



A Message from the Director



2009 is already shaping up to be another great year for CEFA and our growing family of local education foundations. This year is very much one of consolidation for CEFA, enabling us to give the necessary time and attention to the many new foundations created over the last 18 months. Ensuring that they become well established and have sustainability

for the future is front of mind for the CEFA team. While we will continue to establish new local education foundations, it will be at a slower rate than in the previous two years.

A piece of exciting news that we are keen to share with you is the outcome of our latest round of grant making. While our annual reporting and grant analysis is still in progress, we have finalised some key results that include:

- Total grants for 2009 – 240, up from 152 in 2008
- Total value of 2009 grants - \$286,727, up from \$151,605 in 2008

- Total value of Education Partners' co-funding for 2009 - \$121,900, up from \$78,800 in 2008
- Total number of CEFA grants given to date - 1047
- Total value of grants given to date - \$1,081,610

It truly is remarkable what our local education foundations are achieving for their local youth, their local community and our nation. They deserve great praise.

We hope you enjoy our first newsletter for 2009 and we look forward to charting and sharing our progress with you throughout the year.

Warm Regards



Jocellin Jansson
Executive Director

Record Year of Grants in 2009

Reporting of CEFA community grants for 2009 pursuits is soon to be complete and we are proud to announce that grants from our local education foundations have reached a record high. A staggering 240 grants have been provided by our member communities totalling \$286,727, an increase of 88.5 per cent.

25 of our current 38 member communities were active in grant making, up from 17 in 2008. The remaining foundations are new and are working towards issuing grants for 2010 pursuits.

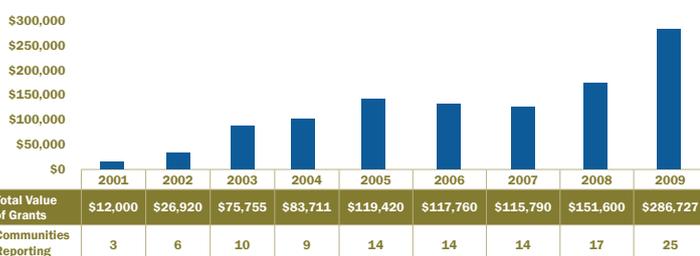
The 17 member communities who gave grants of \$152,000 last year, this year gave \$222,177 - a 47 per cent increase! Such an outstanding result is testament to the proactive approach of our local committees in addition to their even more successful fundraising efforts. The catalyst for both of these factors is to be able to better respond to an increased level of need for support for our young rural people in order to help make their transition from high school a successful one.

The eight new CEFA committees, who reported for the first time this year, provided a collective total of \$64,550 in grants. This is so encouraging and a very commendable achievement.

The grants of this year in comparison to previous years' results are portrayed in the graph below.

Well done to all our committees on such an overwhelming result. Congratulations!

Total CEFA Grants Awarded Per Year



Quote of the Quarter

“People from regional and remote areas are also seriously under-represented in higher education ... All of this is simply wrong.”

Julia Gillard, Education Minister as quoted in The Advertiser, 10 March 2009.

Government Support for Rural Students

Education Minister, Julia Gillard recently announced that the Federal Government has set a target to increase the enrolment of students from low socioeconomic backgrounds to 20 per cent of all higher education undergraduate enrolments. This will be an increase from the current level of 16 per cent. Ms Gillard's comments were made in response to the Bradley Review into higher education.

The Government's initiative would place an emphasis on equity for all young Australians and attract 55,000 students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds into the higher education system.

Ms Gillard stated that students from regional and remote areas were currently greatly under-represented within higher education however once these students entered university, their success rate equalled that of their peers.

The Bradley Review had recommended several wide-ranging student income support concepts to the Government. According to Ms Gillard, these recommendations will be considered within the Budget context.

This latest target from the federal education department is very conducive towards CEFA's mission and we wait with anticipation to see how this initiative develops.

