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2015 Year in Review

Each year the Country Education Foundation strives to help more disadvantaged rural and regional school leavers achieve their education, training and career goals. We want all rural and regional students to have access to the tools they need to make their dreams come true. CEF made some outstanding achievements in 2015. Here's a snapshot of just some of our accomplishments for disadvantaged rural and regional students.



Our 42 vibrant and active local foundations gave out **463 grants** to the combined value of **\$652,700.**

We welcomed Nyngan in North West NSW to the Country Education Foundation family.

Macquarie University and the Bridges to Higher Education university partners continued to support our University Experience project, providing rural school students firsthand insight into tertiary education facilities.

We welcomed two new education partners **Griffith University, Qld** and **Open Universities Australia**, bringing our national co-funding up to **\$333,401** worth of student support.

The University Survival Guide and the Scholarships Guide continued to grow in distribution and provide valuable resources for students and parents and carers in every corner of the country.

We formed new partnerships with ASX Thomson Reuters Foundation and Millett Family Foundation. The Origin and Snow Foundations continued to provide vital support to our national office, contributing to a number of projects aimed at our financial sustainability and technical capacity.

The James N. Kirby Foundation partnered with CEF to provide a new engineering and trades scholarship program for rural and regional students.

We developed a CEF branded line of merchandise to expand our fundraising initiatives.

CEF continued to receive wonderful pro bono support from Boyce Chartered Accountants, AVIS, Steve Godbold and Matt Wilson.

The CEF Friends Lunch has become an anticipated date in the calendars of many of our friends and supporters. This year's guest speakers were accomplished radio journalist Fran Kelly and grant recipient Noelle Swainston.

About the Country Education Foundation

Who we are and what we do

Our mission is to provide financial assistance and support services to help disadvantaged rural and regional school leavers access education, training and career opportunities.

The Country Education Foundation (CEF) seed was planted in Boorowa, NSW in 1993, when a group of community members came together to raise funds to provide financial assistance for local students who might otherwise miss out on training and education opportunities.

The idea soon spread throughout the region and similar foundations were established in Yass, Cowra and Harden. In 1998 the Country Education Foundation was formed to act as an umbrella organisation to provide resources to help communities across NSW establish local committees.

The Country Education Foundation has since grown into a family of more than 40 local education foundations across the country. Today the CEF family extends to communities in Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and the Northern Territory.

CEF Chairman, Nick Burton Taylor was one of the founding members of the foundation and the inaugural president of the Boorowa group. His belief in the power of local communities to change lives through providing education, training and career opportunities is inspirational and contagious.

The disadvantage of distance

Rural and regional school leavers face increasing obstacles getting in to higher education, further training and careers. While 31% of people aged 25-64 who live in major cities have a university degree, only 15% of those living in outer regional areas have a degree. That's less than half. (Source: ABS, 2011, Census Community Profiles.)

In 2015 the youth unemployment rate averaged 13.5%, accounting for over one third of total unemployment. (Source: ABS, Labour Force, Australia; Trend data.) It gets tougher every year for young people to find work or get into training and education that will lead to secure jobs. And that's made even more difficult when you live in a rural or regional town, where jobs are becoming increasingly limited and education and training options almost always involve relocation.

The odds are increasingly stacked against young people in rural and regional Australia – their destiny is being determined by their postcode. The Country Education Foundation is seeking partners, sponsors and donors to help empower disadvantaged rural and regional Australians to take control of their destiny through education and training. Because we all know that education changes lives.

How the Country Education Foundation helps

The CEF is a national, not-for-profit organisation supporting disadvantaged rural and regional school leavers to achieve their education, training and career goals.

We are made up of a family of 42 volunteer-run local foundations across NSW, Qld, NT and SA.

We provide grants and other assistance to disadvantaged rural and regional young people to help them access post-school education, training and employment.



Our grants help school leavers pay for textbooks, trade tools, laptops, travel, accommodation, living expenses and other education and work resources.

We have partnerships with 18 universities and colleges across the country that provide additional funding to our grant recipients attending their institutions.

The Country Education Foundation does not receive government funding. Our work is funded through private and corporate philanthropy.

