



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

From the CEO's desk...

Hello again from Orange. The leaves have turned but we had been experiencing some warm days here. That changed suddenly this week however with rain, snow and freezing temperatures.

Winter means not only colder weather here, but for CEF it also heralds our grant reporting season. It is that time of the year where we begin to measure the impact of the assistance that we, collectively, have been able to deliver to rural and regional students over the past 12 months. You can read more about the details and numbers on page three of this newsletter, but the significant and very pleasing increase in students supported across our family of local foundations and the additional funds provided tells a very exciting story. Thank you to everyone who has made this possible. To be able to help just one more student access life changing education and training after school is great, to help 85 more this year is just exceptional.

The growth strategy of CEF has been further bolstered these past few weeks with the establishment of our very first local foundation in Victoria. Towards the end of last year CEF was introduced to Tony Gregson, a Warracknabeal local who shares a passion for the country and for education, who is a friend and colleague of our Patron, Tim Fischer. With his fellow Rotarians and other community leaders, Tony has committed to bringing together a wonderful group of people in Warracknabeal (incidentally the birthplace of musician Nick Cave) and activating them to assist their young people to achieve great things.

Activity in Victoria has been a long term goal for CEF and we are so excited to be able to reach even more students, now across the



border, and also increase CEF student participation with our Victorian education partners, Swinburne and La Trobe. In addition to our expansion into new areas, I'm also pleased to report that we are continuing to improve communications with and support of our existing local foundations in all states, and that we've even had some approaches regarding establishing even more volunteer-run foundations in brand new communities. The good word is spreading.

In addition to our increased student impact and the greater capacity of local CEF foundations, we can report that the number of our education partners is steadily growing. This ensures that we are able to provide even more funds to students, offer bigger and better programs and resources such as the Scholarships Guide and University Survival Guide and increase engagement with high school students, the next generation of CEF grant recipients, via our series of university experience camps.

As we move towards the end of the financial year, we can take stock of our impressive progress these past 12 months and reflect on how important you are to this success. We couldn't do this without you and truly look forward to our continued association.

Until next time,

Wendy Cohen  
wendy@cef.org.au | 0456 222 365

Extraordinary donation secures CEF's future



From CEF Chairman, Nick Burton Taylor

**The celebration of our 25 years since commencement was eclipsed with a generous donation from an anonymous donor who has enabled Country Education Foundation (CEF) to buy our own premises.**

**We have now purchased a small office in Hill Street, Orange which will accommodate all our existing staff and allow us to lease some additional space to like-minded tenants thus, earning an income stream to support the development of our new capital fund.**

**This capital fund will protect the organisation in coming years through droughts and adverse economic challenges. It marks an enormous step forward in protecting our organisation, making us self-sustaining and allowing us to continue our work throughout country Australia.**

**Our anonymous donor has demonstrated confidence and faith in our model as a result of the collective work of so many individuals and CEF local foundations.**

**This marks a new era of opportunity for CEF for which we are enormously grateful.**

**We look forward to sharing some images with you in our next newsletter as the spring flowers start to bloom in the garden of 52 Hill Street.**

CEF Principal Partners:



# Richard Rains believes in the power of local community for CEF's long term sustainability

Somewhat of a 'self-made man', Richard Rains originally hails from a property at Birriwa in Central West NSW. He's gone on to shape a successful long term career marketing Australian meats globally.

Richard's father ensured his children received a full education after being taken out of school during World War II, aged only 10.

"When I left school in 1972, it wasn't the norm to go to university. It's very different these days. It's important to have a qualification or degree and progress into a career," Richard said.

Richard dedicated the bulk of his career to meat export marketing company Sanger Australia, rounding out his professional life as the CEO for 13 years - with export sales of up to \$500 million annually before selling the business in a management buy out in 2013.

"Fortunately, I found a career that I could dig my teeth into," he said.

"I've always hired young people with university degrees to surround myself with smart and ambitious people to lead the way for the business into the future."



**CEF Board Member Richard Rains**

Richard has also dedicated significant time to various boards including The Australian Export Council, The Co-operative Research Centre for Beef Genetic Technologies and a committee of the Cattle Council of Australia in the past.

While being part of the Country Education Foundation of Australia (CEF) executive today, Richard also sits on the Paraway Pastoral Company board and chairs the Zanda McDonald Award committee.

Richard's passion is to witness the benefit that further education provides, especially for future generations.

"I spend a fair bit of time in rural and regional Australia, and you see kids falling through the cracks. We're fortunate to live in a time where people recognise the importance and the difference that an education can make for young people," he said.

"It's extraordinary to see young people so hungry for opportunity. These days people are keen to learn and change their lives. Some come from humble circumstances, yet want to use their intelligence to better their life."

Richard is keen to work on CEF's sustainability well into the future, ensuring its independence and ensuring long-term value through investment and networking with national brands.

"What we're doing is unique. None of it would happen without the volunteers in the bush. They know their communities. They have the passion, knowledge and drive to make a difference in the bush."

"It's the little things that can make a huge difference at the end of the day."



