



Message from the Chief Executive



Firstly, hello to all the members, volunteers, friends and supporters of CEFA. After just a few weeks in the CEO's chair I feel like I am already part of the furniture, thanks to the warm welcome and contact I've had with so many of the CEFA family. It's been wonderful to speak with so many of you in person, on the phone and by email as I settle into the role.

It's also great to be back in rural NSW, where I was born and raised, after leaving Orange many years ago to study and work in Sydney, Canberra and overseas. It's a journey common to many young people in rural and regional areas who need to leave their families and communities to pursue those opportunities. For many, it can be a difficult time and for others, it's simply not an option at all. And that's where CEFA really makes a difference. Through the unique model of financial and other support CEFA committees across Australia are making a real difference to the lives of young people in rural and regional areas. And I'm delighted to be a part of that.

10th Anniversary

I'm also very fortunate to be taking the reins on the eve of our tenth anniversary. The first education foundation was formed in Boorowa in 1993 and since that time over 2,000 grants have been given out, totaling \$2,109,361. Building on this simple and successful model, the CEFA organisation was formed ten years later in 2003. A further ten years on and CEFA is now a thriving and well-regarded, national organisation.

The excellent foundations laid by the Chairman, Nick Burton Taylor, the Board, member foundations and staff, position CEFA well for the years ahead. Our biennial conference in June

2013 will be a great opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the significant achievements to date – as well as planning for the challenges ahead.

Future Plans

The ten year marker is a logical time to pause and reflect on the journey so far, consider future needs and ensure CEFA is well positioned to meet a range of challenges including:

- maintaining our funding sources (which all flow from individual and corporate donors, as we do not accept government grant funding);
- supporting and sustaining our member foundations;
- supporting and 'giving back' to our education partners and sponsors; and
- ensuring that the issues faced by rural and regional youth are heard, and addressed, by politicians and other decision makers.

Here in the national office we'll be working to ensure we are in good shape to face all of these challenges as well as seeking out new and different ways to make a difference. And we look forward to doing that with you, our committee members, donors, friends and supporters. Until then, best wishes for a safe and happy Christmas and holiday season.

Kind Regards,

Sarah Taylor
CEO

Quote of the Quarter

"The beautiful thing about learning, is that no one can take it away from you."

B.B. King

Save the date!

2013 will mark the 10th Anniversary of CEFA, which was formed in February 2003. Ten years on, we are a unique national organisation with 45 member foundations, all working to make real and lasting changes to the lives of young rural and regional Australians. We are looking forward to celebrating this milestone with our Education Foundation Committee members at a special 10th Anniversary Dinner on the eve of the biennial CEFA Conference in Sydney, June 2013.

Details will follow but for now, please save these dates:

- Anniversary Dinner - Friday 31 May
- CEFA Conference - Saturday 1 June

The dinner and the conference will be a great opportunity to celebrate the achievements of the past ten years as well as a chance to share ideas and plans for the opportunities and challenges ahead.

Our Mission

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

2012 Careers in Science Program, Sydney

Temora, Merriwa, Broken Hill, Willyama, Yass and Narrabri High School students travelled to Sydney last month to take part in an unforgettable two day experience of science, university insights and Sydney sight-seeing.

Developed with the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS), the Science Hands-on Day is part of the university's commitment to teaching students about the tertiary and career prospects within the science sector and increasing students' interest and aspirations for working in this field when they leave school.

Students travelled to Sydney either by coach or plane and spent an interesting afternoon on the first day at the CSIRO in North Ryde. There they participated in an engaging and interactive session on nanotechnology and went on an informative tour of a laboratory.

Attending UTS the following day, the future scientists took part in a series of workshops relating to microbiology, chemistry and forensics, and mathematics. The students dissected a fish, dusted for fingerprints and deciphered encoded information from a card trick. They were also treated to a fun and informative talk from a UTS Physics Honors student and learnt about the myriad of tertiary courses and career opportunities available to them.