How CEF local foundations help

Our 42 local foundations are run by dedicated and passionate volunteers from regional and rural areas across NSW, Qld, NT and SA.

Volunteers include representatives from the business, agriculture, education and local government sectors, as well as members of community organisations and retired community members.

Volunteers work year round to raise funds and source donations to support local school leavers.

CEF's national office supports this family of local foundations with seed funding and ongoing funding and support. The national office provides tools and resources to help local foundations provide support and opportunities for disadvantaged young people in regional, rural and remote communities.



Our Patron

The Honourable Tim Fischer AC, former Deputy Prime Minister of Australia

“By supporting CEF you will be helping to provide life-changing opportunities for disadvantaged rural students – and supporting rural communities across Australia. The Country Education Foundation has lifted the lives of many and in the process lifted the fabric of many communities and the nation.”

Chairman's Report 2015

Education policy has been at the centre of national debate over the last 12 months. This has created enormous uncertainty amongst the institutions and students that are served by university and TAFE colleges. Whilst this uncertainty has played out on the national stage, at the grass roots level, where our concern is focused, there is a high level of confusion and uncertainty.

This is unfortunate as feedback from our now 350 strong group of volunteers serving the Country Education Foundation across 42 regional foundations indicates all are only too aware of the enhanced need for education as the pathway to opportunity and career choice. At no time has it been more important in regional Australia for young people to be given an opportunity to find their way through the maze to further their education and enhance their ability to shape a career.



Our education partners have remained committed notwithstanding the financial pressures and uncertainties they are facing in federal government funding. Two new education partners have joined our family, namely Griffith University in Queensland and Open Universities Australia. We welcome them to the 18 partners that we already have nationally and who they have combined with to provide co-funding this year of \$333,401.

In all CEF achieved a new milestone handing out 463 grants worth a total of \$652,700. We have continued to expand our footprint at sustainable levels with the additional Nyngan Country Education Foundation in North Western NSW.

When considered over our history we can take enormous pleasure in recording that we have provided over \$6.4 million of support to more than 4,000 rural and regional students.

From my own experience, in Boorowa, one of the most successful programs that we run from students' point of view is the University Experience which has been supported by Macquarie University and the NSW based Bridges Partnership of Universities, Australian National University and University of Canberra. These experiences have opened the eyes of young regional students to the opportunities of further education that some never believed possible.

There are some wonderful individual stories on how these experiences have profoundly changed lives for the better.

This year we have invested in our own sustainability, and in the resources which make it possible for our volunteers to continue supporting growing numbers of students each year. Emphasis on bringing up to date our information systems' capacity to make it easier for volunteers to work within our family has been a priority.

With this in mind we have dramatically improved the efficiency and friendliness of our website. This has been rewarded with a huge increase in traffic and usage by both students and ease of operation for the local foundations.

At the more exciting end of the scale our Scholarships Guide and University Survival Guide publications have continued to grow in popularity and distribution,

providing valuable resources for parents and students across the whole country. This has proved particularly beneficial for students in regional Australia where we have no presence and a scope of opportunities are set out in an easy format.

The challenge for the Board of the Foundation is to continue to provide the financial wherewithal for what we know is a crying need. Whenever I travel to individual foundations I am touched by the personal stories of achievement and initiative that young people have pursued. Nearly always the pursuit of their goals has been materially advanced by the work of the local committee who through their intuitive and local knowledge have adapted the support that the Country Education Foundation can provide. The mentoring and personal support offered to students leads to results that are not achievable with either government funding or third party programs.

The financial support that CEF obtains is often unheralded and is given insufficient public recognition. The reward clearly lies in the reports back to our donors as to what has been achieved and how effectively their support has been leveraged into opportunity for young people.

Some of those who have recently joined us as financial supporters include the NSW Country Eagles, ASX Thomson Reuters Foundation and the Millett Family Foundation. These supporters join a group of longer established supporters led by the Origin Foundation and the Snow Foundation, who support not only scholarships, but also a number of projects aimed at our financial sustainability. Much of this expenditure is used to cover the less glamorous side of our work related to good governance and program support.

