

A Message from the Executive Director



This is always such a great time of year for the CEFA family. It's an opportunity to review all we have achieved in the last 12 months and enjoy that satisfaction whilst also feeling the excitement of planning another big year. It is very festive and cathartic!

December is also an ideal time for expressing our gratitude and appreciation to CEFA's donors, local communities and partners who helped to make our 2011 achievements possible and who we look forward to working with again to do even more of the same towards providing life-changing opportunities for youth from rural, regional and remote Australia.

I warmly welcome the International College of Management, Sydney and the Griffith Country Education Fund to our group and congratulate the students interviewed for this newsletter who continue to impress us with their aspirations and accolades.

Thank you to the local communities, Education Partners, donors and 'helpers' who met with me in South Australia recently. CEFA is certainly alive and well in SA. Your support and commitment knows no bounds and it was such a lovely,

inspiring, worthwhile visit. I also enjoyed attending the Hastings Education Fund Presentation Evening this month and thank you for your generous hospitality.

Our partnership with the Origin Foundation was even further enhanced this quarter when CEFA worked with our first Origin Energy volunteer who took part in the annual UTS Careers in Science Program. We also received wonderful early Christmas presents from the Origin Foundation when two much-sought-after second-hand laptops were donated from Origin's IT department. Thank you!

I would like to thank Henrietta and Katie for their hard work, company and support this year. We are so thankful to all our friends and supporters for committing to our mission in so many different ways and helping to make the difference for rural youth.

Take care and have a merry, safe Christmas. See you in 2012.

Annabel Gay
Executive Director

A Golden Key for Amy

Having neared completion of her third year in a Bachelor of Laws at the University of Canberra, Amy Dwyer has just been awarded one of the highest achievements available to academic undergraduates. Amy was awarded membership to the Golden Key International Honours Society for being in the top 15 per cent of her class – whilst also working full-time as a paralegal.

The Golden Key International Honours Society has more than 400 chapters at colleges and universities around the world and includes honoraries like Desmond Tutu, Elie Wiesel and Bill Clinton. Members are a community with a linkage to widely respected individuals and ideals offering its members exclusive opportunities and connections through scholarships and awards, partnerships with major corporations, career advancement and graduate programs. "It is such an opportunity," says Amy of her exciting achievement. "I have access to so many possibilities, many of which are exclusive to the membership."

Amy is a past recipient of the Boorowa Education Foundation. Her local grant helped pay for textbooks when she first commenced her degree. "Whilst the grant itself was extremely helpful, it was the initial interview that really made the difference for me. I had never been to an interview before and so it was such good experience to have under my belt at the start of my degree," Amy explained.



Golden Key recipient – Amy Dwyer

Amy is currently working for legal firm HWL Ebsworth in Canberra, which specialises in providing commercial legal advice, and hopes to continue with the firm as a lawyer once she finishes her university studies. We wish Amy every success and look forward to following her progress.

Our Mission

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

Reintroduction of the University Student Services and Amenities Fee

The Higher Education Legislation Amendment (Student Services and Amenities) Bill passed through the Senate last month. As a result of the Bill the Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU) legislation in place since 2005 has been abolished, meaning universities are now permitted to charge an annual student services and amenities fee of up to \$263 per student, indexed from 2012.

CEFA CEO, Annabel Gay said "Student organisations have a place within the tertiary environment and CEFA recognises that they require funding to survive – student union participation numbers and the actual number of existing organisations have both dropped significantly since VSU was introduced. This is generally to the detriment of students as it reduces the influence they can exert on universities in regards to their student lifestyle, amenities, sporting facilities, etc.

Student unions and organisations can be important avenues for rural and regional students to put forward their individual considerations and ensure recognition and funding is allocated to their demographic.

"They can provide a 'voice' to rural and regional students in an environment where a participation gap of eight per cent exists between them and their metropolitan counterparts. Rural and regional students are currently underrepresented in tertiary study and student organisations could be a way in which to right this imbalance and address the factors that make it so," Annabel said. Moreover many rural students approach unions and student organisations as opportunities to meet new people and establish a support network, given they have had to move away from home to attend university.

However, CEFA also acknowledges the impact introducing this compulsory fee to students could have on rural and regional students. "For rural and regional students, who are already required to pay an additional \$15,000-\$20,000 per annum on the standard tertiary fees paid by their metropolitan counterparts, the reintroduction of Service and Amenities Fees could in fact prove financially onerous and prohibitive, leading to discrimination of this demographic and ultimately even lower rural tertiary participation rates," stated Annabel.

CEFA is encouraged by the prospect of fee-assistance for students who are unable to pay the Services and Amenities Fee upfront by way of Commonwealth assistance through 'SA HELP'; however assistance to cover this fee may still fall to CEFA's rural-based Education Foundations as they support their local youth in their post high school pursuits and provide financial aid to enable them to achieve their goals.



