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# Nuffield New Zealand E-Nuff: April 2011

## Message from the Chair—Stuart Wright

It is wonderful to be able to host an event such as the Nuffield Contemporary Scholars Conference (CSC), but it is even more satisfying and with a sense of relief when it is successfully completed. The 50 new scholars taking part from the UK, Ireland, Canada, Australia, France and New Zealand have been challenged and then encouraged to debate the issues put before them. They have had the opportunity to mix with their peers, form networks that stretch internationally and by the end of the week they have developed an understanding of what being a Nuffield Scholar means. A huge thank you to Dick Davison for taking on the role of organising this conference. Also to Barbie Barton for her support of Dick, and in her managing the Wellington component as well as looking after the finer day to day details. Well done both of you!

With the development of the CSC over the last six years it has meant that there

has been a need for greater cooperation and planning between Nuffield member countries. The CSC provides the ideal opportunity for Chairmen and CEO/Directors of each country to meet and address any issues that may be relevant to the international Nuffield program. Under the leadership of our International Chairman, Peter Nixon of Australia, there has been much discussion over the last two CSC conferences as to the best way to structure the international program, formalise interaction between member countries and to provide a robust processes to ensure the smooth running of the CSC and Triennial International Conferences. Also considered has been the laying down of criteria for the admission of any new countries into the Nuffield family. This has resulted in a draft set of rules and objectives for the **Nuffield International Association, Farming Scholarships (NIA)**. These will be taken to the Triennial Conference in Australia



later this year for ratification once each member country has considered the draft copy. This will not affect the day to day operation of any individual country Nuffield organisation, but will for the first time formally give some structure to how we interact.

The objectives and rules under how the NIA will operate will be circulated to all scholars for your information once the NZ trustees have had a chance to discuss them. Finally, our Australian counterparts would like to encourage you all to consider attending the Triennial Conference in Adelaide and Perth later this year. They have assured us that they have organised a great program and that a good time will be had by all.

## Introducing — Richard Green

The trustees have over the last few months been working through a process to appoint a permanent Director of the New Zealand Nuffield Farming Scholarship Trust. Many of you may ask why this is necessary.

We have identified that to ensure the long term viability of the scholarship within New Zealand we needed to improve our performance with our existing sponsors and create an environment that actively encourages new investment by potential sponsors. To be able to enhance and develop new and existing funding relationships was the key skill set we were looking for in the appointment process for the position of Director.

We were delighted with the response and quality of the applicants who applied. From this strong field we would like to announce that we have engaged Richard Green of Ashburton to fill this role. Richard is in his early 40's, married to Vicky with three children. He has a strong background and experience in agriculture and business and a passion for rural leadership. A brief outline of his working career is as follows

- BAQ Com Lincoln
- Agricultural Business Consultant for Agriculture NZ
- Director of Sales and Marketing of Agricom NZ Ltd (now part of PGG Wrightson)
- International Seed Business Manager for PGG Wrightson
- Director of a number of companies involved in agribusiness and other sectors

We are sure all scholars will join with us in welcoming Richard to the Nuffield fold. He attended the Wellington section of the Contemporary Scholars Conference to meet his international colleagues and contemporaries. He is due to start in this part time contract position officially in early April. Please, if you should happen to meet him make yourself known.

This appointment is a major development for the NZ Nuffield Scholarship program and we are confident that Richard will bring his range of skills to enhance the way we operate. Barbie Barton will continue in her role with the secretariat work for New Zealand Nuffield allowing Richard to fully concentrate on the relationships needed to add real value to our sponsors.



# Nuffield Contemporary Scholars Conference March 2011

## CSC Wellington

Nuffield 2011 CSC with a NZ Flavour! Dick Davison and his small band of helpers provided a stimulating start to the International Nuffield Class of 2011. On the 5<sup>th</sup> March the International Nuffield Contemporary Scholars Conference kicked off socially with registration and a get together in the bar of an Upper Willis St hotel. Nuffield New Zealand had the privilege of hosting the conference for the first time since its inception three years ago.