The importance of expanding our capacity to support the voluntary field workers cannot be overstated and is a significant investment that is necessary to achieve the outcomes we have set out to achieve. Others who remain committed to assisting young people find their way in furthering their education and skill set include the James N. Kirby Foundation, Purves Foundation, Profiel Foundation, AVIS, Steve Godbold and Matt Wilson. Of particular mention I would like to thank the staff and partners of Boyce Chartered Accountants who continue to support their regional roots with an outstanding commitment to our financial reporting and conduct.

In today's world, where reputation is all, they ensure that the probity requirements of a not-for-profit organisation such as ours are always front of mind. All of this is brought together under the outstanding leadership of Sarah Taylor, our CEO. She has assembled an extraordinary team of devoted individuals who are now housed in our larger offices in Orange.

There is no one in our organisation who more faithfully exhibits the qualities of the Foundation than Katie Walker who after many years of service has retired but thankfully agreed to remain on the Board as a contributor.

Our committees are all evidenced by a dominance of long established members which is testament to the value they see being derived from our work. My heartfelt thanks goes to them all.



Nicholas Burton Taylor AM
September 2015



It's always exciting to look at the facts and figures that clock up another year at the Country Education Foundation. We continue to assist more students and families, welcome more great volunteers and engage more friends and partners to support our great cause.

Assisting and supporting country kids on their way to further education and a career is at the core of everything we do. These promising young people might otherwise not get the opportunity to pursue their goals and dreams, simply because of the financial barriers.

So how did we do?

- Our total number of local grants went up to 463.
- The combined value of CEF's local grants program grew to \$333,401.
- Our education partners provided an extra \$652,700 in support.
- Over 150,000 students used our Scholarships Guide and University Survival Guide.

We proudly stand beside those figures. But it's the personal stories of students and families behind the numbers and results that really make us tick.

One of the great pleasures of my job is that I get to meet so many amazing young people from rural and regional Australia and see first-hand the impact our grants have. Like Nap, who makes the 12 hour journey by public transport to get from home to her uni in Orange, NSW. Or Josh, the apprentice who needed help to cover travel, tool and equipment expenses when his training job took him away from his home in a country town. And Anna who lived 1,000 kilometres from her nearest university and thought she'd never get there... but with our help, she did.

As you'll see from their stories a CEF grant and the encouragement that comes with it makes a huge difference. And not just to the recipient, but also to their families and to their communities. The multiplier effect kicks in with reduced financial pressure on the family, better results because there is more time to study and the role modelling that inspires younger siblings and classmates... There are so many winners when a country kid heads off to TAFE, university, training or employment.

Our amazing volunteers

This is why our fantastic family of volunteers – over 300 across Australia – work so hard to make it all happen. They're amazing. And, while they're out raising funds, awarding grants and mentoring students, we're here to support them with services like training, fundraising, accounting and technology – the back office essentials that ensure good governance and provide assurance to our supporters that theirs is a sound investment.

The great support

Of course, none of this would be possible without the support – financial and otherwise – CEF receives from our generous donors, education partners, supporters and friends. They are generous, committed and interested. And, for an organisation that receives no government grant funds, they are critical to the continuation of the work we do and the results we achieve. The successes are theirs as much as ours.

Of particular mention are our principal partners, the Origin Foundation. We love that they get so involved and show such interest in our progress and results.

On a more personal note, I have had the pleasure of working another year with a very supportive Board and a wise and energetic Executive Committee. They, and the excellent, committed staff who form our national office team, are a joy to work with and to know. It's so nice to go to work each day with people who really want to make a difference. And they do.



Sarah Taylor, CEO



We've achieved outstanding results in 2015 by helping more than 460 disadvantaged rural and regional young Australians achieve their education, training and career goals.

463

Grants given
in 2015

3,458

Grants given
since 1993

\$6,429,781

Value of financial support
provided since 1993

\$333,401

Value of grants given in 2015

+

\$652,700

Value of funding provided from
our education partners in 2015

=

\$986,101

Value of support provided in 2015
(includes grants, education partner
co-funding, scholarships and support resources)



The CEF model of locally-based grants and support delivers a sound return on investment.

Research by Social Ventures Australia (SROI Report 2011) indicates that for every dollar invested, a social return of \$3.10 is generated. Beneficiaries include students, their families, CEF volunteers and the broader community in which we operate.

