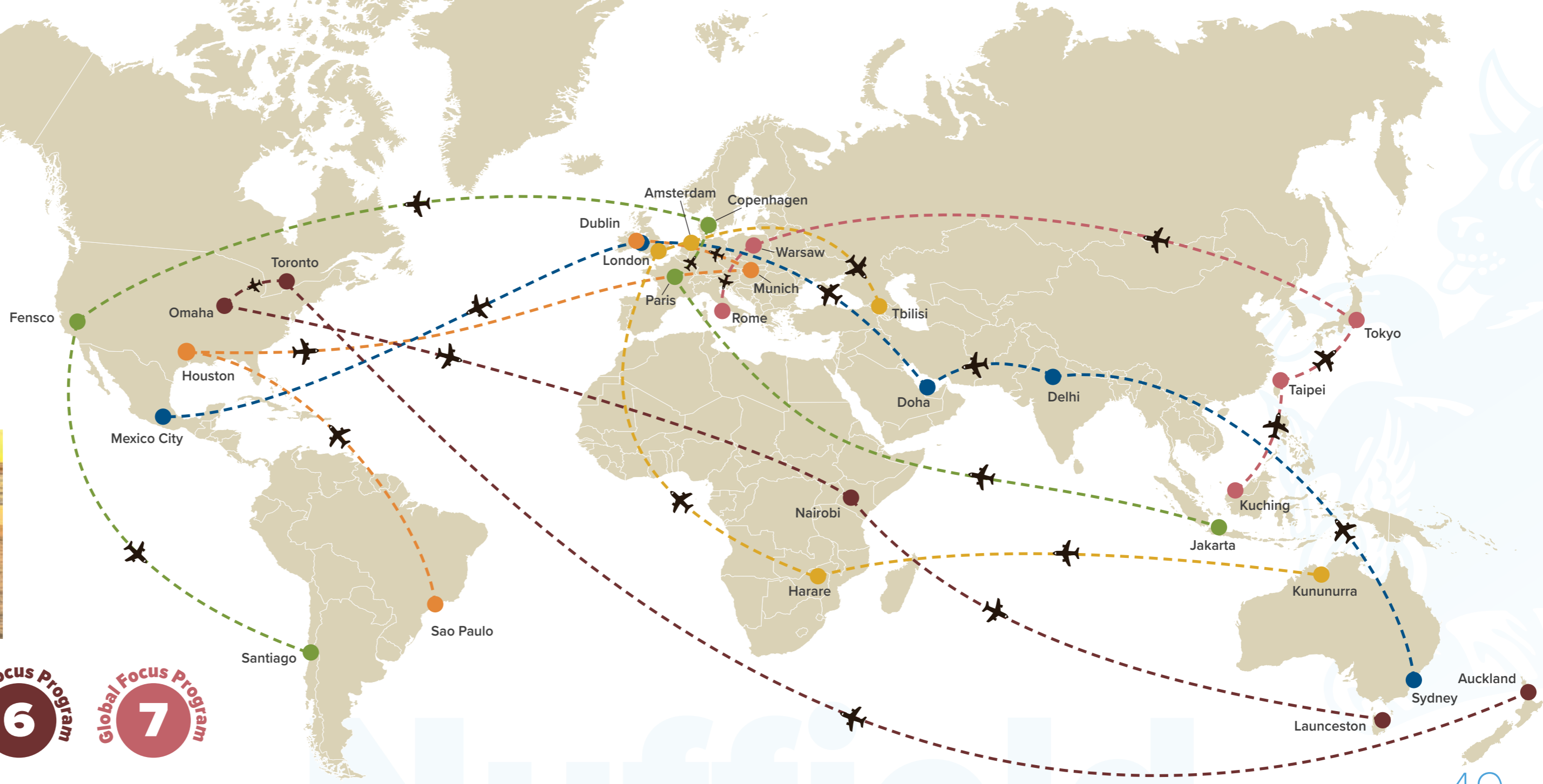
Several scholars from different countries reflect on their recent GFP experience over the following pages.



