

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

From the CEO's desk...

This year is already promising to be a bumper one for CEF. Broadening the reach and impact of CEF is paramount as we strive to help more students in more communities around Australia. To this end I will have some great news for you about activity in Victoria in the next newsletter.



story and reasons for their choices.

The other heroes of CEF, our local foundation volunteers, know this and have responded beautifully this year, as always, to the very high calibre applications for 2019.

A discussion about heroes could not be complete without acknowledging

the crucial support of our donors and partners. Currently, as a result of the vision and generosity of the Thyne Reid Foundation, we are rolling out much needed funds to our most drought-affected local foundations.

Also, at this time, the lives of four 2018 high school graduates from Broken Hill are being transformed as recipients of university scholarships from three family foundations - the McLean Foundation, Zagora Foundation and Eureka Benevolent Foundation - with the fourth scholarship awarded by an anonymous donor.

These are just two examples of how, through the benevolence of our extended family, we work together to make such a lasting impact on the lives of young people across rural and regional Australia.

Until next time,



Wendy Cohen
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CEF excited to welcome WIN TV as media partner

This year CEF is excited to announce a new partner – the [WIN Corporation](#).

"CEF is thrilled to have WIN TV on board as a media partner," said CEF Chief Executive Officer Wendy Cohen.

"It's wonderful to be able to work together for young people across rural and regional Australia and give them as much information as possible during this life-changing period of their lives."



The regional television network became an official partner of CEF in early February and is already working with us to circulate the University Survival Guide across its large six-state network.

WIN Corporation Chairman Andrew Gordon said WIN was proud to partner with CEF to get the University Survival Guide's messages out to rural and regional students.

"For over 50 years WIN has been committed to highlighting the issues facing our viewers in regional Australia where education and opportunities for our youth are significant and worthwhile challenges that WIN are uniquely placed to take on," Mr Gordon said.

"Having already established The Bruce Gordon Scholarship for Journalism in honour of the founder of WIN Television, we see this as a natural extension of our commitment, and we look forward to working closely with CEF to achieve our shared goals."

"I am delighted to confirm WIN Corporation's commitment to support the Country Education Foundation," Mr Gordon finished.

CEF Principal
Partners:



There's no stopping Cooper

It seems nothing will stop Cooper Lawson from achieving his ambitions of working in the criminal justice system after he finishes a Bachelor of Criminology degree at Flinders University in Adelaide – certainly not distance or even a life-long hearing impairment.

Avid reader, keen fisherman and true-crime aficionado, Cooper has been named the 2019 recipient of the McLean Foundation Scholarship, which supports students from Broken Hill, in far west NSW, who have a burning desire to better themselves through a university education.

Cooper, who completed his HSC at Broken Hill High School last year, grew up on Klondyke Station just north of the little opal mining town White Cliffs, about 300km north-east of Broken Hill. Not only did distance create barriers for Cooper, but his path to university was made more difficult by a medical condition which has left him partially deaf.

"Since I was little, I've always been partially deaf. While I was living eight hours away from home to go to Yanco Agricultural High School, I was diagnosed with a tumour in my middle ear, called cholesteatoma. I had to move back home and continue schooling through distance education to allow for me to have surgery and recover," Cooper said.

"It was a very scary time because it really could've affected me a lot, especially all the nerves and bones the surgeon had to work around. I had the surgery to reconstruct my ear in 2016 and had to adapt to using hearing aids in early 2017. It was a big revelation for me, I could finally hear!"

"This ordeal has helped me empathise a lot more, and



Cooper Lawson, 2019 McLean Foundation recipient

especially allowed me to appreciate what little we are given sometimes. Because of all the surgeries and recovery times I had to repeat year 11 to have a better shot in a public school. This helped me reach my goal of getting accepted into my first preference, criminology, and help me to get ready to go."

Now, as Cooper begins university in Adelaide, his excitement can't be contained, and he is keen to make the McLean Foundation proud.

"I would like to thank the foundation and show appreciation further by achieving well in all aspects of university life, from academically to just having a go at any opportunity that is given to me. You can't get to have something without giving it a go, just like with the scholarship I have received," Cooper shared.

"I am very excited to be off to university! I have always been keen to really get out and do

something different, this will seal the deal for me."

Rob and Paula McLean started the scholarship in 2008 with the help of Country Education Foundation. Rob felt the need to give opportunities back to Broken Hill's youth after growing up there himself and as a result they have gone on to award 13 scholarships to Broken Hill students since that time.

"Cooper Lawson is a special young man, warm and engaging, excited about the opportunity to go to university and confident and assured in his goals. Cooper spoke with such warmth about his family, their values of hard work, and the opportunities he's been given, all of which demonstrate a maturity that McLean Foundation trustees felt would set him up for success in his chosen field of study," Paula said.

"We look forward very much to watching Cooper progress through university."

In 2019 for the first time we have four Broken Hill scholarships on offer thanks to generous supporters, all of who have ties to the Broken Hill community. Each three-year scholarship is worth a total of \$21,000 and is for students educated in Broken Hill who have the passion, ambition and drive to attend university.