CEFA students enjoying time at UTS

Year 10 student, Brianna Morton from Temora was delighted to be selected to participate in the program. "It was a really good opportunity to learn about a future career in science", Brianna said. "What I enjoyed most about the trip was learning about all the different science courses that you can do at university and seeing how much fun science can be."

Narrabri student, Dylan Gale, also relished the opportunity to see firsthand what university life was like, "I really enjoyed the experience of being in a university. The forensics workshop was my favourite because it was so hands-on and interesting."

CEFA and all the participating schools and education foundations would like to thank UTS for their generosity and support.

CEFA Events

Temora District Education Fund welcomes the Governor-General to Temora

Temora opened its doors and its collective hearts recently to the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, Her Excellency Quentin Bryce. Over a jam packed weekend of activities and showcasing of Temora's finest, Her Excellency enjoyed the hospitality of the locals and historical insight into the Temora Aviation Museum, procedural demonstration by TeleMedicine Australia doctors and meeting with passionate local school students.

Her Excellency is the Patron of the national body, CEFA, and her presence at such a once in a lifetime event was largely thanks to



Her Excellency, Ms Quentin Bryce AC, CVO

the hard work and dedication of Temora and District Education Fund (TDEF) Chairman, Mr Rick Firman.

The main portion of the Governor-General's visit was the gala function for the TDEF in the display hanger at the aviation museum. The evening event included former Deputy Prime Minister of Australia, The Hon. Tim Fischer AC, as the Master of Ceremonies.

"The weekend visit by Their Excellencies, Mr & Mrs Bryce, will be one we shall never forget," Mr Firman said.

"The Governor-General's natural grace, enthusiasm and kindness was something to behold. The TDEF was so very pleased that we were able to include numerous other groups (including schools, churches, agricultural and aviation communities), to be part of the Vice-Regal weekend.

"The gala dinner was a stand out success with over 280 people in attendance and over \$5,000 raised for the TDEF. We are very happy with the result and are thankful for everyone who contributed to the weekend's success," concluded Mr Firman.



(l-r) Cr Peter Speirs, Her Excellency, Ms Quentin Bryce AC CVO, Mayor of Temora Shire Council & TDEF Chairman Cr Rick Firman, Deputy Mayor & Deputy TDEF Chairman, Cr Graham Sinclair

Clermont grant recipients give back to their local Foundation

Past and present Clermont and District Education Group (CDEG) grant recipients held a trivia night recently to raise funds for the CDEG. CDEG chair Paula Heelan said that the Education Foundation committee and local community could not have been prouder of these fine young adults.

"They ran a fantastic community trivia night which not only raised more than \$4500 for CDEG, but helped create greater awareness for the group."

Paula said the recent fundraising event gave testimony to the extent of the community backing that local students are receiving.



CDEG grant recipients and trivia night organisers, from left, Angela Martin, Carmen Tuttle, Anna Boyes, Brady Lawrence and Ali Goodwin

“It was wonderful to see the recipients so enthusiastically take it upon themselves to run their own fundraiser for CDEG. Their families and friends all pitched in to help and the long list of local businesses that also contributed to the event’s success was phenomenal.”

Angela Martin of Clermont has received CDEG support each year since 2010.

“CDEG has supported me since I began my studies in Brisbane,” Angela said.

“Being the third sibling to undertake tertiary education, it’s quite a financial burden for my family. With CDEG’s assistance I’ve been able to buy a computer, text books, pay travel expenses and other costs during the semesters. CDEG help makes a huge difference and is extremely appreciated by us all.”

Boorowa Scarecrow Walk

Boorowa locals turned up in their droves to the inaugural Boorowa Education Foundation (BEF) Scarecrow Walk, that was held in September.