Global Focus Programs at a glance:



Global Focus Program map



- Global Focus Program 2
- Global Focus Program 3
- Global Focus Program 4
- Global Focus Program 5
- Global Focus Program 6
- Global Focus Program 7

A Global Focus - 2024



Steven Pocock 2024 Zimbabwe Scholar

Many stories I'd heard from others were about GFPs being incredible experiences, but often gruelling and pushing you to your breaking point. People spoke about things like a lack of sleep, navigating complex group dynamics, hectic itineraries and balancing work demands and family at home while travelling around the world. Perhaps I was lucky, but my GFP didn't have a lot of those aspects. Our group was made up of incredible people who constantly did what we started to refer to as the 1%ers – essentially people going the extra mile for the benefit of others. Although our itinerary took us around the world, it seemed manageable – some days were non-stop, packing in up to eight meetings and going from 6am to 11pm, but on other days we were able to relax and unwind.

I was most challenged by what I experienced in Kenya. As a Zimbabwean, I had assumed that Kenya had managed to overcome some of the stubborn challenges that many African nations – including my own – are still wrestling with. I was surprised that issues about redistribution of land, restitution, and settlement of historical grievances persist. Essentially, Kenya is still grappling with, and agriculture is being impacted by, the legacy of colonial-era land ownership structures that placed vast tracts of fertile land in the hands of a few, while many communities were displaced or marginalised. This is still fuelling tensions across Kenya over 60 years after independence. I couldn't help but draw parallels with Zimbabwe, and question whether we would ever be able to move past the tensions of our colonial past.

A highlight was a night at 2024 Nuffield Scholar Jaclyn Wilson's Flying Diamond Ranch in Nebraska – complete with the biggest (and possibly best) steak I've ever had, followed by a night under the stars. We had pre-dawn ATV rides over the sandhills for coffee and breakfast, followed by a Wim Hof-style ice bath... in a cattle trough!

The biggest thing I'll take away from the GFP experience is the network and lifelong friendships.



ABOVE: GFP 6 in New Zealand.
BELOW: Steven Pocock cools off in a water trough in Nebraska.



Stephanie Tabone 2024 Australian Scholar

My expectations of the GFP were high and they were definitely exceeded! I learned about diverse farming systems from across the world. I was exposed to new concepts that I don't experience in everyday life and work. I was challenged personally and pushed out of my comfort zone, and I formed strong connections with my fellow scholars.

I was surprised by the immense amount of effort and expense that goes into wildlife conservation in Zimbabwe. Sitting on the back of a safari ute in a wildlife conservation park when we watched a lion be tranquilised. The team placed a collar on it to track its movements. This would help it be relocated to another park so they could expand their conservation efforts. It was incredible to understand the complexities behind maintaining diverse species in a closed system.

The many laughs, happy memories, thought provoking conversations on the bus after our visits, and support we gave each other when we were struggling is something I will never forget.

One of the low points of the GFP for me happened early in the trip. I had immense feelings of imposter syndrome. I was out of my comfort zone, being exposed to things that challenged my values and perceptions, and I hadn't quite found the confidence to speak up about my thoughts and opinions. But when I shared with the GFP group how I was feeling, they were so supportive and encouraging.

The GFP gave me the opportunity to learn from my fellow scholars - how they ask questions, the way they think, and to learn about their areas of expertise. It gave me exposure to diverse, big picture concepts that I would probably never otherwise be exposed to. It taught me a lot about myself and gave me the opportunity to learn new skills and to put them into practice in a safe space. And most importantly, it offered connections – with inspiring people around the world.



GFP 5 watching a lion being tagged in Zimbabwe.



Alex Melotto 2024 Brazilian Scholar

What I expected to get from the GFP was to get to know new countries, cultures and agricultural systems, new ways to produce food and different management systems. What I learned was so much more than this. Travel is a good thing, but when you travel from one country to another, the differences become very clear, and it makes you think about why and how we can feed the people who live in such different social, financial, cultural and political conditions.

The biggest challenge for me was to not come home too fat!

The GFP is a group experience, the group discussions and moments were very rich.



ABOVE: GFP 5 with herd of elephants in Zimbabwe.
MIDDLE: Alex Melotto takes a selfie in the hills of Georgia.
LEFT: GFP 5 in Kununurra, Western Australia.



Shannen Davies 2024 Australian Scholar

Looking back on the GFP, it was an incredible, once in a lifetime experience. It is such a unique way to travel and experience different cultures - immersing ourselves in various agricultural systems while getting a real sense of how other countries approach farming and food production, with a great group of people.

The GFP was more exhausting and challenging than I had expected. It taught me to adapt quickly, helped me grow my communication skills, and forced me to think critically about agriculture on a global scale.

