



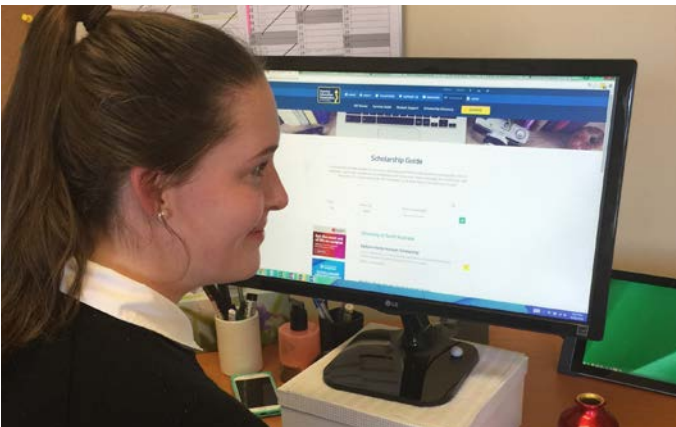
Transforming the lives of disadvantaged rural and regional students through education, training and careers.

## The Sky's the Limit with a Scholarship

CEF launched a brand new online scholarship platform in August, thanks to the support of Macquarie University and Origin Foundation.

The platform was part of a range of website upgrades made possible by the generosity of the Thyne Reid Foundation.

The 2017 Scholarship Guide can be found at [www.cef.org.au](http://www.cef.org.au)



^ CEF have launched an online scholarship guide for rural and regional students, making it easier for them to access funding opportunities.

We caught up with former Eureka Benevolent Foundation University Scholarship recipient Alex Rowbotham.

"I received a \$10,000 scholarship last year and it made all the difference to me even going to university. I come from Broken Hill and no one in my family had ever been to uni before, so it was a pretty big decision."

Alex's scholarship made it possible for him to relocate to Mildura to take up the opportunity to study for a teaching degree at La Trobe University.

"The financial support has helped with rent, transport costs and also the purchase of textbooks."

"Most importantly to me it's also meant I didn't have to work in my first year and could really concentrate on getting my degree off to the best start possible."

Receiving the Eureka Scholarship from CEF has also opened Alex's eyes to other scholarship opportunities that are out there.

"It gave me the confidence to apply for more scholarship help. Having that great first year scholarship meant I could study hard and get good grades, which then in turn opened up other support opportunities."

Alex is passionate about country kids having more access to further education opportunities and his goal is to teach in rural areas.

"I want to give regional students the best chance of education and access to resources they may not be aware of."



^ Future teacher Alex Rowbotham knows firsthand what a difference scholarships can make to a rural student's ability to take up tertiary studies.

CEF Principal Partners:



## CEO's Message



After four fabulous years with the Country Education Foundation I am struggling to find the words for a final message and farewell.

Though excited about my plan to have a year off, it's not easy leaving this great cause.

It's been a privilege being part of the CEF family, which includes volunteers, students, donors, supporters and partners across the country. All with a deep empathy for the struggles faced by rural and regional kids, families and communities.

Together, we've made great progress and changed many lives. And, what a pleasure it has been to meet and work with so many wonderful people along the way.

In particular I'd like to pay tribute to our incredible volunteers, our university partners and to our friends at the Origin Foundation and Boyce Chartered Accountants, our principal partners. Their commitment and involvement over so many years has had an extraordinary impact on our capacity to deliver positive change to the lives of so many.

The one thing that does make leaving easier is the knowledge that CEF is in great hands. Along with our committed Board, staff and volunteers, we have a wonderful new CEO, Wendy Cohen, who will be in the seat from mid-September. Wendy's professional experience, passion and warmth will be a great asset to CEF and I warmly welcome her to the role.

I wish you all the very best for the journey ahead,



## The Right Fit for Isaac

Isaac Austin from Merriwa, NSW, is now in his second year of a fitter machinist apprenticeship and couldn't be happier with how his post-school training is turning out.

Isaac did work experience at a Scone engineering company and was offered an apprenticeship. "I knew I wanted to do something that offered lots of hands on work so when the job offer came I was really excited.

"I was a bit nervous about leaving school and certainly had a few concerns about being able to afford the tools you need for an apprenticeship, buying a vehicle to get me to and from work and having to move out of home, all at the age of 16."

