



CEFA QUARTERLY NEWS

Summer Edition 2009



Supporting Rural Youth

A Message from the Director



2009 has been a year of consolidation for CEFA as we worked to ensure the rapid growth in local education foundations the previous year was supported and that these new committees were able to lay strong foundations within their communities. It was also a year of many great success stories as we saw this year's cohort of grant recipients navigate their way through the first year of their

university, TAFE and apprenticeship studies as well as second, third and fourth-year students getting closer to achieving their education and training goals.

For everyone involved with CEFA, herein lies the true joy of our work - the reward of seeing these wonderful young rural people overcome challenges and succeed and achieve, all the while knowing that their communities are right behind them.

On a shoestring, CEFA locally and nationally achieves a great deal for rural students and their communities and we are always mindful and appreciative of the fact that it is our generous donors, partners, supporters and volunteers around the country that help make it all possible.

To each of you we say a very big thank you and wish you a safe and happy Christmas and all the very best for the coming year.

Warm Regards



Jocellin Jansson
Executive Director

Youth Allowance Bill Fails

At the end of November the Senate voted down the recent changes to the Youth Allowance legislation.

As outlined in the Spring Edition newsletter, the proposed changes would have required students to work for 30 hours a week over a period of 18 months after they left school in order to qualify for Youth Allowance. This raised the concern that as a direct result, fewer rural students would commence university once they had been out in the workforce for such an extended period. Furthermore, rural communities couldn't provide the number of jobs such a change would require.

The Bill lost on a vote when the Coalition declined to hold it up, stating that it could not support legislation that would eliminate students' paths to Youth Allowance via a gap year. It also claimed the legislation was retrospective in its effect and it would affect students who had already made the decision to take a gap year prior to the bill being presented.

This development leaves students very uncertain about the exact nature of support they may or may not be able to access and depend upon in the future.

With all of our local education foundations currently interviewing grant applicants, many have commented on the uncertainty rural students are feeling and the effect this is having on students' ability to plan. We will endeavour to keep you updated as the debate continues.

CEFA Finds a New Patron



Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia

Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia has done CEFA the great honour of accepting our invitation to become our new Patron.

Mr Nick Burton Taylor, CEFA's Chairman said, "We are delighted and honoured that Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce accepted this invitation and we extend to Her Excellency a very warm welcome. Ms Bryce's great interest in rural Australia, youth and education are well known and it is these three elements that go to the heart of the work of CEFA."

CEFA Education Foundations

We are so proud of the work of our ever-increasing number of local education foundations. Thank you to everyone for your dedication, commitment and achievements over the last 12 months. Here's to another successful year of assisting rural youth in 2010!

Our Mission

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

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.

Welcome to Our New Education Partners



CEFA is delighted to announce the formation of three new Education Partnerships with Southern Cross University, the Queensland University of Technology and the Australian Catholic University. All three universities are popular choices for rural students and the formation of these partnerships comes just in time to lend an additional helping hand to our 2010 grant recipients studying at these institutions.

Our education partnerships are an integral part of helping to make the tertiary education goals of many rural students possible. In 2009 our Education Partners contributed a total of \$121,900 in co-funding, up from \$78,800 in 2008.

On behalf of CEFA and all of our local education foundations around the country, we would like to express our great appreciation to our Education Partners for their generous and unwavering support.

CEFA's New 'How It Works' DVD

Made possible through generous funding from the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, CEFA has produced an important information DVD for committee members and students.

With the continued growth in the number of our local education foundations and more people needing to understand just how our local foundations, committees and the grant making process work, CEFA needed to find an economical way of communicating a clear, concise and consistent message to a great number of people. CEFA also wanted to develop an information resource that high schools in our local education foundation communities/regions could use as part of their career planning lessons to ensure that all students within the communities we work are aware of the assistance available to them. The DVD uses the talents of local committee members and current grant recipients to explain the CEFA program in an inspiring and encouraging way by drawing on their personal experiences.

Please contact us if you would like a copy of this DVD, alternatively you will shortly be able to download a shorter version of this from our website and on YouTube.

Quote of the Quarter

"The Liberal and National Parties, together with Senator Fielding, have taken a stand for principle and for the opportunity for rural and regional Australian students to be able to attend University. This Bill contained a number of worthwhile measures...however we will not allow the Government to increase funding to one group of students only by ripping away the higher education dreams of country students."

Shadow Education Minister, Christopher Pyne on the failure of the Youth Allowance Bill.

Rotary Extends A Hand For Rural Youth

Now in its second year, CEFA's partnership with the Rotary Club of Sydney is making an enormous difference to many young rural students. The Rotary Club of Sydney administers the Soukup Memorial Scholarships that were made possible through the generosity of Mr George and Mrs Jenny Soukup.

In preparation for the coming year, the Rotary Club of Sydney has awarded ten CEFA students scholarships to assist with their tertiary study costs. For Rotary, CEFA provides an ideal network into rural communities through which they can attract and identify students who need a helping hand.

Sarah Donovan of the Rotary Club of Sydney said, "The three key elements of success are confidence, self esteem and perseverance, not the ATAR score. We look for young people who may not on paper appear to be academic geniuses but who have potential. Through giving these young people scholarships you are further validating their goals and aspirations, encouraging them, boosting their confidence and self-belief and therefore positively impacting on what we see as the key elements of future success."

Jocellin Jansson of CEFA said, "The Rotary Soukup Scholarships further add to the impact our local education foundations are able to make in their community and this is something we are most grateful for."

Women in Science

In November, 14 female students from Gunnedah, Temora and Yass High Schools travelled to Sydney for a Women in Science workshop at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS). Made possible through generous funding from UTS, the initiative focuses on encouraging more young women to pursue a career in science. The two-day trip included an opportunity for the students to explore the worlds of physics, chemistry and maths in science through interactive activities. Students were also given a tour of on-campus accommodation at UTS and had the chance for sightseeing around the city. Gunnedah student, Peta Leigh Silver said of the trip, "It gave me the opportunity to learn and understand the great diversity of science-related careers and science courses available to me at university."



Jillie-May Reading, Temora with Matilda Wise and Courtney West from Gunnedah in a physics workshop



Student Natalia Shaw and parent Narelle Manson from Yass