Prize winning scarecrow

Spectators strolled along the Boorowa walkways viewing the many scarecrows on display whilst also being entertained by buskers who had their tins out collecting money for the BEF. The talented buskers included Boorowa students, teachers and past students who were helped by the BEF. The Committee was very pleased to receive such fantastic support from people who entered a wonderfully entertaining array of scarecrows, as well as from those who participated in the walk itself. The categories ranged from ‘The Year of the Farmer’ to ‘Most Humorous’ and the popular ‘Sporting Hero’, with all scarecrows on display ensuring that locals could enjoy a ‘crow free’ weekend.

The Army Band showcase their talents in Yass

Former Yass High School student, Elspeth McGregor is a member of The Australian Army Band (Sydney) who recently performed at the Yass Memorial Hall as part of a fundraising concert for the Yass District Education Foundation (YDEF).

The YDEF have a special association with Elspeth, whose brother Alistair received a YDEF grant for his science/law degree at the Australian National University.

The band, comprising of ensembles from quartets through to a 22-piece concert band, performed music from all genres, classical through to rock. There was something for everyone, and it was hard to tell who enjoyed it most – the youngsters or the young at heart.



Local Yass girl, Elspeth McGregor in The Australian Army Band

The YDEF committee, aided by a number of their current grant recipients and their families provided help and afternoon tea on the day. The YDEF were very happy with the results of the day as a fundraiser and perhaps more importantly, as a fun day out for the Yass community.

Kangaroo Island hosts Olympian, Anna Meares

London Olympic gold cyclist, Anna Meares visited picturesque Kangaroo Island on 12 October to speak at a fundraising dinner for the Kangaroo Island Country Education Fund (KICEF). Anna dazzled a packed house with her stories about growing up in ‘the bush’, the bittersweet rivalry with British cyclist Victoria Pendleton and



Anna Meares (r), interviewed by KICEF board member and Editor of The Islander, Shauna Black (l)

the gruelling recovery from her broken neck six months before the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

And while Meares acknowledged the enormous dedication and sacrifices she has made to reach the pinnacle of her sport, she is well aware and enormously appreciative of the sacrifices made by others, starting with her parents who took it in turns to drive her 300km to Mackay every weekend to compete in cycling events. A story that is all too familiar for the many parents of active youth living in rural and regional Australia.

The evening also provided the opportunity for a new group of Kangaroo Island people who attended the dinner to learn about the work of KICEF and to hear a previous grant recipient and her mother talk about the benefits they had experienced from such support.

The fundraising event was the hottest ticket in town and raised an incredible \$8,590 for the KICEF.



WWDCEF Opera in
The Park

What's on where in CEFA Communities:

- **CEFA Conference & 10 year celebration.** Friday 31 May and Saturday 1 June, 2013. Sydney.
- **West Wyalong District Country Education Fund (WWDCEF), Opera in The Park.** Banardo Park, West Wyalong. Friday 5 April, 2013.
- **The Coleambally-Darlington Point Country Education Fund Raffle.** 26 January, 2012.

Where are they now?

As we head towards our 10th Anniversary in 2013, CEFA is very keen to hear from former grant recipients. We'd love to hear how past students are progressing and where their studies have taken them, professionally and personally. Present and past grant recipients can sign up to the CEFA Alumni database by emailing their contact details to kate@cef.org.au

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)

About CEFA

CEFA is funded through private and corporate philanthropy and does not accept government grants. We have tax deductibility status that all of our member communities can use. We also provide up to \$10,000 in seed funding over the first three years to assist each local foundation to become established. We do this by matching locally raised funds. In the first year, we match dollar for dollar up to \$5,000, in the second year we match fifty cents in the dollar up to \$3,000 and in the third year twenty-five cents in the dollar up to \$2,000.

We also have an increasing number of tertiary Education Partners who provide additional grants to recipients attending these universities or colleges. Additional grants can range from a \$500 book voucher to a dollar for dollar grant match, meaning in some instances that a local grant of \$1,500 can become \$3,000 once the Education Partner's additional grant is factored in.

If you're interested in setting up an Education Foundation in your rural or regional area, we can help. Contact our national office on 1300 652 144, or see our website for more details www.cef.org.au

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 652 144.