



CEO Message



Did you hear about the country student who went to uni in Sydney and paid over \$200 a week to rent an open air verandah facing onto one of Newtown's busiest streets?

That's the kind of rental market rural and regional kids face when they leave home to pursue education and work in big cities. Surviving this and the many other

challenges of leaving home is what our 2016 Uni Survival Guide (p3) is all about. It's just one more way the CEF supports students like Jelisa (below) and Ashleigh (p2) on that journey. A huge thanks to our project partners Griffith University, QLD and The Origin Foundation for funding the project.

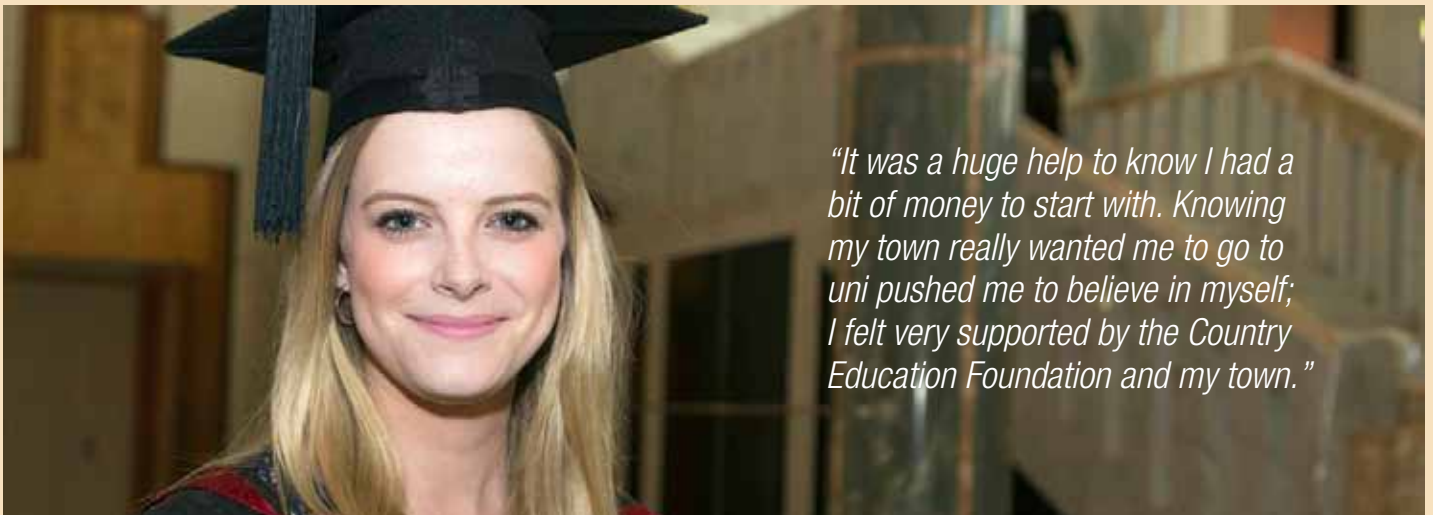
We'll be assisting thousands of school leavers again in 2016 and we rely on the generosity of our donors and proceeds of fundraising events—

like the amazing Duck Dash featured on p3—to make it all possible. If you'd like to be part of our 2016 family of support we'd love to hear from you. Please see the back page of this newsletter for details or visit www.cef.org.au to find out more.

Best wishes,

Sarah Taylor, CEO

From Boorowa to Broadcast News



"It was a huge help to know I had a bit of money to start with. Knowing my town really wanted me to go to uni pushed me to believe in myself; I felt very supported by the Country Education Foundation and my town."

CEF grant recipient Jelisa Aapps is now a reporter with WIN News in Canberra and member of Boorowa CEF.

Jelisa Aapps wasn't sure how she would fund her dream to study journalism until her school told her about the CEF grants. Knowing help was out there made the decision to apply for uni easier and when Jelisa found out she was successful it got things off to a great start.

Higher education opportunities are a big decision when you come from the country because of the move away from support networks and the many costs involved.

Jelisa believes the investment in students from the CEF is a boost for local communities and economies.

"I have seen it get the ball rolling for a lot of country kids. Grants and scholarships are an important part of helping regional students overcome the mental block that they will never be able to go to uni."

Future Looks Bright for Ashleigh



Ashleigh Beck, from Freeling, SA

The historic copper mining town of Kapunda, SA feels like a million miles from the big smoke but this hasn't stopped Ashleigh Beck from pursuing her academic goals.

Ashleigh is studying medical science at Flinders University, specialising in optometry. She has received support from the CEF through the Rotary/Soukup scholarship and the local CEF in Kapunda.

