

A Message from the Executive Director



What an exciting few months we have had at CEFA. There is so much news to report it's hard to know where to start!

First and foremost, I'd like to welcome Henrietta Hood to the CEFA team. Henrietta joined CEFA in August as our Communications and Projects Officer. She has proved a great addition to the team and is thoroughly enjoying getting to know the members of our local Education Foundations, donors and students.

In July, we moved the CEFA national office from Sydney to Orange in the Central West of NSW. This tree change brought us closer to many of our local Education Foundations, allowed us to reduce our operating costs and also strengthens our connection and empathy with rural and regional Australia. Winter was perhaps not the easiest time to move to such a chilly climate but the regular visits from members of local committees have certainly warmed the Hampden Avenue office. Please feel free to drop in and visit Henrietta and me at any time.

With these developments as well as the ongoing satisfaction and excitement of establishing new Education Foundations and education partnerships, I am thoroughly enjoying my new role as Executive Director. Thank you to everyone for their messages of

encouragement and congratulations as I stepped into the position. It certainly is a challenging role but one that offers great reward and fulfilment. I am grateful for the opportunity to continue working with you all moving forward to maintain the high levels of achievement and support offered to rural youth over the last two decades.

Please enjoy catching up on our latest news including the establishment of CEFA's first Education Foundation in the Northern Territory – the Central Australian Education Foundation, a pilot university aspiration program in Canberra with the University of Canberra and the Australian National University and a local Yass student's receipt of a gold university key for academic achievement.

As ever, thank you to our local Education Foundations for their commitment, our donors for their ongoing generosity and our Education Partners for their support for rural and regional youth.

Take care and happy Spring!



Annabel Gay
Executive Director

ACT University Experience a Huge Success

CEFA has implemented a pilot aspiration enhancement program in the ACT thanks to the generosity of the University of Canberra (UC) and the Australian National University (ANU) as well as our newest sponsor, the Origin Foundation.

Forty-two students from years 9 and 10 took part in the four-day ACT University Experience in July. The Cowra, Cootamundra, Deniliquin, Lockhart and Coleambally high school students, some of whom had never travelled to Canberra, enjoyed a range of activities where they were able to experience university and city life first-hand.

Participants enjoyed tours of the colleges and campuses, took part in faculty workshops and lectures and met with current university students. There was outdoor ice-skating at Garema Place, a paper-plane throwing contest and group acting competitions at a UC restaurant.

Karen-Louise Spiers from Coleambally Central School said her favourite part of the trip was "meeting new people and experiencing ice-skating for the first time. It was a great way to get to know other students from different schools."

A tour of the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) was another highlight of the program where students were able to meet athletes and eat at the sporting institute's cafeteria.

"I really enjoyed Canberra, but going to the AIS was the most exciting. We got to have a look around and met some athletes from different sports. Canberra was an amazing experience and shouldn't be missed," said Tara Kelly from Cootamundra High School.

The ACT University Experience Program was a great opportunity for rural students to move outside their comfort zones in a supportive environment and to explore the realms of possibilities open to them in studying or training once they finish school.



"I really enjoyed the ACT University Experience program because it showed us what uni life can be like even if you come from country towns," explained Bree Hummelstad from Cootamundra.

A key part of the program was the information gained by the participants about the financial assistance and support options available to help them achieve their post high school educational goals. Both ANU and UC were able to demonstrate to students the potential for scholarships, funding arrangements, mentoring and affordable accommodation.

As Starr Cartledge of Coleambally Central School said "If you aren't sure where you want to go after school, uni or TAFE, this is a great trip to get a bit more of an idea of the opportunities out there."

CEFA and the communities involved with this new program would like to say an enormous thank you to UC and ANU for their generosity and commitment to making this such a great experience. Thank you also to the Origin Foundation for its funding towards CEFA's costs.

Quote of the Quarter

"If I could give a message to young Australians, it would be that success comes from being able to place yourself in a position where you have the freedom to do what you want to do. There is a greater chance of this happening in Australia than virtually any other country in the world.."

Dick Smith, Adventurer and Philanthropist, 1986 Australian of the Year

Youth Allowance to Include Regional Students

On 14 September 2011 the Labor Government announced its response to Professor Kwong Lee Dow's Review of Student Income Support Reforms. From 1 January 2012 the Government will remove the regional eligibility distinctions for Youth Allowance and extend the independence criteria currently applicable to Outer Regional, Remote and Very Remote students to include Inner Regional students.

