



Message from the Chairman



Momentum in an organisation can sometimes be confused with activity. For my part there is no confusion when one reflects on the advances the Country Education Foundation of Australia has achieved over the past 12 months. We definitely have momentum underway.

We now represent 45 Education Foundations across the Northern Territory, Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia. One of the latest

Foundations to be established under great fanfare was in Alice Springs where, with strong local community support, we have embarked on an ambitious program of engagement with a community that is confronted by the realities of disenfranchised youth and despondency with regard to career prospects. If the enthusiasm of the launching committee is a harbinger of things to come there are great prospects at hand.

This year also saw the establishment of Foundations in the Great Lakes region of NSW, the Gwydir Learning Regional Education Fund, and more recently, the Shoalhaven Education Fund.

Most will now be aware that Annabel Gay has moved to Melbourne and is due to give birth later this year. Annabel has added great professional qualities to the Foundation and whenever I move between communities they are inevitably complimentary about the efficient and accommodating approach she has shown to their issues at hand.

We are currently in the process of recruiting a new Chief Executive Officer. The applications we have received for the position are both wide ranging and highly qualified and we only assume they are reflective of the reputation the Country Education Foundation of Australia has established in the wider community. Indeed the wide family of individuals and philanthropic organisations that ascribe to our ambition to redress some of the natural disadvantage that rural youth find in advancing from school to a career, is what gives me confidence about our future. We have been successful in establishing partnerships of interest between members of our smaller regional communities, philanthropic organisations that aspire for a fairer go for regional Australia and corporations that recognise the need to provide career opportunities for young Australians.

I am confident that we have passed a significant threshold point in the growth pathway and that the incoming CEO will inherit a structure capable of delivering much more.

Yours sincerely

Nick Burton Taylor AM
Chairman

Quote of the Quarter

“Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do.”

Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

Stop Press

New CEO Appointed

All in the CEFA management team are thrilled to be able to announce that Sarah Taylor is joining CEFA as our new CEO. Sarah has an extraordinary career encompassing the media, the most senior areas of government including the Department of Prime Minister, Higher Education and Employment and a range of communication jobs at the most senior level within the New South Wales public service and corporate Australia. Born in the Orange district and completing her school certificate at Canobolas High School, Orange, she was then educated in Sydney before completing a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of New South Wales. Sarah retains strong family connections to Orange and brings to CEFA wide ranging government and commercial experience combined with enthusiasm and palpable energy.

Sarah commences work on the 12th November but has already started “thinking into the space.” The next newsletter will give more background into what Sarah has been involved in and some of her ideas for the future.

Our Mission

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

Kirsty Johnstone from Blackall-Tambo thanks her local Education Group for their support

Blackall-Tambo Education Group (BTEG) recipient Kirsty Johnstone had to face the prospect of deferring her studies because of the costs involved. Now with only a few months to go until she is a fully qualified veterinarian, the difficulties involved in getting enough money to stay afloat in Townsville have become very real.

She has been studying veterinary science at James Cook University for four-and-a-half years and says it hasn't been easy to achieve, particularly with the costs involved with moving so far away and living on her own.



Kirsty and Moo

For the first few years of study she was assisted by the McLean Bros bursary run by the Blackall State School. This enabled her to meet all the start-up costs associated with her university study.

"I was really wondering how I was going to finance university when this bursary ran out, as I had little savings," Kirsty said.

"We are required to undertake many placements during our holidays. This comes at a cost and prevents us from earning income from alternate jobs.

"My parents were still trying to establish a new business, and to top it all off, Centrelink cut my youth allowance drastically."

Kirsty said rent was the biggest issue she was facing, an amount of \$150 a week.

"The thought did cross my mind that I may in fact have to defer my studies for a little while to be able to fund myself, rather than rely on my parents, who already had other children to support at home."

Kirsty said she was extremely grateful for the BTEG grant as it helped pay her rent, which meant she could utilise her savings to buy textbooks, equipment and pay to travel to the placements required for her course.

"Honestly, while it may not seem like much to some, it helped me immensely; I cannot stress this enough," she said.

"I would like to sincerely thank the Blackall-Tambo Education Group for giving me this grant and for allowing me the opportunity to advance further in my course.

"Your group is a fantastic idea and does extraordinary things, and I certainly will be promoting it to many others from our country area."

As for the future, Kirsty is hoping to find a good boss to guide her, and hopefully one day to have her own vet practice.

2012 ACT University Program an unforgettable experience for NSW rural students

In July, 51 excited students from Coleambally, Gilgandra, Lockhart, Cowra and Deniliquin High Schools travelled to Canberra for a once in a lifetime experience in our Nation's Capital. The 2012 ACT University Experience was hosted by the Australian National University (ANU) and the University of Canberra (UC) as part of their partnership with CEFA.

The students stayed at the Canberra City YHA for three nights and participated in a range of university run workshops and activities over the jam-packed four day program.

The students were also lucky enough to participate in a training session run by the Australian Sevens rugby squad. This was held at the Australian Institute of Sport, where the students had dinner in the dining hall alongside AIS athletes. The ice-skating on the first night was also a highlight for many, as was the scavenger hunt and paper plane contest held at the universities.

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 discuss with students the potential for scholarships, funding arrangements, mentoring and affordable accommodation.

This year, for the first time, UC and ANU invited current year 11 students who attended the experience last year to return to Canberra for a more tailored follow-up program. This proved to be extremely beneficial and allowed the students to focus more specifically on the university courses and subjects they are keen to pursue. As Carlie Howman from Deniliquin High School explained, "This year's trip was even better than last years. I learnt so much about the different types of accommodation, scholarships and support groups that are available to Uni Students. It has made me more determined to get into Uni."