Rabobank Young Rural Leaders Summit



It is not long until our first official Rabobank Young Rural Leaders Summit takes place. Funded by Rabobank and the Thyne Reid Foundation, this seven-day leadership program is based on last year's successful pilot program that was funded by the Thyne Reid Foundation. Rabobank and the Thyne Reid Foundation have generously funded 35 Summit Scholarships for the next three years, allowing one young person from each CEFA community to attend. By providing participants the opportunity to develop their leadership skills and strengthen their capabilities and confidence, the Summit aims to promote strong rural leaders of the future and create positive young role models in our member communities.



The 2009 Summit is based on last year's successful pilot program, as pictured above with CEFA participants.

Acknowledging the importance of fostering youth leadership in Australia's rural communities, Bruce Dick, CEO of Rabobank, said, "Rabobank is committed to supporting rural communities and the Young Rural Leaders Summit is a marvellous initiative where we can make a real difference in helping to nurture the development of the young rural leaders of tomorrow. Rabobank is proud to give its name to the Summit and fund scholarships enabling participants to gain important essential life skills and professional development."

CEFA would like to express our immense gratitude to Rabobank and the Thyne Reid Foundation for their support of this important program.

"providing the opportunity"

Attendants this year, who come from as far away as Cunnamulla, Kangaroo Island and Coonamble, will meet with two of last year's participants, Adam Corcoran and Jemima Buckman. Both Adam and Jemima, after attending the Summit last year, successfully devised and implemented programs in their home towns for the benefit of other young people. To read more about Adam's achievements, please see the article below.

Summit Participant Wins Young Australian of the Year



Young Australian of the Year 2009, Adam Corcoran

Adam Corcoran, a participant in last year's Young Rural Leaders Summit has been awarded a Young Citizen of the Year Award in the 2009 Australia Day honours list. Following his participation in last year's Summit, Adam, from the Braidwood area in NSW, successfully implemented a group fitness program for young people in the Araluen Valley, his home town. "Attending the Leaders Summit gave me the

opportunity to focus on my personal capabilities and aspirations and decide how I could direct these towards a program that would improve my local community," Adam said. "It was great to meet like-minded people from other small towns who also wanted to help their communities."

Adam's fitness program took just over one month to implement. With the skills he'd developed at the Summit, plus assistance from his local community and a Woolworths' Fresh Food Kids Community Grant, Adam launched the program that now runs free of charge two afternoons a week for students aged six to seventeen.

To future Summit participants, Adam suggests "always believe in yourself and be open to being inspired by what you can learn. Even if you come from a small town, don't let that hold you back. This is a great opportunity to help make a change for the better."

Congratulations on this incredible achievement Adam and well done!

"As communities, we are each responsible for our future success, prosperity and sustainability. We need to ensure that we create and maintain a positive and supportive environment that shows our youth that we believe in them and support them in achieving their hopes, dreams and aspirations."

Jocellin Jansson ~ CEFA's Executive Director

Newest CEFA Board Member



Mr Michael Boyce, CEFA Director

CEFA is excited and pleased to welcome Mr Michael Boyce to its board of directors. Mr Boyce has had a long association with CEFA as founding partner of Boyce and Co Chartered Accountants, a firm that for many years has provided accounting and advisory services to our organisation on a pro bono basis. Although retired, Mr Boyce still consults for Boyce and Co. He joins our Chairman, Nick Burton Taylor AM and fellow directors, David Smithers AM, Stuart Black, Julia Burton Taylor, Guy Milson, Katie Walker and Jocellin Jansson on the CEFA Board. We are grateful for Mr Boyce's continued contribution to the success of CEFA.

CEFA Welcomes New Team Member



Annabel Gay joins the CEFA team

Made possible through funding from a generous foundation, CEFA has been able to employ the services of Ms Annabel Gay, formerly of the Macquarie Group Foundation. Originally from the country, Annabel shares our passion for youth, education outcomes and issues affecting rural communities. Annabel, who freelances, works for CEFA two days a week and manages the diverse array of projects we run for rural youth that focus on improving education and life outcomes.