Griffith Country Education Fund with CEO Annabel Gay

Quote of the Quarter

"Schooling should be socially just, so that students' outcomes from schooling are free from the effects of...differences arising from students socio-economic background or geographical location"

Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs, 1999

Success for Temora student

The Temora & District Education Fund recently received a letter of appreciation from one of its grant recipients, Amanda Bishop. Amanda has just finished her final year of Photography at Charles Sturt University and is in the process of establishing her own business.

Dear Temora & District Education Fund

As a recipient of your scholarship I was given not only financial assistance but a boost of confidence before entering my university career. Knowing that people believed in me enough to financially support me was what meant the most.

I have just finished my third and final year of my Photography course and recently received my results which reveal I am now a qualified photographer. Over the entire course I received 14 Distinctions, 11 Credits and 3 Passes. I also received the Dean's Award for Academic Excellence.

Over the last three years I have exhibited twice; once at the Charles Sturt University and once at the Wagga Wagga Art Gallery. Both were a success. We all worked extremely hard to achieve the 'perfect' photograph. My own series of self portraits incorporated my art and my photography into one major artwork.

I am currently working as a secretary in Wagga whilst building my own private photography business. I have produced works for clients in both commercial and private sectors. My next step is to get work experience and continue to build up my skills as a photographer. I am also looking into teaching and completing a Diploma of Education as I want to share my passion for art and photography with others, especially youth. I hope you get the chance to explore my website (www.amandabishopphotography.com). It is well worth the look and includes everything from art photography to street photography.

I would like to again thank you for all of your support and assure you that this fund is helpful in many ways. I hope it continues many years into the future.

Kind regards, Amanda Bishop

Griffith Launches New Education Foundation

We are delighted to introduce our newest local Foundation, the Griffith Country Education Fund (GCEF) which launched in Griffith, NSW on 24 November 2011. The event was well attended by local residents and businesses, schools and university contacts and even the Chair and a grant recipient of the nearby Coleambally/Darlington Point Foundation, both of whom offered their encouragement. The GCEF received a generous donation from Griffith Council on the night, which will be matched by CEFA seed-funding. Annabel Gay attended the launch and was impressed by the diverse and dedicated committee and support from within the community. "The success of each of our local Education Foundations is determined by the commitment of the members and the backing of the surrounding community. Based on this, we are confident that the GCEF is off to a terrific start," Annabel said. We wish this new committee all the very best and look forward to working with you to provide opportunities to Griffith youth.



Naomi and her fellow competitors from Charles Sturt University

Gunnedah Student to Embark on US Adventure

In July, 21 year old Naomi Hobson from Gunnedah competed in and won the Australian Intercollegiate Meat Judging Competition Naomi will now travel to the US next year for a three-week meat judging tour where she will visit abattoirs, feedlots and universities, whilst also undergoing meat judging training according to the US system.

Asked what she enjoyed most about the competition, Naomi said "the meat platters were part of an exercise where we learnt how to seam out and value-add rump primals. We were in teams of three and had to see which group could get the greatest dollar value per plate if we were serving meals in a restaurant. Seaming out the rump into three muscle groups is a great way to add value to a secondary primal - this means more money for producers!"

Naomi was a grant recipient of the local Gunnedah and District Education Fund and has just finished her fourth year of an Animal Science degree with honours from Charles Sturt University at Wagga Wagga. We wish Naomi every success and look forward to hearing about her trip to the US next year.



New Partnership with ICMS

CEFA is excited to announce our new Education Partner: the International College of Management, Sydney (ICMS). Established in 1996 ICMS is a global leader in management education, offering diplomas as well as

associate degrees, bachelor's degrees and master's degrees in the areas of hospitality management, event management, international tourism, retail services management, sport management and property services management.

As a full-fee paying college ICMS's tuition and accommodation fees can be daunting. Many rural and regional students may have previously considered these fees prohibitive. Given that our support and financial assistance is all about allowing our youth to pursue the best possible course and path available to them, and ICMS's desire to see more rural and regional students complete its courses, it is wonderful to now be able to offer CEFA students scholarships at ICMS to support their management education aspirations.

The commitment offered by ICMS to CEFA students will be available for uptake in 2012. Up to three tuition scholarships will be offered to CEFA students each year to a value of \$20,000 each per annum for the duration of the students' course/degrees. ICMS has also committed to offering up to three accommodation scholarships to CEFA students each year to a value of \$12,000-\$15,000 each per annum for the duration of the students' course/degrees.

CEFA would like to extend a big thank you to our newest Education Partner for making this wonderful opportunity available to our rural youth.