It requires a lot of energy to stay engaged and lively throughout the day and night with the group, hosts, and the people we visited, with little rest time. On top of that, maintaining connections with loved ones back home and continue showing up for them, even from a distance was a challenge.

The highlight for me was absolutely the people. Our group was made up of incredibly talented, diverse, and inspiring individuals. They challenged me to see things from new perspectives and pushed me to think differently. The hosts and everyone we visited were so generous with their time and knowledge, and the camaraderie among us made every experience richer and more meaningful. It felt like being part of a community that truly wanted to see each other grow and succeed.

It has broadened my understanding of global agriculture, I gained firsthand insight into how the countries we visited approach common challenges like sustainability, climate change, labour, and food security.



GFP 2 just prior to having dinner at Hillsborough Castle, Belfast, Ireland.



Paul Windemuller 2024 USA Scholar

I had talked to many people that had been on a GFP before, so it prepared me for the intensity of it. I knew it was going to be extremely tiring, which it was, but I felt like I learned so much from many different aspects - people, cultures, worldviews, and methods of business.

I think the most surprising moments were twofold: the access and in-depth discussions visit hosts were willing to have with our group, and the amount of deep personal discussions we had within our group about life, aspirations, viewpoints, fears.

The thing about the GFP that added the most to my Nuffield experience was the aspect of working as a group and coming together for a long period of time, 24/7. It was a dynamic that one does not get much in life, and the travel element of diving into different cultures amplifies that even more.

TOP: GFP 2 at Clark Ranch in Texas.
BOTTOM: GFP 2 at the Horsch factory in Germany.



Ed Towers 2021 UK Scholar

From speaking with scholars that had participated in previous GFPs I expected a packed schedule, overwhelming the participants with interesting business after interesting business.

The biggest surprise came on day one of the trip. I was in Narrabri awaiting the arrival of the rest of the group. One of the Australian scholars, Leoni, had driven eight hours from the coast to meet us and kindly volunteered her motor for the Australian leg. The flight from Sydney to Narrabri for the rest of the group was cancelled at the last minute, but they found an alternative flight to Dubbo. No problem, only three hours away, so we hired another car for me to drive and we would do the six-hour round trip. Ten minutes out from the airport at Dubbo, we came across the scene of a motorbike accident. The rider had come off his bike and had gone under a ute coming the other way. We parked up and with another passer-by, we began CPR until paramedics arrived shortly after. Unfortunately, we learnt the next day that he had passed away shortly after in hospital.

This turned out to be the first in a series of challenges. Three days later I was a passenger in Leoni's car when it struck a kangaroo. Then during a long day of travel from Sydney to India, we were stranded on a Sydney runway for

six hours, halfway through I received a call from my mum to say my grandad had passed away. Due to the delays, we missed our connection, and I arrived at New Delhi in 40+ degrees temperature some 29 hours later without luggage or a grandad. Following this we eventually got our luggage back to the relief of the group, but our fortune was short-lived. The next challenge was food poisoning which affected five of the nine participants of the group to varying levels. We limped onto Qatar to safer food but even hotter temperatures. During the Ireland leg I returned home for two days for my grandad's funeral, followed by the neighbouring farmer's funeral the day after.

There were two main highs I take from the experience. The way the group focussed on helping each other through, and that I regained confidence in my ability to function despite the lows. The whole trip for me was a roller coaster of ups and downs, being in amazing places with unbelievable itineraries mixed with the emotional trauma.



GFP 3 discussing issues in Ireland.



Nick Young 2024 Australian Scholar

I tried to go into the GFP without any expectations or pre-conceived ideas. Our GFP was a very pleasant surprise. We were incredibly fortunate to have excellent hosts in every country. They put together thoughtful itineraries that were full of diverse and interesting visits and people. They went above and beyond to organise side events (D-Day landings in Normandy, boat cruises, skiing) and were warm and gracious with the hospitality they gave us.

I was surprised in the first week in Indonesia at the Great Giant Pineapple – the world’s biggest pineapple farm and processing facility. It was mind blowing in the scale (25,000 hectares) of pineapple production, and the advanced technology that was used in the cannery. The highlight was the way the group got along. Everyone was understanding and respectful of each other and our different personalities. One of the lowlights was arriving in Fresno, California to 46-degree heat. Another challenge for me was the constant travel and early morning long haul flights.