This means that from 1 January 2012, Inner Regional students pursuing higher education or VET study will be considered independent if:

they are a full-time student; and

- they are required to live away from home to study; and
- they have combined parental income of less than \$150,000; and
- they have either:
 - worked part-time (at least 15 hours each week) for two years since last leaving secondary school; or
 - had cumulative earnings totalling at least 75% of the appropriate maximum National Training Wage Award rate (\$21,009 in 2011) in 18 months since last leaving secondary school.

Based on the Review submitted on 1 July, the Government acknowledged students from regional areas experience higher costs in relocating for the purposes of study than their metropolitan counterparts. As such, it has also committed to increasing the value of the Relocation Scholarship for eligible students. Changes to the Scholarship include a provision from 2012 of \$4,000 for the first year of study, \$2,000 for each of the second and third years and \$1,000 for any subsequent years.

The value of the Start-Up Scholarship will also be rebased from 2012, decreasing from \$1,097 per half year instalment (\$2,194 per annum) in 2011 to \$1025 per half year instalment (\$2,050 per annum).

"By supporting those in greatest financial need, we do help proportionately more country students. The Review explicitly avoids creating another 'lines on the map' problem by distinguishing, not between city and country (or metropolitan and regional) students, but rather, between students who are required to relocate and students who are able to live at home. This does entail higher costs than identifying only country students who need to move, but it is more logical and so more likely to be sustainable longer term" Professor Kwong Lee Dow stated in response to the Social Security Amendment (Income Support for Regional Students) Bill 2010.

Universities Australia Chief Executive Officer, Dr Glenn Withers said, "These are welcome further amendments to the Youth Allowance scheme. Without these changes, the ability of regionally based students could be determined according to which side of the river, road or fence line they live on."

CEFA welcomes these amendments to include Inner Regional in the same independence criteria as other rural and regional students. Many of the students from communities where CEFA has a local Education Foundation have been adversely affected by the current criteria. This reformed criteria, as well as the increase in the value of the Relocation Scholarship will prove beneficial to many rural and regional students as they pursue their post high school aspirations.

More information can be found on the Australian Government website at www.deewr.gov.au/HigherEducation/Programs/YouthAllowance/Pages/QandAs.aspx or by visiting www.humanservices.gov.au. You can also call 13 24 90 to talk to Centrelink about Youth Allowance and the recent changes.



Through the generosity of Rabobank, CEFA awarded scholarships to 18 participants from local Education Foundations to attend the 2011 Outward Bound Leadership Summit in April.

The Summit, held in Tharwa National Park in the ACT, was a wonderful opportunity for our young leaders to challenge their teamwork and personal values as well as to build self worth and instil confidence. When asked what they had learnt about themselves during the course, Maddison Jacka from the Wool, Wine & Wheat Country Education Fund in South Australia said, "I learnt from the Summit that I can do anything I set my mind to – I just need to persist and be dedicated. It's all in my mind. I can do it."

The students participated in a range of activities during the week-long camp, including developing a project which would directly benefit their local community. Drawing on their new leadership and teamwork skills, our aspiring young leaders plan to implement their projects over the coming months. The scope and significance of the projects created by the Summit participants this year was inspiring. According to Rabobank's National Sponsorship and Events Manager Susan Howe, "Through their community projects, Summit participants have truly raised the bar by addressing issues of national significance such as obesity, improving local infrastructure, driver safety awareness and mental health and well-being. Their ambition to make positive changes in their respective towns is inspiring as is their confidence and willingness to take on these bigger issues."

CEFA would like to express our gratitude to Rabobank for its third year of support and funding of the Leadership Summit. Thank you also to Outward Bound for facilitating the program.

Kathryn Holds the Key to Success



A grant recipient of the Yass & District Education Foundation, Kathryn McLennan, has been awarded Gold Key membership at the University of Canberra, an accolade offered to students with high academic success. Kathryn is in her third year of a Bachelor of Science and Psychology degree and was eager to explain the benefits of holding this prestigious award. "It will literally help open doors for me when I finish the course and start

looking for a career in the psychology field. The membership gives me connections to all the big corporations who offer internships and scholarships and even mentors for when I initially start practicing. It gives me so many other options than if I was just starting from scratch on my own – I've already got a network," Kathryn said.