Careers in Science 2011

Budding young scientists from Willyama, Broken Hill, Yass, Merriwa, Narrabri and Temora High Schools recently spent two inspiring and informative days in Sydney with their teachers and CEFA staff member Henrietta Hood exploring the realms of possibilities within the science industry. The students, currently in Years 10 and 11, travelled to Sydney in mid-November to take part in the UTS Careers in Science Program to learn more about the courses and career options available within the field of science and how they might pursue such opportunities. This annual program is made possible by generous funding from the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) and the Origin Foundation.

The trip began with a visit to the CSIRO's Riverside Life Sciences Centre in Marsfield where students were taken on a tour of the facilities and saw scientists at work in both the astronomy and information technology divisions. A presentation by Dympna Austin from the Human Resources Department, who generously gave her time to help organise the excursion, outlined how students could gain work experience with the CSIRO at their metropolitan, regional and remote sites. Dympna also explained how to qualify for CSIRO cadetships, internships and scholarships for those studying for a trade certificate, degree or postgraduate degrees in science. A student from Yass High School commented, "the CSIRO was so inspiring. There was so much information on how we can follow these career pathways."

The following day was spent at UTS learning about the various science courses the university has to offer and where these courses might lead. Students took part in practical, hands-on science workshops which included Forensics, Microbiology, Mathematics and Environmental (Fishy) Forensics. Jon Irvine, a teacher from Temora High School said of the workshops, "I enjoyed them all but microbiology was excellent as students got really hands-on and used equipment and technology not available at most [rural] schools."

Thank you to UTS for organising such a relevant and informative day for rural students. The participants gained so much from the experience and thoroughly enjoyed learning about life in the city, attending university and the endless opportunities available. CEFA would like to acknowledge the generous time and effort both UTS and the CSIRO have committed to encouraging our rural students' aspirations in pursuing a career in the science industry. Thank you also to Karleen McKenna from Origin Energy who volunteered to assist CEFA staff on the day and was a very welcome addition to the group.



Students learning about the CSIRO's many telescopes

Dissecting fish in the Environmental Forensics Workshop



What's on Where in CEFA Communities



Auctioning wine at 'Tinline Park' luncheon

Torrens Valley

Last month the committee members of the Torrens Valley Country Education Fund hosted their annual fundraiser sophisticated luncheon at "Tinline Park", Mount Torrens in South Australia. The event, covered by SALife Magazine, was attended by local residents, grant recipients, committee members from other local CEFA Foundations and donors. Flavours of the region was the theme of the event with local wines and produce contributed by vineyards and businesses in the area. A couch session with grant recipients and an Origin Foundation representative as well as unique charity auction helped to make the day a great success. The Torrens Valley committee would like to thank everyone involved for helping to make the day so special. They look forward to seeing you again next year.

Hastings

On December 8 the Hastings Education Fund (HEF) held its first Grant Recipient and Sponsor Presentation Evening. The well-organised event, at the Glasshouse Arts Conference Entertainment Centre in Port Macquarie, was a great opportunity to acknowledge HEF's 24 major sponsors. A presentation to HEF's first round of grant recipients was a highlight with local students Dylan, who is working towards his Certificate 2 in carpentry, and Chloe, who is in her final year of a nursing degree, representing their fellow recipients on the night. Entertainment was provided by the Tacking Point Primary School Choir and St Joseph's High School Band and guest speakers included the HEF Vice Chair Jenny Fraser, CEFA CEO Annabel Gay and HEF Patrons John and Helen Ross. The committee was delighted with the success of the event and looks strong for 2012.



Chloe and Dylan at the Hastings Education Fund Grant Recipient & Sponsor Presentation Evening

Education Foundations

New South Wales

Balranald	Edward River (Deniliquin, Conargo)	Merriwa
Blayney/Molong/Orange	Gilgandra	Monaro (Jindabyne, Cooma, Bombala)
Boorowa	Griffith	Moree
Braidwood	Goulburn	Mudgee
Broken Hill	Gulgambone	Narrabri
Coleambally-Darlington Point	Gunnedah-Mullaley	Temora
Coonamble	Harden	West Wyalong
Cootamundra	Hastings (Port Macquarie)	Yass
Cowra	Hay	Young
Dubbo	Lockhart	

Queensland

Blackall-Tambo	Clermont	Maranoa (Roma region)
Paroo (Cunnamulla region)		

South Australia

Coober Pedy	Kapunda	Lameroo
Eudunda	Kimba	Torrens Valley
Kangaroo Island	Wool, Wine and Wheat (Clare, Burra, Snowtown, Balaklava, Riverton)	

Northern Territory

Central Australia (Alice Springs)

Bequests

Please consider the Country Education Foundation of Australia when giving thought to the country 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 Annabel Gay on 1300 652 144.