I think the GFP has been the most valuable part of my Nuffield experience. I loved the chance to travel with a group of 12 other scholars and meet with a range of farmers and ag professionals from Asia, Europe the U.S. and South America. I would do it all again in a heartbeat.



TOP: GFP 4 examine crops in Denmark.

BOTTOM: Michael Martin (2024 Ireland) with Nick Young in France.



Carlos Bagrie 2024 New Zealand Scholar

I had pretty high expectations for learning and personal growth, but honestly, the whole experience blew me away. I thought I’d meet some interesting people and see some fascinating farming practices, but I didn’t expect just how intense and amazing it would be.

Spending six weeks with a bunch of curious, like-minded people, diving into different countries and cultures, was something else. It was way beyond what I imagined and really opened my eyes in ways I hadn’t anticipated. It ended up being an incredible, life-changing experience.

One of the challenges for me was being away from home and my young family. Even with all the modern communication tools, you can’t shake that feeling of isolation and being removed from them. It’s hard to truly stay connected from so far away, and there were moments when I felt a sense of guilt for being out there on this incredible journey while they were back home without me.

Participating in the GFP was the single most valuable part of my Nuffield scholarship. The greatest learning came from the late-night conversations, the debates at airports, and the deep dives into everything we saw and everyone we met. Travelling with such an engaged group made it possible to question and challenge each other, and that’s what truly enriched my experience.

TOP: GFP 5 in a wine region in Georgia.
BOTTOM: Carlos in Netherlands during the GFP 5 trip.





Philip Odendaal 2022 Zimbabwe Scholar

My journey throughout Nuffield has brought a lot of narrative changes to my own life. Because of this I already knew that I was going to have my perspectives challenged.

Indonesia was the most surprising place for me. I did not realise how big the population was and that it was a less developed country, but a bustling one. I actually fell in love with the country and cannot wait to return to it.

It would be impossible to think of one high. But if I were to find one, to me Nuffield has been all about the people. I met a French scholar in 2022 at the CSC. She then came over for individual travel to Zimbabwe and we cemented a friendship. It was wonderful to travel through France, meet her husband and children and rekindle what I hope will be a lifelong friendship. France was an immersive, beautiful experience focused on what I believe to be important.

A low for me was being slapped in the face by the harsh reality of the homelessness in the U.S. I feel I needed to see it, but I never would have believed the most powerful nation on earth would have that level of homelessness.

My participation in the GFP has yielded great value to my Nuffield experience. I know for the first time in my life, categorically who I want to be, and what I want to do with my life.



TOP: GFP 4 in Denmark.
BOTTOM: GFP 4 at a factory in Indonesia.



Niall Hurson 2024 Ireland Scholar

The most surprising moment of the GFP was the level of wealth inequality in India. Of course, I was aware prior to our trip that India is a developing country, but as our flight landed in New Delhi this reality was deeply uncomfortable to see. The super-rich live next door to those who don't even have enough to provide food for their children that day.

During one of our first bus journeys in New Delhi we passed by a literal mountain of rubbish, which made the dump truck that was traversing it almost look like a child's toy, such was the scale. Despite this level of inequality, the people of India offered us a warm hand of friendship, and I will look back fondly on our time there.

One obvious high of the GFP was our night spent on the farm of Michael Taylor in New South Wales. Michael prepared a campfire for us and on that night, the sky was perfectly clear and hosted a spectacular opportunity for stargazing.

The low was at the very beginning where our flight from Sydney to Narrabri was cancelled at the last moment. Despite most having just met for the first time, we were able to pull together and book an alternative flight to Dubbo where fellow scholars kindly picked us up.

The GFP has given me friends for life, a greater understanding of global agriculture and contacts in every corner of the globe. It has also given me an extraordinary amount of food for thought, which will take a long time to work through, but one thing we can all agree on is that we are certainly richer for having experienced it.



TOP: GFP 3 at Michael Taylor's (2025) farm in NSW.
BOTTOM: GFP 3 enjoy a banquet in India.



Omid Ansari 2022 Australian Scholar

This experience has been invaluable, and the opportunity to participate in such a prestigious program is deeply appreciated. The GFP represents a truly unique opportunity for scholars to engage with global agriculture on a practical and strategic level.

