



A Message from the Executive Director



The festive season has begun and as this is our last newsletter for 2010 we felt it fitting that it be about giving thanks. Thanks must go to our local and national donors, our Education Partners and to our wonderful, dedicated committee members around the country who keep each of our local Education Foundations ticking. Without all of you,

assisting 338 rural students this year with grants totalling \$519,575 would not have been possible. Each year the impact and reach of CEFA's work grows and grows because of your generosity of spirit.

Generosity of spirit was also very much at the heart of CEFA's first major fundraising event, the Walk of Wonders. It seemed the entire community of Jugiong was a part of making the walk

an incredibly successful and fun day. I found it apt that many of the wonderful artists were young people from the area and the day's success can be credited to two dynamic local women, Jo Miller and Kathy Tait. Thank you both so much.

From all of us at CEFA, we wish you a very safe and happy Christmas period and look forward to bringing you news of CEFA's work during the coming year. Stay tuned as we predict another record year of local grant making as well as Education Partner co-funding.

Warm regards

Jocellin Jansson
Executive Director

The Walk of Wonders: A Wonderful Success



CEFA was grateful and proud to see more than 220 walkers support our first major fundraising event: The Walk of Wonders. Jo Miller was the instigator of this hugely successful event and Jo decided that all funds raised would be donated to CEFA – an incredibly generous gesture. Keen to see rural youth provided with educational opportunity and achieve their full potential, Jo was aware of the work of CEFA and saw a direct correlation between the two. “The transition from school to the adult world of career choices is a big step and when it involves

relocating, often long distances, the whole process can be quite daunting. I like the way CEFA offers direct help to individuals at this critical time to ensure they don't 'miss the step' that can determine their direction for life,” said Jo.

Starting on the property of Sandy and Kathy Tait, the 20-kilometre walk snaked beside, above and across the Murrumbidgee River from 'Gunnong Jugrawah' to Jugiong in NSW, the Walk of Wonders



Wonders and Walkers enjoy the
beauty of Jugiong, NSW

featured local human (and animal) 'wonders' along the way which amused, surprised, enchanted and spurred the walkers on to the finish line. The 'wonders' were local residents who lent their talents to the occasion, making the walk so enjoyable for all. When the walkers reached the end point, they were treated to a designer sausage sizzle and local fare hosted by the Long Track Pantry.

CEFA is incredibly grateful to Jo for selecting it as the recipient of funds raised from her event. “This is such generous support from someone who truly recognises the value of what CEFA is working to achieve. The funds raised from the Walk of Wonders will go towards providing ongoing assistance to our local Education Foundations and establishing more foundations so that the opportunities provided to rural youth can be increased even further. The CEFA team had such an enjoyable time taking part and we loved being able to experience everything that Jo and Kathy arranged,” Jocellin Jansson, CEFA Executive Director said.

We also thank those members of the Jugiong committee and surrounds who contributed so much of their valuable time towards making this day a success. The wonders, the walkers, the local residents and business owners are all responsible for making the Walk of Wonders the amazing event it was.

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

Quote of the Quarter

“Within every child is the potential for success; it just needs to be nurtured”

Sara Hudson, Policy Analyst at The Centre for Independent Studies

Clarification Statement

CEFA recently received a comment in relation to my opening message in last quarter's newsletter. The anonymous author of the letter expressed concern that the piece was politically biased. The writer is referring to the paragraph:

'Last but not least, spring has brought with it the re-election of the Australian Labour Party. Aided greatly by the Independents from rural and regional Australia, the return of the Labour government shows promise of delivering greater outcomes for people in non-metropolitan areas. We are hopeful that education and Youth Allowance will be high on the list of priorities.'

I would like to assure all readers that my comments were never intended to be political. CEFA has never, and will never, have any political alliance. Nor do we receive any government funding.

Our mission is to support the educational aspirations of rural youth. Never has it been to promote or detract from any political party.

Budding Scientists visit Sydney



Students and teachers who participated in Careers in Science 2010

CEFA staff recently spent two inspiring, informative and fun days with students and teachers from Broken Hill, Narrabri, Temora, Willyama and Yass High Schools.

The students, who are in years 10 and 11 and studying science subjects at school, flew to Sydney to learn about the myriad of courses and careers available within the science industry and how they might pursue such opportunities.

The trip was funded and hosted by the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) which is keen to promote the field of science and its possibilities, particularly to rural and regional schools.

We were fortunate to be able to visit the CSIRO on the first day, hearing from its Future Foods Flagship Director, Dr Bruce Lee about his career and his work at the research organisation.

Dr Lee, the 2010 winner of Rabobank's Leadership Award, generously gave his time to speak with our students. Staff at CSIRO also helped the visitors conduct a series of experiments to extract DNA from grain samples.

The following day was spent at UTS learning about the various science courses the university offers and where these studies might lead.

