

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

## From the CEO's desk...

As we finalise our records and reports, facts and figures for 2018 a powerful story has emerged, one that tells of CEF's growing footprint and increased impact in rural and regional Australia. I'm so pleased to release to all our supporters and students the 2018 Student Impact Report.



financial assistance to young people so they may hold on to their goals of education and training despite the crippling affects of the drought and the need to reassess priorities within families and communities. Our valued, long term supporters know this and are, more than ever, stepping up to help CEF help students. With this in mind we are urging all our friends to consider even more in the way of donations to assist with the challenge of this crisis.

In this report you'll see we've funded 496 grants, 20 more students supported than last year. The increase in the dollar amount of our support has moved up to a total of \$1.184 million – over \$150,000 more than in 2017. This increase has been thanks to the very hard work of the volunteers who run our local foundations in 42 communities across the country, the visionary support of our education partners and a valued commitment from a number of philanthropic and corporate partners who fund national scholarships.

The growth trajectory over the years is just as impressive. In 10 years, we've increased funds to students by more than \$900,000 and the number of students supported has increased threefold. Since 1993, when CEF was established, we've allocated more than 4880 individual grants and delivered \$9.370 million into rural and regional communities.

There's even more good news around our impact when we consider the experiences of our alumni. From our Alumni Program we know that 92% of our students completed studies or are on track to complete their courses. We also know that 94% have found employment in their chosen field. All in all CEF continues to be an important contributor to closing the education participation gap which exists between country kids and their city counterparts.

This has never been so important as now. As the drought takes hold families across the country struggle to make ends meet. The first casualties are aspiration, hope, optimism. We are committed to continuing to provide

Closer to home, we have some new faces to introduce to you. Onto the board we are welcoming Peita Burton Taylor and Oscar Oberg as directors. I'm thrilled to be working alongside them, their fresh perspective on the issues at hand will be so valuable to CEF as we move forward. You can read more about them inside this newsletter. In the office we are fortunate to have the experienced and steady hand of Donna Roberts join the team. She has fast become our resident trouble-shooter in all things IT and admin and is a great asset for CEF.

Finally, I'm excited to launch our very handy and popular 2019 Scholarships Guide with a brand new principal partner – The University of Sydney. It's wonderful to have this esteemed and influential institution as a CEF partner and together we look forward to delivering a resource that is jampacked with useful information and opportunities, helping school leavers to achieve. Alongside The University of Sydney we are aiming to make the impossible possible for thousands of young Australians.

Please enjoy the newsletter, I look forward to the next time we catch up.



**Wendy Cohen**  
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## Drought is biting but we want to think beyond

At the Country Education Foundation all 42 of our local foundations are feeling the bite of the drought - we know this, not only because of the news and media coverage, but because our valued volunteers, committee members, our alumni and their communities are telling us the need for their young people is as prevailing as ever. Touching base with them has been important for us.

Trish McKenzie from the Paroo district in Queensland said: "The community is in a desperate state. The kids at uni are financially supporting themselves, because the parents ... are finding it very difficult to support them. It is just so nice to be helping these kids. There are no applicants that don't deserve our help."

James Scott, one of Edward River CEF's alumni, remembers living through the last drought and how CEF eased the burden he felt he was on his parents. "I found the CEF experience valuable during periods of sever drought when my parents farming business was financially impacted.

This scholarship allowed me to partake in my studies without adding further financial strain on my parents during this challenging time," James shared.

This drought's affects will last for years to come. Even after the rain falls and the rivers flow our communities will be feeling the lasting financial and emotional impacts. If you can help us give bright futures to drought-affected school leavers, who will need extra encouragement and belief to leave home to pursue their dreams, please donate or pass our message onto someone in the position to do so. Every little bit counts.

[www.cef.org.au/donations](http://www.cef.org.au/donations)

CEF Principal  
Partners:



# Passion for equity in education drives new blood

A new generation has taken a seat at the CEF board table. Earlier this year Peita Burton Taylor, Burton Taylor Foundation CEO, and Oscar Oberg, from Wilson Asset Management, were officially welcomed.

With a knowledge of the country and a passion for equality in education the pair is keen to make the most of these appointments while also contributing to the wealth of experience already in the board room.

"It's only been a few months and from attending just one board meeting I've realised running a not for profit is hard and complicated. For me it's about helping CEF and I think having Peita and I as a younger generation will be a huge benefit," Oscar says.

Both are also keen to reach out to their networks and share CEF's work urging a new generation of supporters and donors to come forward to broaden CEF's impact and reach.

"It's about making a difference. The attraction of CEF is that we are helping people that will potentially miss out. Every donation, no matter how small, can make a huge difference. To some people that might not sound like much, but it's life-changing. That's important for us to communicate," Oscar says.

"We're in the worst drought in 30 years at the moment and I think these kids need help and CEF is a great way to do it."

Peita agrees. "There is story after story of CEF inspiring and supporting young adults – that's a real privilege. You could pick any recipient at random and I could guarantee, that every single one would have an amazing story, many facing financial, emotional and social obstacles in disadvantaged rural and regional areas."

"These young adults come



**Peita Burton Taylor is the CEO of the Burton Taylor Foundation. She lives in Sydney with her husband Mark and three young children, Clover, 8, Bertie, 5, and Clementine, 3. They regularly drive down the Hume Highway to spend time in Boorowa.**

to CEF at such a crucial and vulnerable time in their lives, where they have decided to take the next step and they have worked out how to get there. They have proven they have the drive and fortitude to come to their community and ask for assistance."

