

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

From the CEO's desk...



*"True life is lived
when tiny changes
occur."*

- Leo Tolstoy

Hello, from our new abode. With the last of the boxes now unpacked, we are pleased to be settled here at 52 Hill Street, Orange.

The office building is owned outright due to an amazing anonymous donation. This generous support allowed for renovations and provides extra offices to commercially lease for added income. We look forward to the official launch early in 2020.

After three years as CEF's CEO, Wendy Cohen has decided to move on to her next professional challenge. We are immensely

grateful for her dedication and professionalism during the time she spent here. From the whole team at CEF, we wish Wendy all the best for her next adventure.

The Board has appointed me, Juliet Petersen, as Acting CEO. I joined the organisation in January 2017 as partnerships and committee liaison. I am looking forward to this next chapter as well as the challenges and triumphs it will bring.

In this Spring newsletter, I'm thrilled to share with you the 2019 Student Impact Report, a true representation of our work and influence in communities across Australia, revealing some of our greatest figures yet. Dylan Mason is one recipient whose determination to pursue a tertiary education in the city will leave you feeling inspired.

And finally, we are deeply saddened by the loss of the Hon. Tim Fischer AC, our Patron, who

lost his battle with cancer in late August. He was a true Australian who believed that education was the primary motivator for country Australia. His steadfast support for CEF and our rural communities will not be forgotten.

Juliet Petersen



Tribute to Tim Fischer, forever our CEF Patron

Country Education Foundation of Australia (CEF) remembers the life of Tim Fischer, who passed away aged 73 after a decade-long battle with acute leukaemia.

The former Deputy Prime Minister and Nationals leader was involved with CEF as our Patron for over 15 years and only relinquished his position for a short time during his appointment as Australia's first Ambassador to the Vatican City.

Among his broad activities and interests, Tim managed to complete one of his many books *Holy See, UNHOLY ME! 1,000 days in Rome*. Author royalty proceeds were shared with a group of diverse charities including CEF.

During the course of this year, Tim was instrumental in establishing our first Victorian foundation, CEF Warracknabeal and gave his time to assist in the launch.



Hon. Tim Fischer AC is celebrated as CEF Patron.

CEF Chairman Nick Burton Taylor recalled Mr Fischer's "encyclopaedic" military knowledge, which provided him with an educated understanding on the future direction for our nation down to the community level.

"Tim had a unique capacity to draw on the lessons of history and put them into modern context," Mr Burton Taylor said.

"He was always committed to the benefits that education provided, often citing the much-admired General John Monash: 'Depend upon it, the only hope for Australia is the ballot box and an educated electorate'."

Mr Burton Taylor joined with the CEF Board of Directors and our community in offering their profound thanks to Tim for sharing his wisdom, energy and enthusiasm for country Australia.

To Tim's family: Judy, Harrison and Dominic, we offer profound thanks for sharing Tim with us and our ambitions for youth and education in regional Australia.

The Hon. Tim Fischer AC will be remembered by CEF as one of our strongest advocates; a man on a plight to promote the life-changing opportunities education provides to the young students from rural and regional Australia.

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Audi Foundation



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**origin
foundation**



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BOYCE
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Report card illustrates teamwork benefits

The mission of Country Education Foundation of Australia (CEF) has long been to facilitate opportunity, to foster access and inspire outcomes.

The Student Impact Report which complements your newsletter is an annual snapshot that illustrates the value of CEF in your community as well as nationwide.

The 44 foundations spread throughout five Australian states and territories are all working hard to support young students from their communities.

This report captures the impact of CEF in 2018/19, showcasing all that has been achieved;

- 586 students supported in 2019

- Over \$1.5 million in support delivered in 2018/19

- Nearly \$11 million in individual grants and scholarships to date

- Establishment of a capital fund to ensure CEF's longer term viability.

The CEF Strategy 2022 document outlines four main goals, which are: to empower, grow, impact and influence.

We consistently work with these objectives in mind to sculpt our progress as an organisation.

This year we've managed to tick a few goals off the list, including our Victorian presence and growing our mentor and alumni program.

Further proof of the difference CEF can make in the community is seen with alumni taking the chance to give back.

Students who have been supported by their hometown foundation are now volunteering in rural and regional communities where they are based, to say



thank you for all they've received from the CEF family. Terrific results all round,

especially as we see increased engagement from the next generation.

Warracknabeal paves the way for CEF in Victoria

Despite the drought – and perhaps because of it – the regional Victorian town of Warracknabeal is the state's first to offer further education access and opportunities via our national charity.

CEF Warracknabeal was formed with the financial support of Geelong and Essendon Rotary clubs as well as funding from Birchip Cropping Group.

Enthusiastic volunteer support has come from Warracknabeal Secondary College and Yarriambiack Shire Council CEO Jessie Holmes.