Kathryn is grateful to the Yass & District Education Foundation for helping her throughout the duration of her degree. "Thanks to the Foundation I have been given grants for the past two years to help with the cost of textbooks and the fuel I have needed to travel from Yass (where I live) to the university campus for lectures. This has really helped me to pursue my career aspirations."

We wish Kathryn every success in completing her degree and look forward to following her progress.

New Communities – What Can You Do to Help?

If you have a contact in a rural or regional Australian community who may be interested in establishing a new local Education Foundation for their youth, please let us know. We are always looking to expand the CEFA family and extend support and financial assistance to even greater numbers of rural and regional youth.

CEFA Welcomes New Team Member



In August, Henrietta Hood joined CEFA as the Communications and Projects Officer. Formerly of the NAB Group and based in Orange, Henrietta makes the transition from the corporate world to further her passion for making a difference for rural youth by improving access to education and vocation opportunities. Henrietta will work four days a week (Monday to Thursday) from the CEFA office in Orange to help manage the diverse array of projects we run

focusing on improving education and life outcomes and opportunities for rural and regional youth. Welcome Henrietta!

What's on Where in CEFA Communities?

Temora

The Temora and District Foundation in conjunction with the Australian Army Band Kapooka, hosted an evening concert at the Temora Town Hall on Wednesday 14 September. The crowd far exceeded numbers predicted and the committee was delighted with the success of the event.

Torrens Valley

The Torrens Valley Country Education Fund is hosting a Lunch at "Tinline Park" in Mount Torrens, SA, on Sunday 13 November. Enjoy flavours of the region and a unique charity auction from 12.30 to 4.30pm with drinks and canapés served on the terrace prior to lunch. Cost is \$95 per head. For more information, please contact Pauline Burke on 08 8389 2239 or vegagarden@bigpond.com

CEFA Education Foundations

New South Wales

Balranald	Gunnedah-Mullaley
Blayney/Molong/Orange	Harden
Boorowa	Hastings
Braidwood	Hay
Broken Hill	Lockhart
Coleambally-Darlington Point	Merriwa
Coonamble	Monaro
Cootamundra	Moree
Cowra	Mudgee
Dubbo	Narrabri
Edward River	Temora
Gilgandra	West Wyalong
Goulburn	Yass
Gulargambone	Young

Queensland

Blackall-Tambo
Clermont
Maranoa
Paroo

Northern Territory

Central Australia (Alice Springs)

South Australia

Coober Pedy
Eudunda
Kangaroo Island
Kapunda
Kimba
Lameroo
Torrens Valley
Wool, Wine and Wheat

Central Australia and BMO Youth Partners Join the CEFA Family



On 16 June we officially welcomed the Central Australian Education Foundation into the CEFA family – our first local education foundation in the Northern Territory. This new, enthusiastic and energetic committee will help further the post high school education, training and vocation aspirations of the Central Australian youth.

School students and staff, parents, local businesses, members of Council, university staff, residents and local media all attended the launch – one of the most well attended to date. Our CEO, Annabel Gay took part in the launch and was impressed by the commitment shown. "It is very encouraging for the new Central Australian foundation that the launch received so much support from the local community. The committee is determined to make a difference for their local youth and their community can help them do this," Annabel said.



The Blayney, Molong, Orange (BMO) Youth Education Partners are the latest committee to join CEFA and they have had a whirlwind start to their operations, pledging \$10,000 in grants to local students within the first three weeks of establishment. The new committee brings with it a diverse array of experience from Vocational Education Officers to Employment and Training Mentors and a local school Principal. The enthusiastic BMO Education Partners members are planning their official launch for December this year.

We look forward to working with these new committees and helping to making their local education foundations a great success.

Careers in Science

An exciting program in the CEFA calendar is coming up in November focusing on careers within the science field. Students from Yass, Temora, Narrabri, Merriwa and Broken Hill will take part in the two-day course which aims to encourage potential science talent and interest in the range of careers available. The program is fully-funded by the University of Technology, Sydney with support from the Origin Foundation's donation to CEFA. One of last year's participants, Ryan Kennedy from Temora High School said of the trip "It was really fun. We met new people and got to look at career opportunities in science. It's been a great trip!"

A big thank you to UTS and the Origin Foundation for funding this great program and further opening the career paths and opportunities for our youth.

Our Mission

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