The ACT University Experience is funded by the ANU and UC with additional financial help from CEFA's sponsor, The Origin Foundation. CEFA and each of the attending high-schools would like to thank the ANU, UC and The Origin Foundation for their generosity and support.



CEFA Students thanking UC & ANU

CEFA Events

Dreams were captured at the Wool, Wine and Wheat (WWW) Country Education Fund's fundraising dinner

The WWW Dream Catchers Dinner held in July was a most successful occasion with a warm comfortable venue, warm winter food, warm fellowship and interesting input to the evening. The caption "Dream Catcher" follows the philosophy of WWW encouraging and supporting young school leavers to follow their dream into the future, and to catch it! Three young recipients were in attendance to share their story thus far, their achievements



Courtney Nourse, a WWW grant recipient

and their journey as they follow their dream. Courtney Nourse was one of the young recipients who spoke on the night. Courtney, a Riverton District High School student was awarded her WWW grant for the commencement of the 2010 academic year. She is now in her final year at Flinders University, studying Government and Public Management. Courtney's dream is to work in Parliament house in Canberra, and to serve as a Member there. She has a very enthusiastic interest in politics at all levels and is taking every opportunity to gain work experience.

Central Australia Education Foundation fundraising dinner with Bernard Salt

Bernard Salt, Social Editor of The Australian and Australia's leading speaker on demographic and social trends was the guest speaker at the recent Central Australian Education Foundation (CAEF) fundraising dinner.



Mr Bernard Salt addresses guests at the recent CAEF fundraising dinner

Mr Salt proved to be an entertaining speaker with his finger on the national pulse. As well as addressing the 140 strong crowd, he also found time to speak to each senior student about how the future is shaping up and how they can be best prepared for it.

Throughout the evening trainee VET students waited on the crowd, and the bar was manned by members of the Rotary Club of Mbantua, one of the

three Rotary clubs that seeded the CAEF. Master of Ceremonies, Letitia Polychronopoulos, born, bred and educated in Alice Springs spoke of her educational journey in becoming the Tourism Central Australia's Marketing and Public Relations Manager. Letitia was asked to take on the role of MC as she represents the younger generation who have taken up the many opportunities that the town offers.

It was an enjoyable evening and a successful night financially, and it certainly put the central Australian Education Foundation 'on the map'.

Shoalhaven Education Fund launch

The Shoalhaven Education Fund (SEF) was launched on 3 September at Silos Estate, Jaspers Brush with huge support from the local community and Shoalhaven Mayor, Mr Paul Green who will be the Education Fund's official patron.

"The Shoalhaven Education Fund is set to be an exciting resource for young people," he said.

"The fact that it is open to all students regardless of whether they plan on going to university or into a traineeship is fantastic. It's a great investment in our local youth".

The launch was widely followed by local media, and attended by

career advisers from the local high schools. The committee is already receiving grant enquiries, which is testament to the success of the launch. Congratulations to Chairperson, Linda Marquis and all the committee members who have shown incredible commitment and drive to establish and launch their local Education Foundation.



The Shoalhaven Education Fund committee at their recent launch with Shoalhaven Mayor, Mr Paul Green

What's on Where in CEFA Communities

Temora and District Education Fund will be holding their annual fundraising dinner on Saturday 15 September, 6pm at the Temora Aviation Museum's Display Hanger. The special guest of honour is the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, Her Excellency, Ms Quentin Bryce AC CVO, who is also the official Patron of the Country Education Foundation of Australia. The evening will commence with a 'Spitfire' flyover display, with Master of Ceremonies, The Hon. Tim Fischer AC and guest speaker, Mr David Lowy AM. For further details, please contact Mr Rick Firman on 02 6977 2021.

The Boorowa Education Foundation is holding a Scarecrow Walk along the banks of the Boorowa River on Sunday 16 September, commencing at 11.00am followed by a gourmet BBQ at the recreation park. All schools, clubs and business houses are invited to make and enter a scarecrow. For further information, please contact Nicky Merriman on 02 6385 3282.

West Wyalong and District Country Education Fund will be running their annual scholarship information night on 17 September 2012. The evening provides young people and their families with information on the wide range of scholarship opportunities that exist beyond our grant program. The night also includes a workshop on how to prepare for an interview and fill in a scholarship application form. For further details, please contact Michele Carnegie on 0427 753 418

Merriwa District Education Foundation 10 year celebration lunch. At the Plough Inn Café, Cassilis, on Sunday 23 September 2012, 11.00 am. To celebrate ten years of supporting Merriwa's youth to achieve their tertiary education goals. For further information, please contact Jane Hegarty at belvedereag@bigpond.com

The Kangaroo Island Country Education Fund annual fundraising dinner will be held on 12 October with SA Olympic cyclist, Anna Meares as the guest speaker. For more information please contact Shauna Black on 08 8553 2080.

The Cootamundra and District Education Foundation will be having their annual fundraising dinner on 12 October, 6.30pm. Continuing on with their theme of guest speakers who have a low public profile but are important figures in society, local Detective Inspector Paul Huxtable will be the guest speaker on the night. To be held at the White Ibis, Wallendoon St, Cootamundra. For all enquiries, please contact David Hain on 0419 277 907.

GAIN WITH GRAIN

2012/2013 HARVEST STAFF REQUIRED

GrainCorp is one of Australia's largest agricultural supply chain and logistics companies. We operate 284 grain receival sites across Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria, where we receive and store grain for up to 10,000 growers. We currently have positions available for:

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To apply please visit www.graincorp.com.au for any enquiries please contact:

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Northern NSW – Julie Mather – 0409 744 541

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Education Foundations

New South Wales

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

Queensland

Blackall-Tambo	Clermont
Paroo (Cunnamulla region)	Maranoa (Roma 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 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 CEFA on 1300 650 144.