This immersive experience has equipped me with a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities shaping agriculture across five distinct regions. Each country offered its invaluable perceptions, from Poland's advanced mechanisation and cooperative farming models to Borneo's smallholder-based sustainability practices and Italy's commitment to artisanal and high-value production. The diversity of these experiences emphasises the complexity and richness of the global agricultural landscape.

TOP: GFP 7 in Taiwan.
 BOTTOM: GFP 7 at a dinner in Japan.



ABOVE: GFP 6 along with Bart Ruth (USA Nuffield Chair) on extreme left and Jaclyn Wilson (2024, USA Scholar) in the middle at Jaclyn's farm in Nebraska.

Nuffield and the Future Drought Fund

By Jodie Redcliffe, Nuffield Australia CEO

Nuffield Australia was thrilled to receive funding from the Future Drought Fund (FDF) in late 2022. The funding worth \$1.6 million over two years (2022-23 and 2023-24) will be delivered through the Drought Resilience Scholarship Program.

The FDF partnership is an incredible opportunity that we have grasped with both hands. The funding will benefit the entire cohort of scholars, while also supporting five FDF scholarships each year.

All scholarship recipients awarded by Nuffield Australia between 2022 and 2024 are encouraged to enhance drought resistant practices, tools and technologies, and increase their skills to communicate and lead learnings about drought resilience in their community and industry.

This will provide the most significant value to Australian agriculture by enabling the greatest spread of influence in a short space of time. It will maximise long-term outcomes for drought resilience under the Future Drought Fund Act 2019.

Five scholars were selected as FDF Nuffield scholars in September 2023, and they have been traveling and learning this past year. Their topics range from building regenerative resources, examining lot feeding and export hay for drought proofing, the place of agroforestry in ag systems, and building

farmer resilience. The five scholars come from Queensland, NSW and Victoria, all working on family farms.

The entire 2024 cohort including these five FDF scholars began the year with an intense week in Canberra focusing on the themes of carbon balance, biodiversity, and water use. They were hosted for the week in the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) offices where they participated in a climate resilience workshop using cutting-edge farm mapping software and discussed of the role of first nations people in food and agriculture.

The themes of resilience and sustainability in the face of drought and a changing climate keep cropping up on the scholars' Contemporary Scholars Conference and Global Focus Program travels. Scholars are finding that the urgency of dealing with drought and other climate shocks is at the forefront of the minds of many farmers globally.

The second cohort (another five) of FDF Scholars were awarded at the Annual Conference in Launceston. They are

studying topics ranging from the impact of diversification on preparedness, measuring the value of policy and of sustainability commitments, and supporting small scale poultry and reinvigorating the wool industry for on-farm resilience. The Scholars are from five different states across the country.

Several DAFF staff, including Tim Sides, Principal Director Future Drought Fund Innovations and Adoptions Branch, and Lia Luketic, Assistant Director in the State and Territory Partnerships team who leads the scholarship program liaison, attended the awards dinner and stayed on to enjoy the conference presentations.

Nuffield Australia has successfully secured another four years of funding in the recent Federal budget. The next phase of funding is worth \$3.2m over four years, to 2029. The 2029 scholars will not finish their programs until 2030 so this funding will have an ongoing impact on our delivery of services for quite some time.

The funding is assisting Nuffield Australia to deliver a quality program that is seen as valuable and useful. It is a very close and mutually beneficial relationship with DAFF. Nuffield can draw on their resources, and they benefit from the scholars' research through quarterly updates and connection opportunities.



ABOVE: (L-R) Jane Bennett, Lucy Dodd (2025 Scholar sponsored by FDF) and Tim Sides, Acting Principal Director, Future Drought Fund.

The first Australian Focus Program for the 2024 and 2025 FDF scholars is being planned for early next year. They will have a whirlwind schedule connecting with two drought hubs in Toowoomba (the Southern Queensland Northern NSW hub led by USQ), the node at Armidale in northern NSW, and the Southern Drought Hub led by Charles Sturt University at Wagga Wagga. Throughout the week the scholars will also be able to connect with Nuffield alumni working on farm with innovative resilience practices.

The next four to five years will see Nuffield Australia extend its relationship with DAFF, while examining the future strategy, ensuring maximum value from the funding to enhance our programs. The board's annual strategy days are very much focused on the sustainable future of Nuffield Australia: selecting the very best scholars, giving them the very best experience and maintaining a connected and useful alumni.