Our grant recipients: how they benefit

Country Education Foundation grants buy tools for apprentices, textbooks for uni students and pay for accommodation and living expenses for rural and regional students who need to relocate for further study or career opportunities. Meet some of our inspirational grant recipients.

Cruz Vida

Cruz grew up in Alice Springs and knew he wanted to be a pilot from the first time he got on an aeroplane. "I got to go into the cockpit. I asked lots of questions about the controls and then I looked out the front window. That's when I knew I wanted to fly planes."



Cruz began his flying training in the outback when he was in Year 11 but as he neared the end of high school he realised he would need to move a long way away if he wanted to become a qualified pilot.

Cruz has just graduated with a Bachelor of Aviation/Bachelor of Commerce from Swinburne University and is a flight instructor with the oldest aero club in Australia, the Royal Victorian Aero Club.

"I was encouraged by a development officer at school to apply for a CEF grant to help with my relocation and study costs. Aviation is expensive — course materials and textbooks are costly and exam fees to the Aviation Authority are around \$350 each time.

"Getting a grant helped me move to Melbourne and get started. The committee members in Alice Springs were really supportive and we're still in touch. My dad

passed away during my first year of uni and they were there for me and my family."

Cruz believes CEF grants are vital to ensure country kids get access to education and training. "The NT doesn't have a lot of opportunities in further education so you have to explore options elsewhere. If there is help available — both financial and emotional support — it makes it possible for young people to take that next step and chase their dreams."

Nap Holmes

When home is a 12 hour train trip away and you're the first in your family to go to university, the big move can be pretty scary, not to mention costly.



For Nap the added financial burden of university was something she knew her family couldn't afford. "My dad got sick when I was a kid and hasn't been able to work since, so mum has been the sole bread winner."

When Nap found out she would be receiving a grant from her local CEF in Great Lakes she was excited and relieved.

"Without the Country Education Foundation it would be very difficult for people like me to go to university. It's hard enough to get into uni but being able to afford living expenses, travel, textbooks and relocation costs is the really stressful stuff. My CEF grant relieves these pressures so I can concentrate on my studies and focus on getting a great job."

Nap has seen firsthand the difference education can make to someone's life. "My mum is Thai and when she came to Australia she did courses at TAFE to learn English and get work and support our family."

When uni's on break Nap travels home to see her family and help Great Lakes with fundraising activities. "My local committee have done so much to support my dreams. I try to do my bit so other regional students get to access education opportunities just like I have."

Anna Boyes

Anna grew up in Clermont, a four hour drive north-west of Rockhampton.



Anna's story is familiar across rural Queensland. She revelled in the freedom of the outback and didn't give much thought to life beyond Clermont.

She certainly hadn't entertained the idea of becoming a teacher. But with assistance from her local CEF in Clermont that's exactly what she did.

When Anna's school principal told her about a grants program supporting rural and regional students to pursue further education she got some big ideas.

But as Anna considered applying for uni she was confronted by the tyranny of distance and financial burden. "When you're 1,000 kilometres away from a university you feel so far away from opportunity that the hurdle seems impossible to clear."

Anna received consecutive CEF grants throughout her studies and was a 2014 Rotary Scholarship recipient. She is now enjoying a successful and rewarding teaching career in rural Queensland.

"I feel really lucky to have grown up in the bush and be supported to go away and gain qualifications. If I can pass that story on and show kids what's possible that would be really satisfying."

Josh Doak

Josh Doak from Murrumbateman was over the moon when he landed a plumbing apprenticeship at the end of high school.



He said the security of having an employer who supported your training was what attracted him to studying a trade. But Josh soon discovered that apprentice wages don't stretch far when you take into consideration textbooks, tools, subject fees and travel expenses.

When Josh heard the Country Education Foundation offered grants for apprentices he approached his local foundation at Yass to find out more.

"One of the biggest expenses I face living in a regional area is my travel costs to get to my study in Canberra. On top of everything else I really didn't know if I was going to be able to afford it."

The local CEF of Yass saw the need to support Josh and awarded him financial support to help him overcome the extra expenses associated with his apprenticeship.

