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2017 Nuffield Australia Scholar



Dairy farmer from Tasmania, Australia

The CSC has been a very good opportunity to meet with other like-minded people from the agricultural sector around the world and also to get a much better understanding of agriculture and particularly what is happening in Brazil.

It's certainly an opportunity for me to have a look and see where we fit in the world and maybe adjust and move forward with our own business.

What are your thoughts on agriculture in Brazil?

It was a reinforcement of my understanding that they really are a major force in agriculture in the world. One of the facts that really came home to me is Brazil produces 10 per cent of the world's food, which amazes me.

What were some of the gems of the speakers and visits?

We had some very, very good quality speakers this week.

One of my highlights was Simon Wallace from Leitissimo. He took us through his journey from coming to Brazil and identifying an area suitable for dairy farming, through the detailed thinking that went into planning of the business, how they overcame challenges along the way and they how have built it into a very successful enterprise.

One of the technical visits we made was to Verni Wehrmannas cropping and vegetable production and processing facility, farming on an immense scale. It was superb what they were doing with their business as well.

What is the theme of your Nuffield research topic?

I am looking at the people side of farming businesses. In particular, how to ensure the person on the ground in the business has a clear and direct sight of what the overall goals of that business are and how they fit into that. Further to that, finding the best ways to provide ongoing feedback to people on the ground as to how they are performing and to discover the best way to reward those people to ensure we get the behaviours we are looking for. For instance, how appropriate are incentives? As agricultural businesses grow and more and more people are involved in the business I think it is something as farmers, we can do better.

I am very curious to find out both inside and outside of agriculture if there are some core principles we need to be looking at to ensure success in that area.

What is your message about the CSC for someone wanting to get involved in Nuffield?

It's a real opportunity to get outside of your local area, even your geographic area and have a chance to look back in with different eyes. It's a fantastic opportunity to network with like-minded people; a real horizon broadening experience. I encourage anyone to put their hand up as a way of developing themselves and their perspectives on their enterprise.

A Nuffield Scholarship is an intensive preparation for farmers and agri-professionals who are committed to life-long learning and to promoting excellence in all aspects of agricultural production, distribution, management and communication.

