



## CEO message



Happy New Year to all of our CEF friends, family and supporters and a very special thank-you to those who gave so generously to our Christmas

Appeal. The wonderful support we receive from all of our donors and partners makes us feel very enthusiastic about the year ahead.

Our supporters come from all walks of life but they all share a very strong desire to help rural and regional kids get a head start in life. Often they just pop out from nowhere with lovely offers to assist, like cyclist, Chris Ronan (p2) and our volunteer

IT guys, Matt Wilson and Steve Godbold (p3).

With their help we can assist more and more rural and regional school leavers across Australia. Right now, thousands of them are preparing to leave home in order to pursue study or work in city areas – an exciting but also scary time for many of them.

As always, our CEF volunteers across Australia will be doing their best to support them on that journey with financial support, mentoring and truckloads of encouragement.

Until next time,

*Sarah Taylor, CEO*

## Student Profile Amy Clem, Maranoa QLD

Amy Clem is the first person in her family to go to uni and has just completed her first year studying engineering at the Queensland University of Technology.

Supported by the Maranoa CEF, Amy said their help was more than just financial, “They gave me a lot of advice and support about uni, like what to do and what to expect – little tips like that were very helpful.”

“That little bit of funding goes a long way and takes away the burden when you first get to uni.”

“Uni is stressful enough when you first get there because you need to get organised and get into the swing of things, and the CEF’s funding meant I could focus on uni, instead of stressing about money.”

## Getting their hands onto science



Budding young scientists from schools in Gunnedah, Merriwa, Narrabri, Temora and Yass recently travelled to Sydney for the annual “Science Hands-On Day” run by the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) and CEF.

Students literally rolled up their sleeves to dissect fish, examine microorganisms, create alternative energy sources, investigate ‘crime scenes’ and examine fingerprints.

They also enjoyed a visit to the CSIRO in North Ryde, which included a DNA workshop.

*Students getting hands on with science*



*Amy Clem — supported by the Maranoa CEF*

## CEF Profile – Monica Quan, Central Australia



Monica Quan (left) at the 2013 CEF conference with fellow committee member Kim Gosling

Monica knows first-hand the obstacles rural and regional students face when pursuing tertiary education. Having grown up in Alice Springs, Monica first left home to travel out-of-state to attend Adelaide University. She said she knows how financially daunting university can be and how useful and motivating financial grants can be.

“I’ve seen students in difficult circumstances, who haven’t done the best at school, be motivated by financial grants – it’s what gives them

that extra push and drive to pursue their dreams”.

Monica has said she has been very fortunate in regards to her education and this is one of the reasons she became a CEF committee member.

“A lot of positive energy has come my way and now I want to give back to the community.” Monica also said that by becoming a committee member, she is learning new skills such as fundraising and engaging with the community. “You get a good feeling when you give back.”

## 300Km ride to help rural students



Chris Ronan – cycling for a cause

A couple of months ago we received a wonderful gift from a uni student in Orange who decided he would cycle 300km to help raise funds for the CEF.

Chris Ronan relocated from Orange to Canberra two years ago to study Commerce/Arts at the Australian National University (ANU) and understands first-hand the challenges faced by rural students when they leave home to study.

“Every year thousands of disadvantaged rural and regional kids miss out on higher education

because of distance and cost,” Chris said.

“This is why riding for the CEF is so important to me – other rural kids should have the same experiences as I’m having right now at uni – and the chance to build their careers through tertiary study.”

It was an incredible effort and a great example of how one person can really make a difference. Chris raised over \$1200! Congratulations Chris and heartfelt thanks from all of us at the CEF.

## Student Profile: Where are they now? – Adam Dawes from NSW



Past recipient, Adam Dawes, now working for the Department of Agriculture

We love hearing from former grant recipients and news of where their study has taken them. Adam Dawes was assisted by the Yass CEF in 2000, studying Applied Science in Agriculture at Charles Sturt University in Wagga.

13 years on, Adam is now Assistant Director with the Horticultural

Exports Program at the Department of Agriculture in Canberra. He works with fruit and vegetable growers to ensure their products meet overseas quarantine requirements.

Thinking back to 2000, Adam says his grant – and knowing his community was backing him – really made a difference. “Without it, I wouldn’t have been as successful ... I would have had to work two or three part-time jobs, instead of one, to cover my expenses.”