Josh said the support from his local foundation in Yass has made a huge difference. "They have helped a lot with covering my expenses and taken a lot of pressure away."

Josh is in the final stages of studying to become a licensed plumber through the Canberra Institute of Technology. It's a five year course and when Josh completes his study he plans to build on his current experience and eventually start his own plumbing business in a regional area.

Our volunteers: they make it happen

CEF is made up of a family of 42 volunteer-run local foundations across NSW, Qld, NT and SA. Our volunteers donate skills, time and endless amounts of passion to ensure rural and regional Australians have access to further education and training opportunities.

We have volunteers who have been part of CEF since the very beginning and volunteers who have joined us this year. Our volunteers ensure CEF's work is always moving forward. We couldn't do it without them.

Meet Monica Quan

Monica volunteers as treasurer with her local Country Education Foundation in Central Australia. She grew up in Alice Springs and was supported by a grant in her first year of university study.



After returning to Alice Springs to work and raise her family Monica learnt her local foundation was looking for new committee members.

"I had been thinking about ways I could give back, feeling that for most of my life I had been receiving, and needed to balance the books so to speak!"

Monica has been involved in a number of areas with her local foundation, including administration, finance and as a member of Central Australia's interview panel and selection committee.

"I'm learning about fundraising and how to manage events and I'm making new friends and contacts within

my community. The best part for me is meeting grant recipients and hearing their stories and knowing that our work can make a difference to their lives."

Meet David Hain

In 2008 a group of community members decided to establish a local Country Education Foundation in Cootamundra. They asked David Hain to come on board as secretary. He agreed to take the role until "things got off the ground".



Eight years later David has recently retired as secretary but is still actively involved in his local foundation and just as committed to ensuring young school leavers get access to education, training and careers.

"Students might initially come into contact with us for a financial grant to support their further education but they soon come to see that we stay closely connected to them through mentoring and communication."

David is proud of the Cootamundra committee and the documentation processes and sound selection criteria they have developed. He said a challenge volunteer organisations face is the recruitment of new volunteers.

"Life is so busy and there are so many pressures on people's time. We are fortunate to have Anna Ingold and a friend who are both in their mid-20s join recently - it's great to have a younger generation involved."

David sees further education becoming increasingly necessary for all young people. He urges everyone to get behind rural and regional school leavers to support and encourage them to get post-school qualifications.

How CEF supports students beyond grant giving

The Country Education Foundation's commitment to providing access to education, training and careers for disadvantaged rural and regional school leavers realised almost \$1 million in student support for 2015. In addition to grants, scholarships and co-funding CEF provides essential support services to unlock education and training opportunities for country kids.

University Survival Guide

Heading off to university is an exciting and daunting milestone for any young person. But even more so when it involves moving from the outback to the city, or when a student is the first in their family to attend university. That's why we created the CEF *University Survival Guide for Rural & Regional Students*.



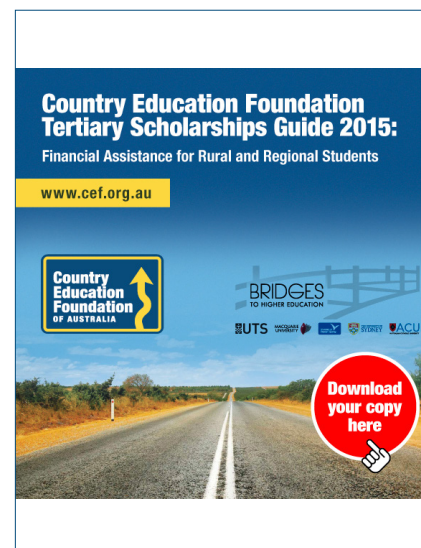
This guide is an essential support service helping students and their families successfully navigate the path to higher education. It includes study tips and budget advice, where to find health and support services for students and answers to all those first-year questions both students and parents/carers have.

The 2015 CEF University Survival Guide was made possible thanks to generous partner support from Macquarie University.



Scholarships Guide

The rising and associated costs of further education are a serious barrier to rural and regional students progressing to university and training. On top of HECS fees, country students relocating for higher education need more than \$20,000 a year for living and study costs.

