

**Country
Education
Foundation**
OF AUSTRALIA



Celebrating
25 years

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

From the CEO's desk...

We're well into the new year now and it's been a wonderfully busy one for the Country Education Foundation team. We have several large projects in motion which I look forward to updating you on as the year progresses.

As I mentioned last time, the Alumni Project is well on its way to reconnecting with our CEF family. Since November, project officer Christina Parkin has made inroads connecting with our more than 4000 alumni.

We have already gathered a great deal of information that will help us account for and measure our impact on the lives of students and communities; we have also heard heartwarming stories of our beneficiaries' successes in their chosen careers. The responses we have received from our alumni so far indicate how much they remember and appreciate the support and belief CEF local foundations offered them as young, ambitious students. You will read about one of our proud alumni Clayton Jericho from South Australia on page 3. He is now an electrical engineer based out of Adelaide.

Christina, alongside national campaign manager Steve Offner, is driving our engagement efforts, so no doubt you will be seeing and hearing more about CEF and its 25 years of alumni.

Our 2018 University Survival Guide (USG) edition launched in February. This online student resource has had a fresh makeover this year and is more user-friendly than ever.

We are proud to announce Southern Cross University as principal partner of the USG, further strengthening our long-standing



and productive partnership. As principal partner, SCU will add another dimension to the USG, contributing content which will address the needs of all university students, not just those at rural and regional level.

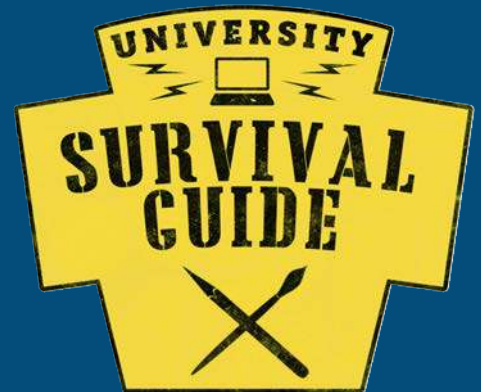
Pig Push will be back this year. The amazing success of the CEF Boorowa-led fundraiser in 2017 has inspired us to see if we can do it again.

Percy the Pig will be returning home to Boorowa - where it all began for Country Education Foundation. This sentiment of 'going home' is extra special because 2018 marks 25 years since the first year of operation of Country Education Foundation. To make this milestone even more memorable the Pig Push 2018 campaign aims to raise \$50,000. This will be no easy feat, but the organisers are positive the story and impact of Country Education Foundation will spur on peoples' generosity.

If you'd like to donate to the Pig Push - and receive tax deductibility - visit our website www.cef.org.au and follow Percy the Pig. Another way to give the gift of an education is via the donation form on the back page of this newsletter. Thank you in advance for your dream-giving gift.

After last year's successful South Australian committee forum, we are now looking forward to hosting NSW local foundations in April. Connecting with our volunteers and local foundations is always invigorating and illuminating.

Until next time, stay safe and well.



Principal Partner



2018 USG bigger, better than ever

In February we were pleased to release the 2018 University Survival Guide - the free resource we offer to first-time uni attendees. This year we welcome a new principal partner - Southern Cross University.

Southern Cross University's Pro Vice Chancellor of Engagement Ben Roche said the university is proud to support resources that helped all students, including rural and regional students, successfully transition to tertiary education.

"Southern Cross University and the Country Education Foundation share a deep commitment to the importance of all Australians having access to a quality tertiary education. It's a natural next step that we come together with CEF to create a resource to help students do just that," Mr Roche said.

"The University Survival Guide is a great tool to support students in making those first steps on a path to further learning and achievement."

www.cef.org.au/university-survival-guide-2018

CEF Principal Partners:



2018 scholar's ambition and dreams shine

This year's McLean Scholarship recipient, Sophie Nelson, has dreams of becoming a cardiothoracic surgeon and knew she would need help to get there.

"Coming from a single-parent home I'm obviously facing some financial constraint, I needed whatever opportunities that I could to get me to uni and take the stress off my mum. I know that she would do anything to get me there, but it would stress me out knowing that she was struggling to send me to uni."

Sophie said she is proud to be a McLean scholar and will work to make not only her family proud, but also Rob and Paula.

"I really appreciated the time the McLeans took to call me after I found out I received the scholarship. It's nice to have a rapport with someone, and more of a relationship with who this money has come from."

When choosing Sophie, Rob and Paula recognised she has passion and ambition.

"Sophie fits the criteria – she's a very talented student, she's somebody that without a scholarship her path would be that much harder. What we're doing in some cases is making it possible, in other cases we're making it easier," Rob said.

"We were really taken with her country manner, her humility, politeness, and appreciation and quiet confidence. We were very much taken with those values of hers."

Paula and Rob McLean



“
There's more need than we're able to fund and support – to me that's the hardest part.
”

Home is where the heart, and need, is answered

Rob McLean still calls Broken Hill, in far west NSW, home. He and his wife Paula may not live there, they may not get to visit as often as they would like, but the connection runs deep and strong.

The McLean Foundation's rural tertiary education scholarships are proudly supported and partnered by the Country Education Foundation. The McLean Scholarships focus on Broken Hill students looking to pursue a university education, but without the means to do so themselves.

Rob himself received two scholarships in pursuit of a university education and knows how valuable and life-changing they can be.

"I grew up in Broken Hill, I went to the high school and I received a Rio Tinto scholarship and a Commonwealth scholarship. I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to receive scholarships and have my education costs largely supported."