A look into Nuffield Scholar reports and what's coming next

By Tessa Dimond, Nuffield Scholarship Manager, (2023 Scholar)

After the disruption of global travel due to COVID, Nuffield Scholars from 2020 to 2023 are now finally seeing their research come to fruition. A surge in report releases is offering fresh insights into some of agriculture's most pressing challenges.

Scholars have returned from their international studies armed with new ideas, ready to shape the future of Australian farming. From innovative technologies to sustainable farming practices, these reports reflect the resilience and adaptability of the Nuffield community.

Completed and released reports

Over the past year, 13 Nuffield Scholar reports have been published, offering profound insights into their respective industries. Among these reports, standout topics include workforce training, advanced technology in agriculture, and sustainability.

- **Charles Downie** explored the role of training in overcoming the agricultural workforce crisis, highlighting how competent staff are just as important—if not more so—than technological efficiencies.
- **Hans Loder** delved into the future of data-driven agriculture, envisioning a world where farmers can manage their vineyards, enhancing decision-making with real-time AI-generated insights.
- **Lucy Collins** tackled the delicate issue of animal welfare in the dairy industry, proposing a systematic welfare assessment framework to build trust and transparency with consumers.

These reports, along with those by Fritz Bolten, Miriam Villen King, Paula-Lee Pownall, and others, are already available and making waves across the agricultural community. They provide actionable solutions and long-term strategies for a wide range of agricultural sectors, each with its own unique challenges.

Reports in progress

Currently, 19 reports are in the editing pipeline, with scholars like Mitchell Henderson, Aimee Snowden, Luke Chaplain, and Richard Quigley offering fresh perspectives that are expected to be released soon. Among these upcoming reports:

- **Mitchell Henderson** is exploring alternative weed control measures to reduce reliance on herbicides, a topic highly relevant to producers grappling with herbicide resistance.
- **Aimee Snowden** is crafting a vision for immersive food and fibre education in primary schools, aiming to inspire the next generation of agriculturalists.
- **Luke Chaplain** is highlighting the transformative power of drone technology in livestock mustering, with findings that could revolutionise the way livestock is managed across vast terrains.

Each of these reports promises to offer innovative solutions tailored to real-world agricultural challenges.

The challenge of editing

Behind each report lies a rigorous editing process that ensures scholars' insights are clear, concise, and impactful. This year, alumni have played a crucial role in supporting this process, proving that one of Nuffield's strongest assets is its alumni network. Their expertise, experience, and dedication are invaluable in the critical phases of proofreading and refining reports.

However, editing remains a significant challenge. Balancing technical accuracy with readability, ensuring reports resonate with both industry professionals and broader audiences, and meeting tight deadlines are all part of the process. Fiona Chilvers and Tim Hutchings have been instrumental in providing one-on-one support to scholars, ensuring reports meet Nuffield's high standards. But the demand for editors and proofreaders continues to grow. We invite alumni to step forward and contribute their valuable skills to this vital stage, further strengthening the quality of reports and enriching the Nuffield community.



Where's Nicola?

Nicola Raymond is regarded with much affection within the ranks of Nuffield scholars for the huge role she played in working for Nuffield Australia during some of its most remarkable times – during the rapid expansion and COVID. Having moved on to different pastures in January 2024, we asked Nicola herself to give everyone an update.

Looking forward: the future of scholar reports

As we move further away from the restrictions of the COVID hangover, there's a sense of optimism. The future of Nuffield reports is exciting, with scholars adopting new methodologies, integrating technology, and focusing on sustainability. The reports are becoming more collaborative and reflective of global challenges, from managing climate variability to aligning with stringent international market demands.

Reports such as Billy Browning's exploration of irrigation on non-vertisol soils, Munro Hardy's integration of advanced technology in the Northern Territory, and Jodie Mitchell's research into early weaning in sub-tropical environments are leading the way. Sarah Crosthwaite, meanwhile, addresses mental health in farming, offering insights into tackling the unique stressors that farmers face. Future reports will continue to provide practical solutions, with more accessible, interactive formats to help farmers apply these findings directly to their operations.

A community of scholars shaping agriculture

The next wave of reports will focus on a diverse range of topics: from improving soil compaction in the thoroughbred industry (thank you, Adam Williamson), to Andrew Ham's investigation into biofuels and sustainable aviation fuel. This year's reports are a testament to the global network of knowledge Nuffield Scholars tap into. Each report reflects a broader trend toward environmental stewardship, innovation, and market adaptation.