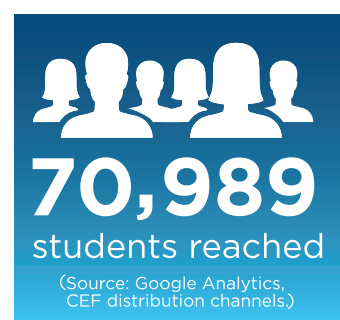


Through grants and support services, CEF is committed to removing this obstacle to make further study a reality, no matter where you live in Australia.

The *Country Education Foundation Tertiary Scholarships Guide 2015* provides a comprehensive listing of scholarships available to rural and regional students.

The guide helps country families access more avenues for financial assistance, from \$500 grants through to \$50,000 accommodation and tuition scholarships.

This year's guide was made possible by generous support from Bridges to Higher Education, CAGES Foundation and James N. Kirby Foundation.



Rural Students University Experience Program

Many country students have never stepped foot inside a university. In partnership with Macquarie University, CEF provided more than 60 rural students a taste of university life in 2015, through the LEAP Rural Students University Experience Program.

This four-day program gave disadvantaged students from Balranald, Bombala, Boorowa, Coonamble, Moree, Murrumburrah, Ungarie and West Wyalong the opportunity to experience university campus accommodation options and participate in practical workshops and information sessions.

For rural and regional students programs like this are life-changing, opening doors to opportunities previously thought of as out of reach.

Our supporters: they make it possible

Country Education Foundation does not receive government funding. We rely on the support of donors and partners to fund our important work in rural and regional Australia.

We receive support from a number of private and family foundations, community groups, businesses and individuals, who all share our passion for the life-changing abilities of education and supporting rural and regional communities.

We also receive generous contributions of effort and advice from a range of pro bono supporters, who have a huge impact on the quality of our work.

We are fortunate to have some wonderful principal partners who have contributed enormously to making 2015 a successful year of support for disadvantaged rural and regional students. Thank you Origin Foundation, Macquarie University, Boyce Chartered Accountants and AVIS.



MACQUARIE
University



origin
foundation

AVIS



BOYCE
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS



Education Partners

The Country Education Foundation partners with universities and colleges across Australia to provide much-needed extra funds and support for our grant recipients who study at these institutions.

Our education partners understand that rural and regional students face an increased economic burden when they take the leap into higher education. The support of our education partners provides country kids with additional funding for textbooks, accommodation, travel and living expenses.

Through CEF's 2015 co-funding program we have been able to provide more than \$300,000 extra funding to disadvantaged rural and regional students. This boost in funding has enabled CEF to deliver just under \$1 million in support in 2015.

Student support provides value and benefits far beyond the easing of financial burden. Students who are better supported have lower attrition rates and increased attendance rates. When students aren't worrying about how they are going to afford course



Thanks to the Origin Foundation CEF were able to visit our committee and grant recipients in Hastings this year.

material or where next week's rent is coming from, they are far more likely to succeed in their degrees and training courses.

Thank you to our 2015 education partners. You've helped us make a lot of education dreams come true.