"As I start to put my kids through school it's only becoming more relevant for me to make sure the opportunities of city kids and country kids evens out," Peita says.

Originally from a property between Yass and Boorowa, Oscar says his love of sport and finance called him away from pursuing a life on the family farm. "I would have been a terrible farmer," Oscars laughs.

Despite not being drawn to a country life, he has always felt close to the people who live there and make it what it is, and when he was invited to be on the CEF board he jumped at the chance to give back.

"Through my work as Wilson



**Oscar Oberg is a portfolio manager at Wilson Asset Management. He lives in Sydney with his wife, Sophie and two young children, Isabella, 2 and Adelaide, 6 months. His connections with the Boorowa and Yass communities still run strong with parents, and younger sister who is now running the family property.**

Asset Management we're encouraged to get involved in philanthropy and when I was looking for a way to help and give back, Mum mentioned the Country Education Foundation. When I started investigating the organisation further and what it provides to students, this is exactly what I was interested in. It helps a range of people and educational opportunities – it's not just TAFE or uni."

Oscar knows sometimes it's one person's encouragement and belief can be a life-altering experience in young person's life. "Mum worked at Yass High as a physics teacher, and I always remember one particular story that makes me proud. She was teaching a Year 12 class and one of the students who graduated went on to university and wrote her a letter. He thanked her and said how good a teacher she was, and if it wasn't for her who knows where he would be."

As the daughter of CEF's founders, Nick and Julia, Peita has seen first-hand the impact CEF has made.

"Over the years I have been fortunate to hear and witness many of these journeys that start with a dream and become a reality," she shares.

"One of the first stories that has remained with me, was hearing about a young man in our community that desperately wanted to become a butcher, however he didn't have the resources to buy the metal glove and knives required to start his apprenticeship. He received the grant, completed his apprenticeship and became a butcher in the local community that supported him at the beginning.

"That is what I love about CEF - that the grant can help in different ways for different individuals, whether it is with accommodation or a computer for university or it could be help with textbooks to study a trade."

"I want to keep the CEF legacy going, it's something that Mum and Dad have been so passionate about. I want to keep the momentum up."

## Giving back important to Crystal's life in isolated community

"When I am encouraging them to apply I often tell my students how much my CEF grants helped me while I was at uni."

For Crystal Stewart moving to Kangaroo Island was an opportunity for full-time teaching roles straight out of university for both her and her then boyfriend, now husband. Little did they know six years later they would be well ingrained in the 4500-person community; on committees, homeowners and seeing students they taught return home to begin their careers.

"A young woman Kangaroo Island Country Education Fund helped studied occupational therapy and she has just finished her degree and moved back to the island. To have her on the island bringing skills back is important, because previously we didn't have someone here full-time in that role."

"Lots of our recipients do end up coming back, or at least doing their placements here."



Crystal Stewart

"I certainly encourage recipients to see how they can help. We always try to encourage students to check in with the committee. We love to know how they are going, and to hear how they are."

Having received a grant from Torrens Valley Country Education Fund in 2010 to help her pursue a teaching degree from Flinders University, Crystal knows the benefits CEF can have on a young person's life, but she never really thought of getting involved until she was approached by the Kangaroo Island committee.

"My dad was on Torrens Valley CEF committee, and when I moved here he mentioned to the Kangaroo Island secretary that I

was living on the island. That was four or five years ago now."

"It has been good to get involved and know how things work on the other side. CEF doesn't take much time, we only have meetings a few times a year, and they are mostly on the phone."

"I'm now part of the student selection sub-committee, which plays well with my role as teacher at the island's only school," Crystal says, adding that it can

be a tough role: "A lot of the kids I've taught. I know some of the background stories and it's hard not bring in my perspective. But it's also good for the other committee members, because I know some things students can't or won't share in their applications that may inform our decisions in their favour."

Despite the pull of resources most small-town committees face, she says Kangaroo Island CEF is in a fortunate position.

"We are well known and talked about within the Kangaroo Island community. We have a large presence within such a small area, so students and families know us."

"Country areas all over are struggling to get committees up and running, or at least bring in new members. It's often the same people on the same committees, getting more people involved is always helpful."

"I certainly encourage recipients to see how they can help. We always try to encourage students to check in with the committee. We love to know how they are going, and to hear how they are."

If you are a current recipient or alumni and would like to be involved go to [www.cef.org.au](http://www.cef.org.au) and look up a local committee near you under the 'our foundations' tab.



Make your future impossible

## Scholarships Guide ready for fresh batch of school leavers

This year we are excited to launch the 2019 Scholarships Guide with The University of Sydney as Principal Partner.



Principal Partner  
THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

We are launching the Scholarships Guide with extra content like comprehensive tips and tricks for applying, student-written blogs, direct links to Sydney Uni's Astar.tv page, as well as an interactive personality quiz to help students during the process deciding of which subjects and degrees to pursue.

"We know users of the Scholarships Guide need and want more options and this is why we have amped up the guide this year," Wendy Cohen, CEF CEO, said.

You can find the Scholarships Guide at [www.cef.org.au/scholarships-guide](http://www.cef.org.au/scholarships-guide)

# WE NEED TO HELP OUR YOUNG PEOPLE THINK BEYOND THE DROUGHT

“There are many crossroads in life ... For country people, these crossroads become even harder to traverse in periods of intense drought and other climate wildcards.”

The Hon Tim Fischer AC, CEF Patron



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:

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PO Box 245, Orange NSW 2800

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\$25     \$50     \$100

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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](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.

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 4880 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 Scholarships 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