## Our fabulous tech team

Matt Wilson at [sixchickens.com.au](http://sixchickens.com.au) and Sydney-based IT consultant, Steve Godbold recently came to our rescue by volunteering to assist us with IT services. They've been advising on our IT Strategy, website and general 'techie' troubleshooting. We're enormously grateful for their support.

When he's not helping us, Matt is busy with Six Chickens, a terrific rural, online trading site - take a look at [www.sixchickens.com.au](http://www.sixchickens.com.au)



## Survival tips for rural students

It's that time of year when thousands of rural and regional school leavers move away from home to pursue study or jobs in city areas. For many it can be a daunting experience.

This year, the CEF is helping rural and regional students to make the transition with a new online guide — [www.cef.org.au/students](http://www.cef.org.au/students).

The Guide contains great tips, advice and links to help find:

- » campus accommodation
- » bulk-billing doctors
- » part-time jobs
- » low-fee bank accounts
- » cheap text books
- » support and counselling services... and lots more.



*The best study tip? Just keep going*

There's even a great app you can download to help first years find their way around any Australian university – as we know that getting lost on campus is a huge problem for most new students.

## Snow Foundation support



We are delighted to announce that long-term CEF supporter, the Snow Foundation, will provide \$12,000 for scholarships to assist school leavers from Braidwood, Monaro, Yass and Goulburn during 2014 and 2015.

The CEF is enormously grateful to the Snow Foundation for this support.

The Snow Foundation was established by brothers Terry Snow

and George Snow in 1991 to benefit disadvantaged people in Canberra and the surrounding region.

'We were humbled by the outstanding work done by so many quiet achievers in our community. We saw the Foundation as an opportunity to try to make a difference to the lives of many people who, for reasons beyond their control, were doing it tough,' Terry said.

“ ***Learning is the only thing the mind never exhausts, never fears, and never regrets.*** ”

*Leonardo da Vinci, Italian polymath (1452 – 1519)*

## CEF locations

### NSW

Balranald  
Boorowa  
Braidwood  
Broken Hill  
Coleambally  
Coonamble  
Cootamundra  
Cowra  
Dubbo  
Edward River  
Gilgandra

Goulburn  
Great Lakes  
Griffith  
Gulargambone  
Gunnedah  
Gwydir  
Harden  
Hastings  
Lockhart  
Macleay Valley  
Merriwa  
Monaro

Moree  
Narrabri  
Orange  
Shoalhaven  
Temora  
West Wyalong  
Yass  
Young

### SA

Clare Valley  
Eudunda

Kangaroo Island  
Kapunda  
Kimba  
Torrens Valley

### QLD

Blackall Tambo  
Clermont  
Maranoa  
Paroo

### NT

Central Australia

## Leave a lasting legacy



Our work in rural and regional Australia is funded entirely by donations and bequests. Bequests are an increasingly popular way to make a significant donation which guarantees a lasting legacy. Your bequest will ensure that our life-changing work with rural and regional young people can continue long into the future.

To discuss how to make a bequest to the CEF please contact our office on 1300 652 144 or email [ceo@cef.org.au](mailto:ceo@cef.org.au). Or write to us at PO Box 245 Orange NSW 2800.

## Sponsorship opportunities

CEF is seeking partners to help us expand and improve education and career opportunities for disadvantaged rural youth. There are many ways to help:

- » Tax deductible donations - to pay education expenses for disadvantaged rural youth
- » Sponsorship – for projects such as ‘university experience’ visits and establishing and supporting local education foundations
- » Providing ‘in kind’ good or services to support our work eg office equipment, computers and technology support, travel/accommodation, professional services.

## Donating is easy

Fill in the form below and send it with your cheque to the Country Education Foundation at **PO Box 245, Orange NSW 2800.**

Visit [www.cef.org.au](http://www.cef.org.au) and click on the ‘*donate now*’ button on our home page. Contact us to discuss payments via credit card or direct bank transfer.

## Country Education Foundation - ABN 60 103 889 452

Donor Name:

Contact Person:

Postal Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Amount you would like to donate: \$

Would you like to receive a quarterly newsletter by email? Yes / No

The Country Education Foundation | Tel: 1300 652 144 | [www.cef.org.au](http://www.cef.org.au)