The four 2019 Broken Hill Scholarships were awarded to:

Hannah Evers - Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science, CSU -

Anonymous donor

Lily-Anne Chapman - Bachelor of Science, ANU -

Eureka Benevolent Foundation

Cooper Lawson - Bachelor of Criminology, Flinders University -
McLean Scholarship

Kelsey Graham - Bachelor of Science/
Bachelor of Arts, Monash University -
Zagora Foundation

The new scholarships funded by Eureka Benevolent Foundation (Roger Massy-Greene and Belinda Hutchinson), the Zagora Foundation (Leigh and Sue Clifford), as well as an anonymous donor, reflect personal connections of their founders with the Broken Hill area.

Roger Massy-Greene said: "My first job after leaving university was as an engineer at the New Broken Hill Consolidated mine. Later, my employment at the NBHC mine was the basis of a scholarship from Rio Tinto to study at Harvard, so my years in Broken Hill provided a powerful understanding of the value of a university education. My daughters Ella and Sophie were born in Broken Hill, so as a family we are glad to be giving back to the city".

When the three new scholarships were announced late last year Rob McLean of the McLean Foundation said: "These new scholarships were sparked by the families' collective desire to see the young people of Broken Hill be supported in a significant way throughout their time at university," Rob said.

"As a Broken Hill boy myself, I know first-hand the benefit a scholarship can give a young person. It's the gift of belief that has long-lasting effects".

Alinta Energy signs on to offer CEF's communities extra spark of support

CEF is delighted to announce a new partnership with Alinta Energy, which will see us deliver an exciting series of events for both our local foundation volunteers and alumni over the next few years.

Alinta Energy and CEF share common goals to enrich students' education and provide lasting, positive influences on rural and regional communities. One way Alinta Energy has already proven to be a wonderful supporter of CEF was during the Pig Push, which successfully raised more than \$100,000 in 2017 and 2018.

CEF CEO Wendy Cohen said she is excited to welcome Alinta Energy further into the CEF family and introduce all CEF's volunteers to the community-minded business.

"Alinta Energy has a strong presence in regional and rural Australia, and they've said to us that – very simply – they want to be good neighbours and make a positive contribution to our communities. That's why they're backing CEF's community-based approach, which harnesses the power of local people to transform lives and communities through education."

"This partnership is fantastic recognition of all our volunteers' hard work and dedication, and our recipients' ambition and drive to better themselves through education and training. It's wonderful to have such a highly regarded company recognise us and our grassroots model that makes a lasting impact on young lives and wanting to help with that work."

"We look forward to working with Alinta Energy and its teams for the benefit of our country communities."

Alinta Energy's Executive Director of Retail Markets, Jim Galvin, said CEF's work was close to his heart.

"I'm a country boy at heart having grown up in Cowra, and I still spend as much time as possible on our farm in south-west New South Wales. I



"I'm a country boy at heart having grown up in Cowra, and I still spend as much time as possible on our farm in south west New South Wales. I know how important it is to support country kids to further their education."

JIM GALVIN,
Executive Director of Retail
Markets, Alinta Energy

know how important it is to support country kids to further their education, so that their success can underpin the thriving rural and regional communities of the future.

"The foundation's work is vital, practical, and Alinta Energy is very happy that our partnership is expanding," he said.

Stay tuned for more information and benefits regarding this partnership.



New students set with 5th uni guide



In January we launched our annual [University Survival Guide](#) to help tens of thousands of new university students, including our very own recipients, and their families better navigate campus life.

The 2019 University Survival Guide is a free online resource containing advice on all aspects of uni life. Sponsored by Southern Cross University, it is written for all first-years regardless of where they live, but is particularly relevant for our rural and regional students.

"Thousands of country students are starting to settle into their new lives in major cities and regional centres. For most it will be the first time they will live away from their families and support networks and they will need some extra help," said CEF Chief Executive Officer Wendy Cohen.

The University Survival Guide is free, it's easy to use and it's practical. It includes stacks of advice about making the most of 'O week'; how to live and eat healthily; balance work, study and a social life; safety tips; reassurance for parents worried about sending their kids out into the world; and even a supplement focused on international students.

"Importantly it offers advice from the real experts—our recipients who are at university themselves—in the form of stories and blogs," Ms Cohen said.

The University Survival Guide is a vital resource for country students to feel supported and encouraged during a period of life-changing transition.

"It's an exciting time for young people: they are embarking on life as an adult and are committed to achieving their career dreams, but many are disheartened by the prohibitive cost and long distances associated with relocating for study," Ms Cohen said. "Given these barriers, and the added emotional and financial pressures from the drought, it really is no wonder that country youth are less likely to pursue further education. We are committed to help close this gap."

Check out the Guide yourself:
www.cef.org.au/university-survival-guide

BE A GUIDING HAND FOR AN AMBITIOUS YOUNG COUNTRY PERSON

"I know first-hand the benefit a scholarship can give a young person. It's the gift of belief that has long-lasting effects."

Rob McLean, McLean Foundation - CEF supporter



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

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\$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐

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Country Education Foundation of Australia

BSB: 062-629 Account: 1009 0818 Reference: (YOUR NAME)

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Name on card

Card number

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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 and clicking the Donate button on the home page or by phoning 1300 652 144.

CEF is a registered charity with Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR1) status. 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 more than 40 local education foundation committees operating throughout New South Wales, Queensland, the Northern Territory and South Australia.

Since 1993 we've given more than 4800 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 or phone us on 1300 652 144