



Jocellin Jansson
Executive Director

With 2008 well underway, our communities are celebrating the culmination of their efforts by seeing their latest crop of grant recipients commence TAFE, University, Apprenticeships and Traineeships. We wish all of our recipients happiness and success as they embark on achieving their goals and dreams and thank those involved in making it possible.

In 2007 CEFA grew by 65% and with this growth we are seeing a significant leap in the number of locally awarded grants. Typically these grants range from \$500 to \$2,500 and come at a pivotal time in a rural person's life when they are transitioning into their post high school pursuits. For our grant recipients going to university, many will benefit from the increased number of tertiary education partnerships that allow for some level of grant matching. Adding to this, we are delighted to welcome CIT aboard as our first TAFE partner. CIT have very generously donated \$20,000 a year to further assisting our students studying with them.

Lastly, thank you to everyone who assists CEFA to so positively impact the lives of many young people from rural Australia, we look forward to sharing our success with you during the year.

CIT Partners with CEFA

In early February, Canberra Institute of Technology partnered with CEFA as the first TAFE to offer grant matching to CEFA recipients. In fact, CIT was so eager to assist rural youth, that it insisted that the partnership begin immediately in order to assist our grant recipients starting at CIT for 2008. A huge thank you to CIT for supporting rural youth and leading the way as the first TAFE to partner with CEFA!

Thanks to Boyce Accountants

We would like to take the opportunity to thank Boyce Chartered Accountants for their involvement and support of CEFA. Boyce for the last six years has donated their accounting and advisory services to CEFA. In addition to this, Boyce staff have been greatly involved with the formation and operation of both the Goulburn and Monaro (covering Cooma, Jindabyne and Bombala areas) Education Foundations.

This is my story—Kloe Croker

What did you receive the grant for?

I received \$1000 towards my studies from the Boorowa Education Foundation... it went towards fees and textbooks for my Advanced Diploma in Journalism studies.

What difference has a CEFA grant made in your life?

My family is involved in agriculture and with the long running drought, it made a huge difference. Regardless of this, my family was going to support me, but it took a lot of the pressure off. At the time, I was working part-time as well. Receiving the grant meant I didn't have to get a second job and could focus more on my studies.

Tell us about your journey since leaving high school...

I went to Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) and I worked part-time for the Murray Darling Basin Commission in Canberra, which allowed me to gain work experience in journalism. Eight months into my studies at CIT, the lady who was running Boorowa's local newspaper asked me if I wanted to write a monthly news article. A few months later, she said she was retiring and it would be right up my alley. I rang her boss and she offered me a Cadetship with the Boorowa News, essentially as the Editor. I finished my studies while also being solely responsible for the newspaper. I was with the Boorowa News for two years, made a few contacts and recently decided to move onto something new. I am looking into public relations and agriculture and will probably end up in Canberra to be close to family and friends.

I believe you were part of the Boorowa Committee, are you still doing that?

Yes, I was Publicity Officer for two years and on the interview panel for a year. It was great to be able to give back after Boorowa supported me. I will continue to support them the best way I can.

The True Value of a Scholarship

Even small scholarships can make a big difference according to research undertaken at the Queensland University of Technology. There, thousands of low-income students are in receipt on Commonwealth or University scholarships ranging in value from \$1,000 to \$4,000 per year. What we repeatedly see significantly lower attrition (drop-out) rates with scholarship-holders compared other students (7.5% as opposed to 12.5%) says Mary Kelly, QUT's Manager of Equity. Mary goes on to add that it is important to note that 'surveys confirm that students spend the scholarships monies wisely – on books and essential living expenses'. An overwhelming number of students said that they experienced less stress and were able to put more time and attention towards their studies as they could reduce the amount of hours they needed to work to support the cost of their education. These positive effects were seen for all scholarships types and for all student groups, including rural, Indigenous, and low-income students says Mary.

Supporting our youth

Rural Students Forced To Defer University In Alarming Numbers

A compelling piece of research has recently been completed by the University of South Australia that focuses on the increasing rate of rural students deferring their university offers. Part of the latest research illustrated that the South Australian Tertiary Admissions Centre (SATAC); data (2007) shows 43% of rural students deferred their offer last year, compared to 20% of metro students. For every 100 rural students who enroll, 85 students defer. At several schools there were more students deferring than enrolling. A prime example is of this is one larger SA community where 25 students applied for university, 24 received an offer, 17 deferred and only 4 enrolled! In 2006 the deferral rate for rural students reached the highest point ever and therefore begs the question, why is this happening? For those involved in the area of equity of access to tertiary education, one of the key reasons is obvious and that is that the cost of accessing tertiary education for rural students is increasingly overwhelming. With the ongoing drought, there has been further erosion of the financial means of many families. Although this data only reflects South Australian deferral rates, it is indicative of what is happening right around the country. It is a compelling argument for more to be done by both state and federal governments to bridge the divide and ensure that all students, irrespective of their origins, have the opportunity of tertiary education if this is what they desire.