Sunday and the group received an official welcome from conference organiser Dick Davison and International Chairman Peter Dixon. They set the scene for the conference covering topics and expectations. Each of the 45 scholars got a 2 minute slot to present themselves and their study



John Palmer speaking to the scholars at Hanmer Springs

## CSC South Island

A calm ferry trip to Picton and lunch at Yealands Winery allowed the scholars to talk amongst themselves and see a bit of Marlborough. The next four days were based at Hanmer Springs with a trip to Reefton and a visit to the gold mine and subsequent speakers from mining and conservation interests organised by Bruce Hamilton.

We were able to outline the challenges facing rural communities with local speakers from the Amuri district, with a BBQ evening sponsored by FMG that included a number of local farming

topic to their peers. To further break the ice, an impromptu exercise was used to mix up the scholars and to complete a quick study on community issues from randomly chosen scholars. The session was well summarised by a couple of wise heads.

In the afternoon, although wet and dull outside, the quality of the speakers addressing the International Scholars were rays of sunshine on topics including International Trade, from New Zealand's Alistair Polson to emerging economies of Brazil and China from Milton Suzuki and James Su Hao. For northern hemisphere scholars a life without subsidies and trading realities outside the EU, were openly aired. Monday's setting was in Te Papa and a marae welcome set the tone for the second day in Wellington. Claudia Orange (CEO of Te Papa) gave a brief rundown on the Treaty of Waitangi and some of the conflicts New Zealand was attempting to grapple with. The speakers, Professor David Hughes, Chris Kelly, John Allen and Jacqueline Rowarth, challenged and interacted with the scholars. With a theme of "food production and economic gains verses environmental losses" prompted good discussion and hopefully a memorable experience from the day.

The day was rounded off with a government welcome and an address from



Delegates in Wellington

David Carter at a Parliamentary reception. Tuesday was an early start to catch the ferry from Wellington to Picton. Lunch was at Yealand Vineyard and Winery. Peter Yealand gave an understated overview of his operation and the special features he had incorporated into one of the most sustainable wineries and vineyards in the world. The final destination for the day was the Heritage in Hanmer Springs.

Unfortunately I had to leave the group there and return home. The time I had spent with the group was encouraging, invigorating, satisfying and thought provoking. Well done Dick, the conference was distinctly New Zealand and I believe it started the scholars on the right foot for their Nuffield journey.

Julian Raine

couples. Friday was designed to emphasize leadership with excellent addresses from John Palmer, Mark Inglis, Sam Johnson and Graham Robertson. You really had to be there, but from where I sat the day was inspirational. It is a bit of a challenge to organise some 70 people for a week, and provide a variety of experiences that will live on in the memory of this year's best & brightest. The Nuffield reputation is such that those asked to speak went well out of their way to agree.

It has been a privilege to see the Contemporary Scholars Conference in New Zealand and my

grateful thanks to Barbie Barton, Stuart Wright and Julian Raine for their support and to all those who provided their wisdom willingly and openly.

Dick Davison



Delegates visit a goldmine in Reefton, West Coast

## Nuffield Contemporary Scholars Conference March 2011



2011 New Zealand Nuffield Scholars Nicola and David talk with Agricultural Minister David Carter at the Parliamentary Reception.

The week spent on the CSC has again emphasised how big an opportunity the Nuffield Scholarship is and just how much this experience is going to change my view of the world and where the agriculture sits in various countries. I'm sure the experience will alter my path through the industry and there will be doors that I cannot imagine now, open up in the future due directly to the Nuffield experience. One of the things that I found most inspiring about the week was meeting the scholars from around the world and hearing their stories. It has started the process of opening my eyes to agriculture in other countries and their issues but also to how the agriculture industry fits into communities around the world. The range of speakers throughout the week was excellent and I think

## David Campbell

I am writing this on a bus somewhere between Uberaba and Ribeirao Preto, Brazil (not because I'm bored of looking out the window at the fantastically lush countryside, but because Barbie has imposed a tight copy deadline for the newsletter and this is my only spare moment today, and possibly this week!). After recently attending the C.S.C. back home, Brazil is the first stop on my Global Focus Tour – and I am particularly impressed with this place!