"Paula and I felt that things have changed a lot in Broken Hill, there's no longer those types of scholarships available. What

hasn't changed is that there is a lot of really talented students who would really benefit from having the opportunity for a tertiary education."

The McLean Foundation has four focus areas including protecting Australia's biodiversity; supporting inter-city, rural and remote literacy programs for disadvantaged Australian children; rural tertiary education scholarships; and community development programs.

In their almost 10-year partnership with the Country Education Foundation the McLeans have helped and supported 11 ambitious students achieve their education goals.

"We know that CEF is terribly committed to education and do a very good job in the communities it serves," Rob said.

"The Country Education Foundation has turned out to be one of the lesser involvements we have in relation to our philanthropy because it has capable staff, in other cases we are more involved and closely committed to the organisations we support."

Rob said he and Paula know the impact their scholarships are having now is nothing compared to opportunities, confidences and options it will open up later. He said they trust their beneficiaries are talented and ambitious, and will have fulfilling careers and lives.

"The time frame for having impact varies a lot. There are some things you can do that have impact quickly, but there are other things you do where the impact isn't seen for quite a long period of time."

"I think education is one of those, yes you know there's an immediate impact with giving somebody an opportunity they otherwise might not have had, but how that gets translated to completing a degree, having a successful career – those things only manifest over a long period of time."

"We don't press that as hard as some people do because we're confident in seeing opportunity provided that's going to lead to the impact."

"There's more need than we're able to fund and support – to me that's the hardest part."

Clayton ready to light way for connections with fellow alumni

As a 24-year-old from the small country town of Freeling, South Australia, Clayton Jericho knows the value of giving something his 'best shot'.

While studying a four-year degree in electrical engineering at the University of Adelaide, Clayton used an annual scholarship from the Kapunda Country Education Foundation (CEF) to fund his food, travel costs for the daily three-hour round journey, laptop and text books.

"My scholarship through CEF helped relieve the financial stress and burden that is common with uni students," says Clayton.

"It helped me to enjoy my time at uni and complete my course without chasing part-time work except in the holidays."

Now employed as an electrical engineer with a large international engineering and construction company based in Adelaide, Clayton has realised his dream of constructing facilities for the good of his local community.

"It's cool to see in real life what you have designed in drawings, whether it be the new building for the University of South Australia or a retirement village in the Barossa," explains Clayton.

"One of the first projects I was responsible for involved lighting a section of path and on

a bridge along a river in Lockleys. I provided light poles for the path and small lights mounted within the handrail of the bridge."

Clayton is one of more than 4000 Country Education Foundation alumni who have been supported since the first CEF committee was established in Boorowa in 1993.

"We are using our 25th birthday to reach out to our alumni, asking them to share their journeys and experiences," says CEF CEO Wendy Cohen.

"With more than 40 regional, rural and remote local committees, we have had a dedicated and committed group of local volunteers raising funds to support their local youth to begin the studies toward their future careers."

"We are encouraging anyone who has been a beneficiary of our efforts to reconnect with us via our Country Education Foundation website."

With so many names, there will be many stories similar to Clayton's – regional kids who were fortunate enough to have their community commit to helping them overcome the geographical and financial barriers to further education.

Some may get to have their name in lights, but for Clayton, his claim to fame will be he helped light up the Lockleys pathway.



Clayton Jericho

"It's good to see my name on the drawings and to be using my knowledge and skills to give back to the community."

CEF National Scholarships support 25 new students in 2018



Sophie Nelson of Broken Hill was named as this year's McLean scholar. She is one of 11 beneficiaries the McLean Foundation has helped since partnering with CEF.

This year CEF's national scholarship series shines a light on the significant contributions of longstanding major donors and partners, helping us support even more young people from country Australia.

We've been able to award a total of 25 new scholarships thanks to;

- James N. Kirby Foundation
- The Audi Foundation
- The McLean Foundation
- Thyne Reid Foundation
- St Andrews College
- The Loder Foundation; and
- Charles Sturt University

These scholarships reflect the values, focus and vision of each partner.

Our eight Kirby scholarships, valued at \$5000 each, will see our young, future engineers and technical trade students being supported during their journey to employment.

The Audi scholarships targeting STEM-related study will support six students this year, including a recipient from the Central Australia foundation. She began her degree in health and medical science at the University of Adelaide in late February.

The St Andrews and Thyne Reid scholarships continue to encourage country kids to break through the barriers of disadvantage and distance. The 2018 Loder scholar, from Moree, is embarking on her environmental science degree at the University of Newcastle.

We are pleased to welcome back Charles Sturt University as a partner, with a program to fund several scholarships which will be awarded in the coming weeks.

These scholarships combine with the extraordinary ongoing work of our committees which, to date, indicate higher than ever numbers of grants being awarded at the local foundation level.

PERCY IS RETURNING TO BOOROWA, PLEASE GIVE SO WE CAN GET HIM THERE



The power of ambition is transformative, and we need your help to keep country kids' dreams alive. Please donate to the Country Education Foundation so you help more rural and regional young Australians access further education, training and jobs.

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"/>
Phone	<input type="text"/>

I would like to donate

\$25 \$50 \$100

(nominate your donation amount)

Please direct my donation to

the Pig Push fundraiser

Please name a specific Pig Push team if desired:

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 postal mailing list

Please add me to the CEF electronic mailing list

Your details will never be shared with a third party.

You can also quickly and easily make a donation to the Country Education Foundation by visiting 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.

The Country Education Foundation of Australia (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 more than 4000 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 or phone us on 1300 652 144