



Transforming the lives of young people in rural and regional Australia through education, training and careers.

## From the CEO's Desk...



What an honour it is to be Country Education Foundation's new CEO. I'm thrilled to be here and fortunate to be joining CEF in this exciting time of growth and opportunity. CEF's strong position and reputation is due to our important purpose of enabling young people in rural and regional Australia to access education, supported by our amazing team - staff, board and volunteers.

I'm very much looking forward to working with these very talented and passionate individuals to help even more young people realise their professional and educational aspirations.

Before I move on I must acknowledge the extraordinary Sarah Taylor, my predecessor. Her commitment to CEF's future and

generosity in entrusting me with continuing her work has been nothing short of amazing and I thank her from the bottom of my heart. I also wish to thank Nick Burton Taylor, Julia Burton Taylor and the entire board for making me feel so welcome during my first few months at CEF. What an exceptional organisation of which to be part.

CEF is very busy currently. I can detail progress and highlight some important developments in the near future; however, in terms of support, we have an exciting announcement coming soon about a new partner which will drive growth and impact in several very important areas.

Until then, happy festive season and thank you for your ongoing support of CEF and young people across the country...

Wendy Cohen  
Chief Executive Officer

## Local Support Sparks Success

CEF local grant recipient Clayton Jericho has graduated from his electrical engineering degree and is now putting his building services and solar design skills to good use at the Adelaide plant of global firm KBR.

"It's great to be able to put my degree to work and see how what I learnt at uni transfers to a real job."

Clayton said he did pretty well in maths and science and thought he would like to give uni a go but didn't really know how things worked, as no one in his family had studied at that level before.

He applied to his local CEF in Kapunda for assistance and was awarded support for the duration of his four year degree at University of Adelaide.

"My local CEF helped me with four \$1,000 grants and I can't tell you how far that went to helping out with travel expenses, a new laptop and tablet and other expenses."

Clayton said for regional kids in South Australia local support can mean the difference between going to uni or missing out.

"The financial assistance kickstarts you but more than that the support you get from the people on the Kapunda committee is what really counts.

"I've been invited back to speech and presentation nights, which made me feel valued and respected by my community.

"Even though I graduated in 2015 I'm still in touch with my local CEF and keep them updated on what I am up to."

CEF's model of local support has supported almost 4,000 students to achieve their further education, training and career goals.

You can help more students like Clayton on their way by setting up a workplace giving program.

Call us on 1300 652 144 to find out more.



*^ Clayton Jericho was supported by CEF's local grants program and is now working as an electrical engineer for global firm KBR.*

CEF Principal Partners:



## From Little Things Big Things Grow

When Terry Witchard read about Country Education Foundation in 2012 he was instantly hooked.

“This was something that really resonated with me and something I knew this area needed.”

Terry knows firsthand that education is vital when it comes to unlocking opportunity for regional kids.

“In my time not a lot of people went on to further education; I always wanted to go to uni but knew Mum and Dad couldn’t afford it, so I left school at 17 and got a job at the local servo.”

Terry then worked his way up to management with ANZ and even ran his own mixed business for five years.

“When I decided to return to work I kept getting knocked back for jobs I knew I could do. I asked why and was told it was because I didn’t have my HSC.” So at the age of 40 Terry enrolled at TAFE. He then went on to university and earned a teaching degree.

Terry became a teacher and course coordinator at North Coast TAFE and in 2013 he established a local CEF in the Macleay Valley.

**“I saw kids in our region who I knew had the potential to get qualifications, if only someone believed in them and could give them a kickstart.”**

“These days in regional areas there aren’t opportunities for unskilled employment for kids fresh out of school. But there are jobs available for people with qualifications. The work is there, if they can just get the certificates and degrees they need.”



^ Founder of CEF of Macleay Valley Terry Witchard with chair Bonnie Hillsley and grant recipient Tia-Rose Bird.

One of Macleay Valley’s first grant recipients has just returned to the area as a nurse. “She’s working as an AIN and once she has her full qualifications she will be working in a skilled profession, making good money and contributing to her community.

Our investment in these kids pays dividends for the whole community – CEF recipients are living proof of this.”

CEF is proud to have Terry as part of our local foundation family. To find out more about the CEF local foundation model visit [www.cef.org.au](http://www.cef.org.au) and click through to Our Foundations.

## Rural Role Model

Emily Ryan from Coonamble in Western NSW might only be 21 but she’s already kicked some major goals.

She is the youngest ever recipient of the NSW RAS Rural Achiever Award, a member of Gulargambone and Coonamble Show Societies and was a delegate at the 2016 Rotary Young Leaders Summit in South Korea.

And while that’s enough to make most of us want to take a nap, Emily’s also studying a Bachelor of Education at University of New England and working as a



^ Coonamble’s Emily Ryan (left) has been named youngest ever NSW RAS Rural Achiever and is a Rotary Young Leaders Summit delegate.

special needs teacher’s aide at a local school in her hometown.

Emily, who is now in her third year of study, is being supported by CEF’s local grants program. Her local foundation in Coonamble has provided Emily with financial support to make her dream of becoming a teacher a reality.

