

CEO message



If ever we needed a reminder of the importance of providing opportunities for country kids, it came in the form of some recent

figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Two things jumped out: young people in rural and remote areas (especially boys) are twice as likely to commit suicide as city kids, but only half as likely to go to university.

Our work is all about giving country kids a leg up so that their postcode is not their destiny. That's why I'm

heartened by stories like Pemulwey's (below) and Zoe's (p2), which show just what our young students can achieve when they overcome the obstacles.

Someone who has long shared our commitment to rural and regional young people is former CEF Patron, The Honourable Dame Quentin Bryce AD CVO, who retired in March. We wish her a long, happy and very well-deserved retirement.

Until next time,



Sarah Taylor, CEO

Fond Farewell

The CEF recently farewelled The Honourable Dame Quentin Bryce AD CVO, who has served as our Patron since 2009. Throughout this time, Dame Quentin has made a significant and lasting contribution to both the CEF and to the lives of the young rural and regional Australians who we support.



The Honourable Dame Quentin Bryce AD CVO

We are delighted to announce that the Patron's role will now be filled by our great friend and supporter, The Hon Tim Fischer AC, former Deputy Prime Minister.

We'll be welcoming Tim to his new role at a CEF fundraising lunch on 3 June at the Mitchell Library in Sydney, where he will share great tales from his time as Australian Ambassador to the Holy See.

For tickets and sponsorship opportunities please contact us on (02) 6362 3162 or info@cef.org.au

We love SILOS

Our thanks to Sophie and Raj at Silos Estate, Berry for hosting us



on our recent visit to the Shoalhaven. If you're looking for great hospitality in a lovely setting Silos is the place. www.thesilos.com

Pemulwey pursues archaeology

We first met Pemulwey Gillon when he contacted our Macleay Valley CEF, seeking assistance for his travel expenses from Kempsey to Canberra, where he is studying Archeology at ANU.

The Macleay Valley CEF not only awarded him a \$1500 grant (to help with travel costs and uni equipment) but also helped him access the Indigenous Youth Mobility Program (IYMP) – a fabulous program which supports indigenous students with subsidised accommodation and mentoring.

Pemulwey says he is very grateful for the grant but its not just about the money: "It's great to know the Committee has my back - it is so encouraging having people that believe in you," he said.

His parents are very proud too. According to Pemulwey, "I think most of my hometown knows about what I'm doing because mum keeps stopping everyone in the street and telling them about my degree."



Pemulwey Gillon – on the way to getting his degree in Archaeology

Rotary supports CEF students



Ashleigh Beck receives her award from Kapunda Rotary President, Frank Ware

Eight CEF students from SA, Qld and NSW are off to uni with a boost from the Rotary Club of Sydney-Soukup Scholarship, including Ashleigh Beck from Kapunda, SA who is doing a Bachelor of Medical Science (optometry) at Flinders uni.

Ashleigh says the scholarship has helped her to pay for textbooks, laboratory gear and travel costs. Ashleigh travels 78kms each way on her daily journey to uni, across three

different modes of transport.

When Ashleigh finishes uni she'd like to work in rural and regional areas where there is a shortage of optometrists: "I hope that this career can take me around Australia and the world so that I can help others, especially those less fortunate, and better myself in the process."

Many thanks to the Soukup family and Sydney Rotary for their support for regional students.

Where are they now? – Zoe Rickertt, Clermont Qld

Zoe Rickertt grew up on a property in Central Qld. When she decided to pursue a Bachelor of Veterinary Science at James Cook University back in 2011, finances were a major obstacle, due to the high cost of moving away from home.

"I was fortunate to receive a \$2,500 scholarship from the Clermont CEF" Zoe said. "The funding assisted with travel expenses for my practical rotations and opened opportunities that I would not have had without their support."

Today, Zoe is a fully qualified vet working in Clermont, Qld – and she loves it. She returned to Queensland after spending two years as a vet in Narrabri, NSW.

Whilst in Narrabri she also volunteered with the local CEF, to 'give back' to rural youth and to spread the message, "...that no matter your upbringing, it should not deter students from chasing their dreams."



Past recipient, Zoe Rickertt, now working as veterinarian in Clermont, Qld

Vale Christine Stanford

It is with great sadness that we mark the recent passing of Christine Stanford, former Chair of the Maranoa Regional Education Group (MREG), Qld. Christine passed away in March after a prolonged illness.

Over many years Christine worked tirelessly to improve opportunities for local school leavers through MREG, which she helped establish in 2008.

Her resilience was an example to us all... On a number of occasions she called us from her hospital bed to discuss CEF business, saying she would prefer to pass the time doing something useful than to focus on



Christine Stanford (right) and Maranoa CEF recipient, Erin Campbell (2008)

her illness. At a time when she was entitled to think only of herself, she was only thinking of others.

Christine was someone we all felt privileged to know. We all miss her and our hearts and warmest wishes go out to her family at this very sad time.

Inaugural Loder scholarship

We are delighted to announce the recipients of the inaugural Bruce and Robyn Loder Scholarship for 2014. Rhiannon Herbert (Business, Newcastle University) from Narrabri and Katherine Munn (Rural Science, University of New England) from Moree will each receive \$11,500 per year for the duration of their course.

Both students were thrilled to receive the generous scholarship which will make an incredible difference as they pursue their future careers. Our thanks to the Loder family for making this wonderful opportunity possible.

Origin Foundation backs rural and regional students

Back in February, our CEO, Sarah Taylor, did a road trip with Origin Foundation representative, Tom Keenan, visiting the Shoalhaven, Yass, Cooma, Goulburn and Temora. It was a great opportunity to see the work of local CEFs and meet our fabulous volunteers and grant recipients.

Since 2011, the Origin Foundation has provided over \$300,000 to the CEF for scholarships and other support for hundreds of rural and regional students.



2014 grant recipients from Yass CEF with local MP, Angus Taylor (back right)

Origin Foundation Head, Sean Barrett said, "Our focus is on education [which is] the pathway to a brighter future for people and

their communities. We are proud to support the CEF and foster the education and career achievements of rural Australian youth."



She's just six years old. But already we know she only has half the chance of going to uni as her city cousins.

Every year, thousands of rural kids miss out on tertiary education because they can't afford it.

Your donation to the Country Education Foundation will help disadvantaged rural kids to access education and jobs.

Donations \$2 and over are tax deductible.

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 and click on the 'donate now' button on our home page.

Name:

Postal Address:

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Donations \$2 and over are tax deductible

The Country Education Foundation | Tel: 1300 652 144 | www.cef.org.au

2014 Grant Presentations

It has been a busy start to the year with local CEF 2014 grant presentations across the country. It is a great opportunity to acknowledge our students for their hard work and wish them luck as they embark on new adventures...



Grant recipients from Kapunda in South Australia



Grant recipients from Coleambally/Darlington Point in NSW



Grant recipients from Central Australia in the Northern Territory



Three (of eleven) grant recipients from Clermont in Qld



Grant recipients from the Monaro region in NSW

“ *Education costs money,
but then so does ignorance.* ”

*Claus Moser, Statistician and former Pro Vice Chancellor,
University of Oxford UK*