This year's conference in Wellington and Hamner Springs was special for the two NZ Scholars because we were able to be proud of our country, which was showcased so well to the other international scholars. Many of the speakers reinforced the efficiencies generated from NZ's free market policies and lack of agricultural subsidisation, the quality of our local speakers

was extremely high, the agribusiness field visits unique, and the powhiri at Te Papa was enjoyed by all. In addition, having so many previous Nuffield scholars return to present to us delivered a powerful message of the benefits a scholarship can bring in terms of personal growth, leadership and opportunities.

For me there were some key messages I have taken away:

John Palmer delivered an excellent summary of his pathway through various governance roles, and the importance of really understanding the culture of an organisation or business, making courageous decisions when required, and appointing (or unappointing!) the right management to move forward with the agreed strategic direction.

Su Hao (James) from China absolutely reinforced my current (and developing) thoughts on the large opportunities China presents to NZ agribusinesses. Milton Suzuki (the best tour guide in all of Brazil!!) showed us that Brazil is

## Nicola Waugh

they really highlighted some of the strengths of New Zealand and the New Zealand culture. It also increased my understanding of our country and different rural industries within which I have not had much to do with in the past such as the mining industry.

I thought the Friday session with Richard was fantastic as it emphasised the importance of the integrity of the work carried out and the standard of research that is required. I think that it also helped everyone to really think about how their individual project and how the results from this could be of benefit to the community and industry. It made us all think about what our role as a leader in our community and how not only the research itself but the skills developed can be used to help our local community and the greater industry. It was great to hear how people's topics have been moulded due to the discussions that had occurred throughout the week.

Not only did the CSC provide inspiration and enthusiasm but also fantastic contacts. The conference enabled contacts to be made globally and friendships to be forged. I know that having met these scholars I feel a lot more comfortable contacting not only scholars from my year but also past scholars whilst travelling around the world. It has also enforced the 'Nuffield family' concept which I have heard so much about.

I left the CSC inspired and full of enthusiasm to get underway with my research. It has helped me to clarify my project and I have made some fantastic friendships in the process. I feel very honoured to have been selected for this opportunity and know that I have a life-changing year ahead!

a significant and looming competitor with NZ's undifferentiated low cost commodity products.

and,

Sam Johnson, the founder of Canterbury Universities Student Volunteer Army, impressed us all with his story of natural, gutsy and compassionate leadership in the wake of the Christchurch Earthquake. His story demonstrated that clear vision and the right leadership has the potential to lead any organisation to great things!





2011 CSC Scholars at Parliamentary Reception



Richard Davison and Julian Raine at Yealands Estate Winery, Blenheim, CSC 2011

## Nuffield New Zealand Notice Board

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#### Secretary / Administration

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Nuffield Farming Scholarships have been offered to 124 innovative New Zealand farmers over the last 60 years.

### Important Dates

2012 Scholarship programme  
Applications close 31st August 2011

International Nuffield Conference—  
Australia  
September 17th –25th Adelaide Pre-tour  
Sept 25th—Oct 1st Conference  
October 1st—9th Perth Post-tour

**Nuffield International AGM** is now 29th  
September in Adelaide

New Zealand Nuffield  
Biennial Conference  
29th March—1st April 2012 in



**Thanks again to our Nuffield  
New Zealand sponsors**

### 2011 Scholar Itineraries

#### Nicola Waugh

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Leave NZ end March 2011

- ⇒ Travel to Cambodia for approximately 2 weeks
- ⇒ Travel on to the UK and spend until the end of July.
- ⇒ End of July head to America where I will do some travelling as well as Nuffield research,
- ⇒ Back to Canberra for the start of the Global Focus Tour in September
- ⇒ Back in NZ for the selections for 2012 scholars-October

#### David Campbell

David.Campbell@synlait.co.nz

- ⇒ March-April 16<sup>th</sup> Global Focus Program- NZ, Brazil, Mexico
- ⇒ Late April- mid May- UK
- ⇒ Mid May- late May- Italy and UAE
- ⇒ June- India and China
- ⇒ Mid July- Return to New Zealand