Eager to put their new-found science knowledge into practice, the students also took part in hands-on workshops that included creating their own energy producing circuit board, dusting for fingerprints and using mathematical patterns to solve real life situations.

Thank you to UTS for providing such a relevant and worthwhile experience for rural students. The students gained so much from the trip and thoroughly enjoyed learning about life in the city, attending university and the endless opportunities available through studying science. We'd also like to thank the CSIRO for committing time and effort to encouraging the students' aspirations.



Rebecca McLane and Ian Lindley from Yass High School take part in a forensic examination

Ongoing AVIS Support

We would like to acknowledge another 12 months of partnership and support from AVIS Australia. CEFA relies on AVIS to help its staff reach their travel destinations across rural Australia and we are thankful for their dependability and service. This year in particular, AVIS staff have gone above and beyond to help keep us on the road and in touch with our local Foundations and we say a huge thank you to AVIS Vice President and Managing Director, George Proos, his Executive Assistant, Amanda Reid and the AVIS staff for their support and commitment. We look forward to continuing this valuable partnership in 2011.



AVIS staff at Adelaide Airport

CEFA's Partners in Education

Over recent months CEFA has been in discussion with many of our Education Partners to renew partnership agreements, ensuring that the co-funding and additional support offered by these institutions can be continued for rural youth.

We are excited and grateful that the University of South Australia, Charles Sturt University, University of New South Wales, Tocal Agricultural College, Newcastle University, Macquarie University, University of New England and the Canberra Institute of Technology have all signed on for another three years' of rural student support. We thank these partners for their ongoing commitment and greatly look forward to continuing our work with you. CEFA is also in the process of establishing a number of new Education Partnerships and we look forward to sharing some good news about these discussions in the new year!

We would like to say a big thank you to each and every one of CEFA's Education Partners. Your contribution to the educational dreams of rural youth is immeasurable and we are so appreciative.



Education Foundations Continue to Grow

After a year of consolidation in 2009, we were excited this year to return our focus to CEFA's core business – establishing Education Foundations across Australia to help support the goals of rural school leavers. This focus, coupled with the motivation and commitment of some local champions in rural Australia, saw five new Education Foundations launched.

Blackall-Tambo and Clermont in QLD and Lockhart, Dubbo and Coleambally/Darlington Point in NSW are our newest Education Foundations and we welcome them all to the CEFA family.

After another year of dedicated effort, we would like to commend and acknowledge our Education Foundations and their communities for their incredible effort in helping local students reach their goals.

Your commitment and achievements are second to none.



Clermont & District Education Group committee with patron, Laurie Cowled.

New South Wales:

Balranald, Boorowa, Braidwood, Broken Hill, Coonamble, Cootamundra, Cowra, Coleambally/Darlington Point, Dubbo, Edward River (Deniliquin, Conargo), Gilgandra, Goulburn, Gulargambone, Gunnedah, Harden, Hay, Lockhart, Merriwa, Monaro (Jindabyne, Cooma, Bombala), Moree, Mudgee, Narrabri, Temora, Upper Hunter, West Wyalong, Yass, Young

Queensland:

Blackall-Tambo, Clermont, Maranoa (Roma, Injune, Surat, Muckadilla, Mitchell, Amby, Mungallala, Jackson, Yuleba, Wallumbilla), Paroo (Cunnamulla, Eulo, Wyandra, Yowah)

South Australia:

Coober Pedy, Eudunda, Kangaroo Island, Kimba, Lameroo, Torrens Valley, the Wool, Wine & Wheat Country Education Fund (Clare, Burra, Snowtown, Balaklava, Riverton)

Success for Narrabri student

A couple of weeks ago, Narrabri Education Foundation (NEF) grant recipient, Jock, wrote to the NEF to express his appreciation for the support and financial assistance he has received. Jock is studying Business at the University of Newcastle. This is Jock's letter:

Dear Narrabri Education Foundation

I am writing to give you an update from the past semester. We are smack bang in the middle of exam period so everything is busy, busy, busy at the moment. I can't believe the year is almost over, and I have almost completed a whole year of my degree! I am feeling confident about my exams, and that I will maintain my marks for this semester as I did for Semester 1.

I have also been elected as the President of my college's executive committee for 2011, a position I have no doubt I wouldn't have even thought of applying for if it wasn't for all the support that the NEF and CEFA have provided me.

The Rabobank Leadership Summit experience in 2009 provided me with the confidence and skills base that I can build on for years to come. And the support from my local community has kept me motivated to do the best I can to give back to such a fantastic organisation.

I would just like to say thank you once again for opening these doors for me, and helping others in the same situation who want to achieve the best they can.

Hope you're all well.

Regards,

Jock



Jock, Narrabri Education Foundation Grant Recipient

Our Mission

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