CEF Warracknabeal founder Tony Gregson said the metropolitan Rotary clubs look to support their country friends suffering during drought; believing in CEF's vision of fostering the further education, career and personal development opportunities for rural and regional Australian youth.

"These Rotary clubs, as well as local members, are happy to support the CEF principles.



Pictured clockwise from front left: Birchip Cropping Group's Louise Ferrier, Rotary Club of Warracknabeal secretary Wendy Hewitt, Ben Bentley, Chris Hewitt, John Aitken, former CEF CEO Wendy Cohen, Rotary president Tony Gregson, Yarriambiack Shire Council CEO Jessie Holmes and Woodbine CEO Bernie O'Connor.

Rotary are strong supporters of youth-orientated initiatives and developing leaders for the next generation," Mr Gregson said.

With this financial support, CEF

Warracknabeal will be offering up to \$6000 in education grants to local students from the Yarriambiack Shire in assistance with their further education.

Financial backing of these larger metropolitan Rotary clubs means the newly formed CEF can sustainably harness the motivation and energy of local volunteers and be delivering support for young students in a matter of months.

Establishing a Victorian presence aligns with our overall goals as we look to grow the impact of CEF's work throughout rural and regional Australia and support thousands of young students each year to launch into meaningful careers.

This builds upon the hard work of hundreds of volunteers in 43 similar foundations throughout New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Central Australia in the last 26 years.

We hope this first Victorian CEF may empower more rural and regional communities and boost our established close-working relationships with larger Melbourne tertiary education institutions.

Students leap into 2020 with Scholarships Guide



Access to almost 1500 scholarships, grants and bursaries from Australia's leading tertiary institutions is now available in our 2020 Scholarships Guide.

The guide features a record number of scholarships, offering pathways to hundreds of thousands of dollars in the one location.

Visit the CEF website - www.cef.org.au - to make the most of this user-friendly and comprehensive digital platform that aims to level the higher education playing field for rural and regional students.

Student success: Dylan's swimming against the tide to succeed

Basking in the genius of nature has always been a nurturing time out for Port Macquarie's Dylan Mason, as well as a place of inspiration to forge ahead when things have been somewhat chaotic.

Like so many CEF supported students, Dylan Mason had a limited experience of city life and its consequential queues, public transport navigation and anonymity.

His tertiary education journey began earlier this year when he commenced a double degree in science and advanced studies at the University of Sydney that includes classes at Taronga Zoo Sydney.

After feeling thrown in the deep end during his first semester, it turns out Dylan's a swimmer; producing great marks, as well as growing with his course and to the appeal of campus life.

Standing up to challenges isn't anything new to Dylan. His parents separated when he was young; with Mum being the sole carer of Dylan and two brothers who have a mixture of ADHD, anxiety and high-functioning autism.

Dylan's belief in further education has been as constant as his awareness that to explore the worlds of environmental science and wildlife conservation, he'd need to be financially independent.

"Sometimes there's been pressure to put my studies aside...but it's a lot better than what it used to be," Dylan said.

"The whole university experience has been



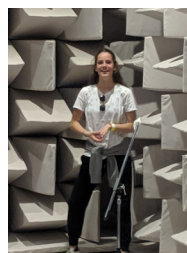
Port Macquarie's Dylan Mason thanks CEF for all its support given his need to be financially independent.

overwhelming. I'd never been into the city before and only to Sydney about four times. I moved here with a mate from school [St Joseph's Regional College, Port Macquarie] and we made new friends together."

Dylan is now vice president of the Sydney Bushwalkers Club, enjoying the chance to get out of the city to pursue hobbies that keep his mind clear.

Moving into second semester, Dylan's enjoying the opportunity to tailor his studies with a more practical element; and even the chance to extend his horizons.

In 2019 Dylan Mason is supported by the Hastings Education Fund with a \$5000 education grant and a \$4000 University of Sydney-CEF national scholarship.



The adventure starts here...

CEF is proudly facilitating university experience camps at some of the nation's biggest campuses, to offer students valuable insight and firsthand experience of 'uni life'.

Hosts at Swinburne and Macquarie universities have been the first in a series of camps being co-ordinated with CEF education partners in 2019.

Students are widely accepting of the opportunities, taking the chance to consider where their education journey could take them.

"One of the hardest parts of this most recent semester is knowing how hard my parents are working back at home in the face of the drought and overcoming the guilt I feel for not being there to help, even though I realise that this guilt is irrational and they are proud of me for studying and being independent."



ALYS MARSHALL
BURREN JUNCTION, NSW

2019 CEF Walgett education grant recipient

**DONATE TODAY TO HELP MORE
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Thank you for helping us get more rural and regional school leavers on their way to achieving their dreams.

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You can also quickly and easily make a donation to 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.

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, Victoria, South Australia and the Northern Territory.

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 or phone us on 1300 652 144.