“I’ve always wanted to be a teacher, for as long as I can remember. But heading off to uni from a small town is a big step, both financially and emotionally.”

Emily said she was so excited when she received news her local CEF would be supporting her. “I am so grateful for the support I am receiving, it’s making a big contribution to my degree.

**“The support has really opened up opportunities for me. It’s helped me get to uni and see what’s possible when you have access to education.”**

“The first year of support helped me move and get set up in Armidale. Then, at the beginning of my second year my dad was diagnosed with cancer and I moved



back to Coonamble to support my family and take care of my younger brother and sister while Mum and Dad went to the city for his treatment.

“It was great to be able to use my CEF funds to get home internet and equipment to keep up with my studies during this time.”

Emily’s dad’s treatment was successful and he has been given the all-clear. This year Emily’s grant is helping her pay for practical materials and attend her teaching placements.

“The support has really opened up opportunities for me. It’s helped me get to uni and see what’s possible when you have access to education. Education really is key for young

people in rural and regional Australia.”

Emily’s passion for her local community is infectious and makes it easy to see why she has been chosen to represent NSW at the 2017 National Rural Ambassador Awards.

“My opportunities to travel as an RAS Ambassador and Rotary Young Leader have taught me some great leadership, networking and community engagement skills. But every time I travel I can’t wait to get home to Coonamble. To me, this place is the meaning of the word community”.

Give the gift of education and help more young Australians like Emily on their way to bright futures by donating to CEF’s Christmas Appeal.

## Local Foundation News

### Livestock Exchange Brings Yield for Yass

CEF Chairman Nick Burton Taylor attended the opening sale at the all-new South Eastern Livestock Exchange (SELX) and was delighted to see the local CEF in Yass Valley receive a \$29,500 boost via the charity pen at the auction.

Chair of Yass Valley committee Nic Carmody welcomed the support from SELX, “The generous donation from SELX will be put to very good use helping students from the Yass Valley achieve their education and training goals.”



### Online Raffle Connects NT with Donations

Our local CEF in the Northern Territory ran a unique online fundraising raffle to attract donations from across their territory to support young people from the NT to get on their way to further education.

Chair of the Central Australia committee Allanah Jansons said the idea was to tap into the ability of online promotions in helping to spread the word across bigger distances. “For a first go we’re happy with how the fundraising initiative went. We’ve raised over \$12,000.”



### Annual Yum Cha Lunch a Hit

Locals in the Narrabri region tucked into some tasty yum cha, listened to great tunes and heard about the fantastic work the local CEF does there.

Narrabri’s Rhys Gard received financial and mentoring support in 2011 and was a guest speaker at the lunch. After studying film at UNSW Rhys worked in marketing before deciding to head back to the bush to run two restaurants. He has also volunteered on the local CEF in Narrabri to help out with marketing and promotions.

“The local CEF here helped me with accommodation, financial support and a lot of additional support when I was studying. CEF is a great organisation that puts students from isolated areas in touch with opportunities that are really beneficial to their futures.”



# “education has changed my life, so I can save lives”

Maggie-Kate Minogue, CEF grant recipient and Bachelor of Medicine student

## Give the gift of education this Christmas

Every donation to CEF helps more rural and regional youth access further education, training and jobs.

Donate online: [cef.org.au](http://cef.org.au)



## Please donate now and give the gift of education

Thank you for helping us get more rural and regional school leavers on their way to achieving their dreams.

Please complete this form and mail to:  
Country Education Foundation,  
PO Box 245, Orange NSW 2800.

Name	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>

I would like to donate

\$25  \$50  \$100

(nominate your donation amount)

Payment Details:

**By Cheque:** Please make your cheque payable to the Country Education Foundation of Australia.

**Bank Transfer:** Please make your payment directly to the following account:  
Country Education Foundation of Australia  
BSB: 062-629 Account: 1009 0818 Reference: (YOUR NAME)

**By Credit Card:**

Name on card

Card number

Expiry Date

CCV

Visa

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AMEX

Signature:

Please send my tax receipt to:  my email or  my postal address.

Please add me to the CEF mailing list (your details will never be shared with a third party). **You can also make a donation to the Country Education Foundation by visiting [www.cef.org.au](http://www.cef.org.au) and clicking the *Donate Now* button on the home page or by phoning 1300 652 144.**

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.



Country Education Foundation (CEF) is a national not-for-profit organisation assisting rural and regional students to pursue their higher education, training and career goals. With your help we provide financial grants, scholarships, mentoring and support.

The CEF family is proud to have over 40 local education foundation committees operating throughout New South Wales, Queensland, the Northern Territory and South Australia.

Since 1993 we've given almost 4,000 grants to young people across Australia. CEF has helped apprentices buy their toolkits, funded laptops and textbooks for TAFE students and helped remote students travel to capital cities to study at university. Our support services also include an annual University Survival Guide, a Scholarship Guide and student mentor programs.

To find out more about our life-changing work please visit [www.cef.org.au](http://www.cef.org.au) or phone us on 1300 652 144.