Australian
National
University

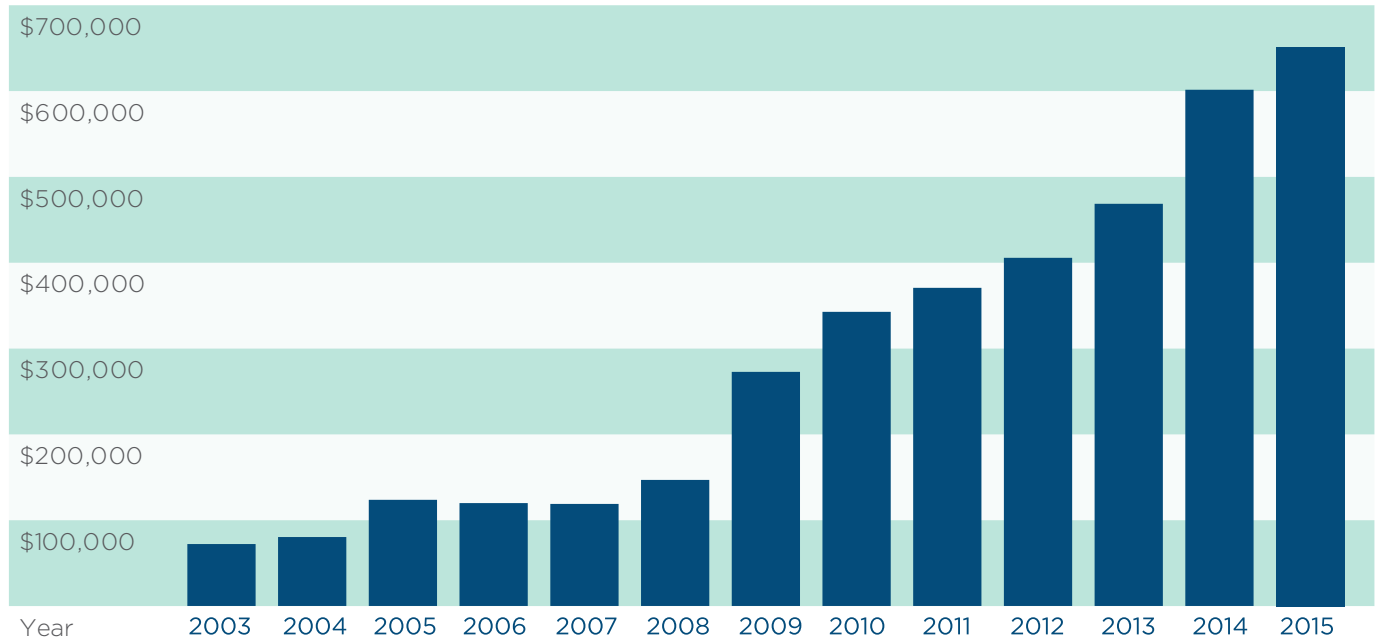


Condensed financial report

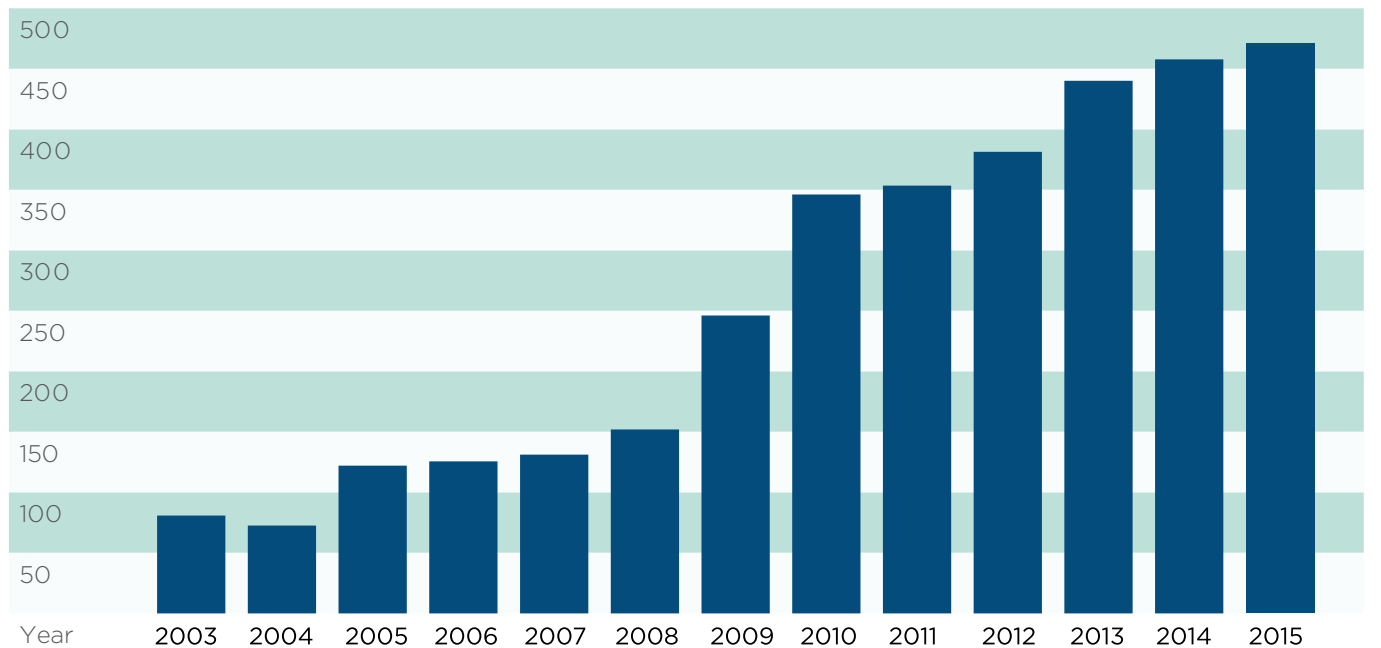
	2014-2015	2013-2014	2012-2013
Funds we raised			
Donations to program funding	849,000	1,052,000	661,000
Income from funds invested	22,000	34,000	41,000
Change in value of investments	14,000	31,000	63,000
Other income	61,000	39,000	23,000
	946,000	1,156,000	788,000
What we spent			
Distributed to regional foundations	635,000	503,000	550,000
Program support and community education	178,000	204,000	
Administration and fundraising	313,000	184,000	271,000
Program funding	64,000	54,000	73,000
Depreciation, amortisation	14,000	12,000	4,000
	1,204,000	957,000	898,000
Retained for ongoing initiatives/ (paid out of reserves)	(258,000)	199,000	(110,000)
What we own			
Cash	514,000	527,000	426,000
Investments	310,000	324,000	293,000
Other assets including intangibles	107,000	62,000	23,000
	931,000	913,000	742,000
Sundry payables and provisions	309,000	32,000	60,000
Our net assets	622,000	881,000	682,000