Isaac's careers advisor told him about grants offered by the Country Education Foundation and he said he thought applying was worth a shot.

"There's not a lot of extra support out there for apprentices. I guess people think you are earning money so you don't need help. But the reality is you are on minimum wage and by the time you pay rent and buy your food for the week there's not a lot left."

So when Isaac found out he was going to be supported by his local CEF in Merriwa he was over the moon.

"My tools alone cost me \$1,500, so to get help to pay for them was great. But the mentorship and support from my local community has been just as important to me."

Isaac's commitment to his training and education was recognised again this year when he was awarded a Kirby Scholarship from CEF national office.

"Getting the Kirby support for my second year of study has been such a help. It's great that there are organisations and people out there who want to encourage and help apprentices."

Isaac's four year apprenticeship will qualify him to work anywhere from a manufacturing firm to an engineering company to a farm. He said whatever he does in the future it will definitely involve making and fixing things.



*^ A CEF local grant from Merriwa and a CEF Kirby Scholarship to support students studying engineering have helped Isaac afford tools and a new vehicle.*

## Support Sets Ruby up for Study Success



This year CEF welcomed Swinburne University of Technology to our education partner program. Swinburne is our very first Victorian education partner. With a number of local grants program students attending Swinburne it was fantastic to deliver the news that they would be receiving co-funding.

Ruby Lay is studying psychology at Swinburne and said her local foundation grant and her co-funding support have made a huge difference in her transition to uni.

“One of my main concerns about moving from Balranald to Melbourne for uni was around how I was going to afford to be able to pay for basics like public transport every week. I had heard there was a great yearly pass for \$700 but couldn't afford that kind of money up front until I received my local grant.”

Ruby used the remaining funds from her local grant to buy her first semester textbooks. To then get \$9,000 co-funding from Swinburne has been life-changing, Ruby said.



“My funding from Swinburne is paying my rent and bills, which means I can save for my dream of undertaking a study abroad semester in England next year. It is such a relief to know that my living costs are covered.”

Ruby hopes to complete an honours degree in psychology, which will qualify her to work in schools.

“I know how much emotional support from people like my local CEF foundation has helped me. I think mental health needs more attention and is as important as physical health for kids.”

### Special Thanks...

We're enormously grateful for the assistance we receive from many philanthropic and family foundations. Our growing family of supporters now includes the **Thyne Reid Foundation** and the **Vernon Foundation**, both of whom have contributed significantly to our cause this year.

They join others who share our commitment to furthering the education opportunities of rural and regional young people, including the **Burton Taylor Foundation**, **James N Kirby Foundation**, **Millett Family Foundation**, **Origin Foundation**, **Profield Trust**, **Purves Foundation** and **Snow Foundation**.

< *Psychology student Ruby Lay is off to a great start in her studies thanks to a CEF local grant from Balranald and co-funding from Swinburne University of Technology.*

## 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

Mastercard

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.

## CEF Friends Lunch

It was lovely to get together with some of CEF's closest friends in May this year.

Our annual Friends Lunch provides us with the opportunity to thank our key donors and supporters, as well as recognise CEF's important work of providing further education and training opportunities to disadvantaged rural and regional students.

Former grant recipient Jelisa Apps came along to tell her inspiring story of overcoming the odds to go on to

further education and land her dream job as a reporter with Channel Nine. Jelisa reminded us that everyone deserves access to the life-changing opportunity of education.

The day was made possible through the generosity of CEF donors, the CEF Board and our event partners, Boyce Chartered Accountants and Cumulus Wines.



Former CEF of Boorowa grant recipient Jelisa Apps gave the keynote speech at the 2016 CEF Friends Lunch.



Ross Dickson from Forestry Corporation of NSW and Frederique Katz joined CEF at our recent Friends Lunch to celebrate the life-changing abilities of education.



Daniel Gauchat and David Greig joined us at the State Library of NSW to celebrate the 2016 CEF Friends Lunch.



CEF supporters Myriame Rich, Michael Katz and Tina Milson.



Marc Oostdijk and Michael Kirby caught up at the CEF Friends Lunch.



CEF supporters Emma Brown and Jono Hart, from Boyce Chartered Accountants.



The Country Education Foundation (CEF) is a national not-for-profit organisation assisting disadvantaged 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 disadvantaged 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.