Upcoming 2008 CEFA Conference

CEFA's biannual conference will be held on March 15th 2008. A big thanks to Macquarie University for generously donating the use of their Macquarie Graduate School of Management's CBD facilities. The conference will allow our communities to learn from each other, share best practices and network. Additionally, attendees will hear about CEFA's vision for the future. We will also be hearing from Outward Bound regarding their partnership with CEFA and Jemima Buckman, a former Narrabri Outward Bound grant recipient. We look forward to seeing our attendees! If you have any questions regarding the conference, please do not hesitate to contact either Jocellin or Emily.

Our New Intern—Emily Berman

In January, Emily joined CEFA as a Boston University Intern. Emily will work with us while studying at Sydney University until late June. Back in the US, Emily is involved with Teach For America, an organisation committed to closing the achievement gap in America (coincidentally, Macquarie University has taken on the same initiative and is helping to create Teach For Australia!). Emily is studying business and general history and hopes to become a Principal at a low-income school the future.



National Aspiring Leaders Summit

Outward Bound is an organization that focuses on youth development. On the back of an enormously successful Leadership Summit program trial in 2007, CEFA and Outward Bound have collaborated to now make this Leadership Summit an annual event where together we provide fifteen full scholarships for students from CEFA communities around the country. These scholarships, valued at over \$1,700 each, are for the National Aspiring Leaders Summit in April. We are extremely happy to report that all fifteen spots are taken, eight students hailing from South Australia and seven from New South Wales. Students will participate in leadership and teambuilding activities over a seven day period. Last year's participants returned to their communities and initiated wonderful school and community projects and we have great faith that these year's participants will return to their communities with a greater sense of what it is to be a leader.

Cooper Pedy joins the CEFA Family

We recently visited Cooper Pedy to launch their new education foundation and have to acknowledge the incredible hospitality of everyone involved, especially the Underground Motel and everyone that we met. Cooper Pedy, home to about 50 different nationalities, is known for its opal mining, supplying about 80% of the world's opals, and underground dugouts. In Cooper Pedy, it is rare for students to reach Year 12; there are currently only five Year 12 students in its Area School of 200 students. Furthermore, access to post high school education and vocation opportunities is an issue as Cooper Pedy, a ten hour drive from Adelaide and an eight hour drive from Alice Springs, is very isolated. To promote further pursuits in tertiary education and vocation, SAPEX has kick-started the Cooper Pedy Education Foundation with a modest but generous donation. Chaired by Steve Staines, an enthusiastic and energetic young man, this committee is sure to do fabulous things for Cooper Pedy's youth.

Our Mission

To foster the further education, career and personal development opportunities of rural youth, through community based encouragement and financial assistance.

CEFA Communities . . .

South Australia

The Wool Wine and Wheat Country Education Foundation (including the communities of; Clare, Burra, Riverton, Balaclava and Snowtown), Birdwood (Adelaide Hills), Kangaroo Island, Eudunda, Kimba, Coober Pedy

Queensland

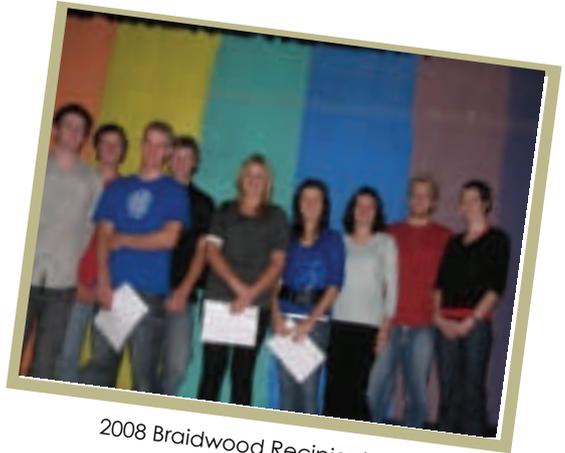
Paroo (Cunnamulla, Eulo, Wyandra, Yowah)

New South Wales

Wee Waa, Broken Hill, Mullaley, Coonamble, Harden, Goulburn, Mudgee, Junee, Scone, Ardlethan, Gilgandra, Young, Narrabri, Cessnock, Gulargambone, Yass, Boorowa, Braidwood, Cowra, Merriwa, Monaro (Jindabyne, Cooma, Bombala)



Beth Hoskins and Guy Milson awarding a 2008 Goulburn recipient



2008 Braidwood Recipients



Canberra Institute of Technology strikes a partnership with CEFA.
(L to R) Emily Berman, Tracey Hayne, Colin Adrian (CIT CEO), Jocellin Jansson, and Donna Christie



Coober Pedy Committee



2008 Goulburn Recipients



Guy Milson, who chairs the Goulburn Education Foundation, has joined CEFA's Board of Directors. Guy was an integral part of setting up the Goulburn Education Foundation

Sharing their Dreams