L to R: Richard Rains, Peita Burton Taylor, Nick Burton Taylor, Julia Burton Taylor, Katie Walker, David Smithers (CEF Board)



L to R: Mary Teague, George Reid, Kate Hodder, Ian Thyne Reid, Katy Head



Front, L to R: Kate Hodder, Jess Sullivan (nee Verwey), Ceridwen Boel. Back, L to R: Chris Mercer, Cooper Lawson (CEF students and alumni)



L to R: Chris Roberts, Richard Rains



L to R: Alison Keller, Wendy Cohen, Tim Buchanan



L to R: Rob McLean, Cooper Lawson, Paula McLean



L to R: Sally Oxenham, Barb Sullivan, Penn Rains

## 2019 CEF Friends Event

The annual CEF Sydney Friends event was held at Art Gallery of NSW on Wednesday 15 May 2019.

As the name suggests, close 'friends' of the not-for-profit organisation attended, with CEF alumni and current students attending as guests of honour.

Guests had the privilege of hearing from 2019 McLean Foundation scholar, Cooper Lawson, speak about his education journey so far.

The auction of tickets for an exclusive behind the scenes experience of 'Cat On A Hot Tin Roof', performed by the Sydney Theatre Company, was another highlight of the evening.



# Landmark results, empowerment and generosity

*As the 2018/19 financial year draws to a close, we're pulling out the record books to compare Country Education Foundation of Australia's (CEF) impact and value to the community.*

The latest financial and community engagement figures suggest CEF is on track for milestone achievements that concrete a secure standing moving forward.

CEF is building on each previous year's efforts, with 2019 set to be a record year.

Landmark achievements include over \$10 million being raised for direct financial support, which has been received by 5000 young people to date, since the organisation was formed in 1993.

\$1.4 million was raised in 2018/19 alone, with the value of an average grant growing 32% in the last five years to \$2443.

We will be supporting over 580 students this year, 85 more than in 2018, which represents an 18% increase in students supported who are now able to pursue their career and education goals.



**Kate Hodder is just one of the students that are realising their goals thanks to CEF**

The number of education partners has increased, along with a rise in personalised university experience programs, engagement initiatives, committee support and advocacy.

Remarkable results include a 300% increase in the number of students going to the University of Canberra as an example.

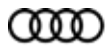
Corporate partnerships have raised over \$700,000 in the last five years, with \$366,000 in the previous 12 months alone.

With representation now in five Australian states and territories, the CEF footprint continues to grow each year.

Congratulations to every volunteer who works so tirelessly to ensure the future success of CEF. There is a part for everyone to play in the support of further education for young people from rural, regional and remote communities.

All in all we have a great report card this year. CEF sincerely thanks every generous donor. Without your support, we wouldn't have such impressive news to share. We hope you can feel a warm sense of satisfaction from here!

## Jess set to engineer a brighter, bolder future



**Audi Foundation**

Saving lives by creating artificial organs or through revolutionary stem cell research are dream achievements that first year biomedical engineering student Jessica Hall feels are now within reach.

The 18-year-old achieved an ATAR of 92.4 last year, after completing the Higher School Certificate at Great Lakes Senior College.

She is now studying a Bachelor of Science (Bioengineering Systems) at Melbourne University, a 14-hour drive away from her home town of Forster on the NSW Mid-North Coast.

Her family unit became very close after her parents' divorce, Jess saying that her move to Melbourne was particularly poignant for her Mum and Grandma given she was the youngest, and "last to leave the nest".

"It definitely has taken an emotional toll...it's very hard to move from a small country town to Melbourne. When I came here, I knew absolutely no one."

Jess received a \$2400 Great Lakes Education Fund grant along with a \$2500 Audi Foundation - Country Education

Foundation of Australia national scholarship, for STEM-related study.

As a high-achieving teen, Jess keenly felt pressure to perform well in her HSC on behalf of not only herself, but for her family.

"There were such high expectations placed on me as a high achiever in Great Lakes ... and I've always had a lot of self-doubt."

While there's still stress about performing at university, Jess said it's more about encouraging an exploration of potential than being defined by a number. For her, this is driven by self motivation.

"I'm really in my element ... I'm only just starting this massive journey, but I know it's going to be worth it."

After the three-year bachelor degree, she plans on completing a masters degree in engineering to become a biomedical engineer.

"I like the creative side of engineering. I look forward to changing people's lives through medicine," she said.

"I want to make Country Education Foundation of Australia proud. I want to make my Mum proud. I want to make Forster proud."



**Great Lakes Education Fund grant recipient Jessica Hall**

**"I'VE ALWAYS HAD A THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE, TO ME EDUCATION IS POWER."**

COOPER LAWSON  
TIBOOBURRA, FAR WEST NSW

2019 MCLEAN FOUNDATION-CEF  
SCHOLAR

**DONATE TODAY TO HELP MORE  
RURAL & REGIONAL STUDENTS  
FIND THEIR POWER**

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

Payment Details:

**By Cheque:** Please make your cheque payable to 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	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>
Phone	<input type="text"/>

Name on card

Card number

Expiry Date

CCV

Visa

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Signature

I would like to donate

\$25     \$50     \$100

(nominate your donation amount)

Please send my tax receipt to:  my email or  my postal address

Please add me to the CEF postal mailing list

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Your details will never be shared with a third party.

You can also quickly and easily make a donation to Country Education Foundation by visiting [www.cef.org.au](http://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.



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 44 local education foundations operating throughout New South Wales, Queensland, the Northern Territory, South Australia and Victoria.

Since 1993 we've given more than 5000 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.