"This funding has greatly helped in the transition from high school to university by covering many expenses, primarily travel costs, textbooks and general university expenses," Ashleigh said. "It has allowed me to focus on my studies and future career without additional financial stresses".

Thank you...

Last month we were thrilled to receive a \$2100 donation from Nundah Cottage Group, which came from the proceeds of their recent quilt show—thank you for the lovely surprise!

We couldn't help rural and regional students achieve their education and career goals without the support of our generous partners and supporters. We wrapped up 2015 with support from some fantastic organisations, including ICAP, the James N Kirby Foundation, Origin Foundation and Thyne Reid Foundation.



JAMES N. KIRBY
FOUNDATION



Corporates Lend a Helping Hand in the Bush

What do you get when 100 city-dwelling business leaders land a plane in Longreach? A great day out at the races and a whole lot of fund raising. This year's City2Bush, sponsored by UBET, injected more than \$100 000 into drought-affected communities in Queensland, with four CEF committees named amongst the beneficiaries.



Business leaders at this year's City2Bush fund raising event.
Photo: Sally Cripps, QLD Country Life.

Navigating the Path to University

Starting university is a huge milestone in any student's life but for regional and rural students the extra financial and geographic pressures can overshadow the excitement.

CEF's 2016 University Survival Guide is a practical resource to make heading off to uni a rewarding adventure for all students. From financial support, to study hints and tips, to accommodation options; the guide is full of information to help students and parents successfully navigate and enjoy the transition to the big, wide world of further study.

This essential toolkit for regional and rural students has once again been made possible by support from the Origin Foundation and Griffith University, QLD.



Farming Futures Dinner Donates to CEF

Many thanks to the organisers, sponsors and guests at this year's University of New England Farming Futures Careers Fair and Industry Dinner, for donating the proceeds of their charity auction—over \$1500—to the CEF. Pictured left are Farming Futures Industry Dinner guest speakers (left to right), Don McDougall, Melissa Neal and Dr Darryl D'Souza.



Dashing Through the... River

The Shoalhaven River was awash with 9500 blue rubber ducks last September when the annual Duck Dash took place, raising \$30 000 for the Shoalhaven CEF.

This year's Duck Dash was another fantastic fundraising event and fun family day out. The volunteer contribution to this event is huge. It's not easy getting that many ducks in a row and ready to race! And local businesses really rally behind the event each year to provide prizes and support.

Businesses and community members flocked to sponsor ducks and be in the running to win lots of great prizes. NSW Premier Mike Baird was even a contender in this year's race.

A number of previous Shoalhaven CEF grant recipients took time out from their studies in Sydney and Wollongong to help with the event and update the committee on how they are finding uni life.

The amazing Duck Dash organisers Sophie (left) and Raj (right) with guest race-caller Rohan Bullock from local radio 2ST (centre) holding the winning ducks for 2015.

Business Boost Helps Kangaroo Island Students

A new \$2000 scholarship from Kangaroo Island Plantation Timbers has boosted the Kangaroo Island CEF (KICEF) annual grant program to \$17 000.

KICEF has been helping local students meet the costs of further education primarily through an annual fundraising dinner and auction. "We have been supported by businesses who offer auction and raffle items and discounted services. Their sponsorship is invaluable and we thank them. The initiation of corporate scholarships is a new way for Island businesses to offer their support," KICEF Chairman Simon Windsor said.



KICEF chairman Simon Windsor (far left) and KI 2016 grant recipients.

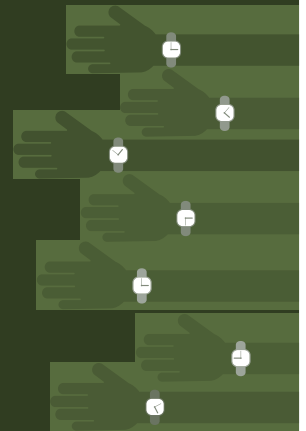


How You Can Help the CEF

Online: Visit www.cef.org.au and click on the 'donate now' button on our home page.

Pro Bono: Call us on 02 6362 3162

By Cheque: Fill in the form below and post it with your cheque to Country Education Foundation PO Box 245, Orange, 2800



Name:

Postal Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Donations \$2 and over are tax deductible.

Melbourne Cup Spectacular

Fashions, fascinators and fun were the order of the day when our Braidwood volunteers held their annual Melbourne Cup luncheon at Garan Vale Woolshed Function Centre.

Left: Fashions on the Field winners.

Right: Braidwood CEF committee members (from left) Libby Collard, Mandy O'Brien, Bev Wisbey, Robyn Clubb, Amanda Hall (Chair) and Trish Solomon.