Bequests Sowing The Seeds of Success

Please consider the Country Education Foundation of Australia when giving thought to the legacy you would like to leave behind. Help us continue to grow our program around the country so that we can give the gift of further education, training and life opportunity to more rural youth. An investment in the future of our country.

For an information pack, please contact Jocellin Jansson on 1300 652 144.

New Education Partners Join CEFA

The growing list of higher educational institutions that become a CEFA Education Partner send a very clear message of support to rural and regional communities that they are committed to ensuring a greater level of participation by rural youth. Each of our valued partnerships contributes to bridging the tertiary education equity gap.

Our newest Education Partners include the University of New England and the University of Adelaide.

Our Education Partners make available a set amount of funding per year for CEFA to use to match or part-match students' locally given grants. In some instances it can mean that a \$1,500 grant from say the Temora Education Fund becomes \$3,000 if the student studies at Tocal Ag College, Canberra Institute of Technology or the University of South Australia or, in other instances, it can mean \$500 book vouchers to our students who study with the University of Wollongong or Charles Sturt University.

Whether it is a dollar for dollar grant match or a \$500 textbook voucher, both are enormously helpful to a young rural person at this critical and very costly time of transition in their life.

We thank each of our Education Partners for their support and commitment. Adelaide University and the University of New England join the following institutions as our Education Partners: Macquarie University, University of New South Wales, University of Wollongong, University of Western Sydney, University of Newcastle, Australian National University, University of South Australia, University of Canberra, Charles Sturt University, Flinders University, NIDA, Tocal Agricultural College, Canberra Institute of Technology (TAFE) and University of Technology Sydney.

The diversity of CEFA's Education Partners reflects the broad ranging interests and pursuits of CEFA grant recipients.

What is a 'Grant'?

Funds used to provide grants in our local education foundation communities comprise of donations from local individuals and businesses, gifts from trusts and foundations and proceeds from local fundraising initiatives.

These funds are managed by our local education foundation committees for the purpose of providing assistance to local youth during the critical time of transition from high school into further education, training or vocations.

The Committees seek applications from local youth and conduct interviews before determining how much to allocate to successful applicants in the form of non-cash grants. The individually allocated amount is then held in trust by the local Committee who continues to liaise with the students to identify what they most require in order to achieve their post high school goals.

Our Local Education Foundation Communities

South Australia

Kangaroo Island	Eudunda
Kimba	Birdwood/Adelaide Hills
Cooper Pedy	Lameroo
The Clare Valley Region - Wool Wine and Wheat Country (Clare, Burra, Snowtown, Balaklava, Riverton)	

New South Wales

Wee Waa	June	Gulgambone
Broken Hill	Upper Hunter	Yass
Mullaley	Ardlethan	Boorowa
Coonamble	Gilgandra	Braidwood
Harden	Young	Cowra
Goulburn	Narrabri	Merriwa
Mudgee	Cessnock	Moree
Balranald	Cootamundra	Temora
Monaro (Jindabyne, Cooma, Bombala)	West Wyalong	
Hay	Edward River (Deniliquin, Conargo)	

Queensland

Paroo (Cunnamulla, Eulo, Wyandra, Yowah)
Dirranbandi
Maranoa (Roma, Injune, Surat, Mitchell)

Two key factors that make CEFA grants so appealing to rural communities are firstly, they are not academically-based, rather we support a broad range of further education and career pursuits and value each young person's goals and aspirations equally. Secondly, the provision of non-cash grants ensures a high level of accountability to the communities.

That is, the local committees pay the goods and service providers directly on behalf of the student or reimburse the student for a pre-agreed expense. These factors reassure our local education foundations' donors and supporters that the funds are being used directly in the manner for which they were intended.

Our Mission

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