With scholars crisscrossing the globe, pushing boundaries, and sharing their findings, Australian agriculture is poised to remain at the forefront of global farming practices. Stay tuned for more report releases as the Nuffield community continues to evolve and thrive

All reports can be accessed at:

 www.nuffieldscholar.org/reports

I look back fondly on a career period of 12 years working at Nuffield Australia. I was approached by Jim Geltch (and Brendon Smart), back in 2010 to support them as Event Manager for the 2011 Nuffield International Conference in SA/WA. The period working with Jim from 2010 to 2016 was a remarkable time, seeing the expansion of scholars and growth in the delivery of Global Focus Programs. I coordinated three per year when I started, and that became nine GFPs in 2023. Over the past 12 years, I have gained some great friendships with scholars, as well as hearing every excuse possible for a scholarship report not being submitted on time!

These days I am part of the team at the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust. Whilst I continue to work from home in the SA Riverland, I am regularly visiting the main office in Canberra. Since starting, I have continued some Event Management, implementing the 'Churchill Policy Room' breakfast event at Australian Parliament House in June, where several Churchill Fellows presented their policy ideas to MPs and Senators.

The Churchill Trust received 1,100 applications this year and 103 successful Fellows have recently been announced. All will come together for a two-day 'Onboarding' briefing in late-October in Canberra, and I look forward to being heavily involved.

I am also getting quite an extensive education with a vast variety of research topics! Last week for example, I reviewed and edited four Fellowship reports, and the topics were: 1) Latest techniques in wig and facial hair making; 2) Improving function and quality of life in patients with malignant brain tumours; 3) Cross-border threat finance cell to enhance border security; and 4) Endangered basketry practices and ways to preserve them.

I look forward to seeing many of you at a future function, and best wishes for the festive season and 2025.

Nicola Raymond, (2006 Scholar)

Save the date!

Nuffield International Triennial Conference 2026

18–26 May, 2026

*Get ready alumni, Nuffield International
Triennial Conference 2026 is fast approaching!*

Taking place every three years, and hosted by a different Nuffield country each time, the Triennial event is an 8–10 day long conference and study tour. It provides the opportunity for alumni near and far to come together and learn about agriculture and much more in the host country, whilst travelling and meeting with Nuffield friends old and new. The Triennial event provides multiple tours focused on key agricultural production systems as well as some cultural tours of the host country.

Nuffield 2026 is proudly hosted by Nuffield Ireland. The first Nuffield Triennial took place in 1983 in Victoria Australia, and Ireland previously hosted the event once in 2008. The last Triennial took place in New Zealand in 2023 after a long delay post Covid having originally being planned for 2020. However, despite the setback, over 240 Nuffield Alumni from 15 countries attended the event in New Zealand.

Nuffield Ireland is delighted to welcome you to the Emerald Isle from May 18th – 26th, 2026. The all-Ireland Triennial tour will travel from North to South, taking in a variety of different agricultural and cultural experiences from Northern Ireland through the Republic of Ireland bringing you through many counties, farms, sectors and industry organisations. This all-island approach will give attendees an in-depth insight into Irish Agriculture and showcase the best of what we, as an island, have to offer from grass-based livestock production including beef and dairy, to innovation, research and agricultural technology development.



ABOVE: Five former Nuffield Australia Board Chairs enjoying the 2023 Triennial in New Zealand. L-R David Brownhill (1998), Brendon Smart (1990), Andrew Fowler (2000), Rob Bradley (2009) and Peter Nixon (1990).

This nine-day itinerary will include an opening reception with an opportunity for alumni to connect and reconnect, a dedicated agricultural conference open to all industry stakeholders to showcase the latest developments in the sector followed by a gala dinner, multiple social occasions and most importantly visits to over 50 farms, industry organisations and cultural venues across the island of Ireland.

If you would like to know more about the event or to register your interest, please visit:

[▶ www.nuffield2026.com](https://www.nuffield2026.com)

Nuffield Australia is grateful to all Scholars who so generously shared stories and photos for this publication. It is in the sharing that we all benefit.

We look forward to 2025 with much anticipation.

2025 Nuffield National Conference and Regional Tour

Will be in Adelaide, South Australia

8–12 September, 2025

Come and join us!



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