To read a copy of the Country Education Foundation's full audited financial statements please visit www.cef.org.au

Total Value of CEF Grants Awarded



Total Number of CEF Grants Awarded



Our Board of Directors

The Country Education Foundation is fortunate to have a diverse Board of Directors who bring energy, passion and wisdom to our important work of helping make futures brighter in local communities.



Nick Burton Taylor AM, Chairman

Nick is the founding Chairman of Country Education Foundation of Australia and founding member of Boorowa Education Foundation. In 2014 Nick was appointed Chancellor of Southern Cross University. He is also Chairman of Delta Agribusiness and Principal of Hillgrove Pastoral Company. Nick was the founder and a former managing director of Hays Personnel Australia, past chairman of the Australian Agricultural Company Limited and a former director of Rural Press, Graincorp Ltd, Sydney Airport Corporation, Hazelton Airlines and the Meat Research Corporation.



Julia Burton Taylor OAM, Secretary

Julia is a founding member of the Country Education Foundation of Australia and a committee member of the Boorowa Education Foundation.



Guy Milson, Treasurer

Guy is Chair of Goulburn and District Education Foundation and Principal of agricultural property "Cardross". Guy holds a Bachelor of Economics from Sydney University.



Stuart Black AM

Stuart is a former managing partner of Chapman Eastway Chartered Accountants, past president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and former chairman of ICCA Rural and Regional Issue Group. He is also on the Board of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board and the Chartered Accountants Benevolent Fund, is Non Executive Director of Coffey International Limited, and Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Tax Institute of Australia and the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Michael Boyce

Michael founded Boyce Chartered Accountants and is Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and the Institute of Company Directors. He is Director of Namoi Cotton Co-operative Ltd, Monbeef Pty Ltd and Hazeldean Pty Ltd. Michael is also on the management committee of Monaro Early Intervention Service Inc and Chair of Fugen Hardware Group Pty Ltd. He has previously chaired the Board of Governors Winfred West Schools Ltd.



David Smithers AM

David is Director of James N. Kirby Foundation Pty Ltd and Genea Ltd. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and the Australian Institute of Company Directors. David is also a past president of the Institute of Company Directors and former executive general manager of Leighton Holdings, as well as previous director of Sydney Olympics 2000 Bid Limited and chairman of its Finance Commission.



Katie Walker

Katie is a founding member of Yass District Education Foundation, Partner of grazing property Ledgworth Partnership and Deputy Chair of Yass Aged Care Foundation. Katie is a former executive officer of the Country Education Foundation of Australia.



Annual Review 2014-15

Country Education Foundation

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