

ANNUAL REVIEW 2020

18 MONTHS - 1 JULY 2019 TO 31 DECEMBER 2020



Education changes lives. And families. And communities.



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If someone tells you that you can't or are incapable, don't listen to them. You definitely can and you will. With hard work, anything is possible.

Katie - Macleay Valley

WHO WE ARE

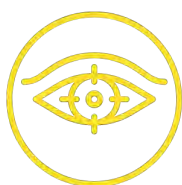
Country Education Foundation of Australia (CEF) is a national not-for-profit organisation that assists young people living in rural and regional areas to pursue their education and career goals.

We deliver grants and community support to school leavers so they can continue their education and training. In doing so, we help to ensure all young Australians have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Our network of 44 local foundations lies at the heart of everything CEF does. Driven by teams of committed volunteers, our foundations drive fundraising efforts and distribute funds to selected local students to help cover their study costs, including textbooks, tools, accommodation, travel and other expenses. This community-led model successfully identifies students who need additional encouragement or who are most at risk of falling through the gaps.

Young rural and regional Australians are as bright and ambitious as their city and metropolitan based peers. However, when it comes to higher education and job opportunities, many miss out because the financial, emotional and social obstacles of relocating are just too great.

But it's not just about money. For our recipients, knowing their local CEF foundation and community 'has their back' is important psychological support; around 90 per cent of our students go on to complete the course or training for which they were funded.



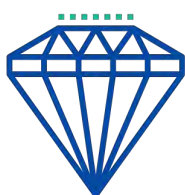
OUR VISION

Vibrant and thriving rural and regional communities where youth (16-25) of any background or ability can access the services and resources they need in order to fulfil their personal potential and contribute fully to the communities in which they live and the broader society.



OUR MISSION

To promote and enable the further education, career and personal development opportunities for rural youth, through community based encouragement and financial assistance. To help close the participation gap which exists between country and city students.



OUR VALUES

- ☀ Equal access to education and training, irrespective of background, circumstances or location.
- ☀ Investment in and development of local communities and rural and regional Australia via our volunteer committees and the students they support.
- ☀ Working closely with our volunteers, education partners, donors and sponsors to secure great outcomes for rural and regional students and the communities they represent.
- ☀ Being here for the long term to continue to deliver financial support, resources, services and ideas for our students, our local foundations and their communities.
- ☀ Providing leadership and engaging community as advocates for rural and regional youth and education.
- ☀ Closing the gap between population percentage versus participation percentage of rural and regional students.
- ☀ Raising the aspirations of youth in our rural and regional communities.

DIRECTORS



Nick Burton Taylor AM
Chairman
Founding Director



David Smithers AM
Treasurer
Founding Director



Julia Burton Taylor OAM
Secretary
Founding Director



Katie Walker
Director
Founding Director



Richard Rains
Director
Appointed 2016



Peita Burton Taylor
Director
Appointed 2018



Dougal Geddes
Director
Appointed 2019

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



While still a young apolitical organisation, a history recording 27 years of operation is no mean feat. This has been achieved through the hard work of 44 regional Australian communities and over 400 volunteers from small communities all over the country.

The challenge for an organisation such as ours is being able to sustain its relevance. With 27 years of history now behind us and our own secure premises, one must draw confidence that we are capable of continuing to grow and support the young people of regional Australia.

It's a testament to CEF's standing in regional Australia that we have received a bequest donation and are regarded with such credibility and affection for individuals with an understanding

and affection for regional Australia, to bequeath a portion of their life's work to us. It is a rewarding endorsement of all those working within the organisation at professional and volunteer levels.

During the year, our partnership with WIN Television has grown. As regional broadcasters, they recognise the social importance of equity and education access for smaller communities.

Our influence has been at a time of profound drought and climatic challenge and while now thankfully ended, it is not widely understood the secondary effects which have passed to the younger members of farming families who have often been recruited to assist in drought feeding activities and deal with stressful family situations not normally experienced by younger people. There has been no escape

because their home, family, business and friends have all been adversely affected.

To this residual challenge we have endured the challenges of COVID-19 which has particularly impacted on those completing their secondary education and those engaged with further education after leaving school at university or TAFE.

The manner in which the CEF team, both those in the Orange office and our volunteers have responded is inspiring and a measure of their commitment.

One thing that the drought has reminded us of is the vulnerability of any organisation to setbacks of one kind or another and the need to provide reserves for such occasions. For this reason we have been carefully adding to our reserves when we can afford to. One way in which we are achieving this is to "charge" ourselves rent on our premises and put it into reserves to enable us to take advantage of the generosity we have received in being gifted our premises.

While some may regard this as being over prudent, it goes some way to ensuring our sustainability and recognises the uncertainties of the future. On a number of occasions the parent organisation of CEF has been called upon to provide financial support for local foundations when adverse conditions are encountered. Our reserve capacity enables us to fulfil this role.

It is worth remembering that close to 100% of all funds raised at the local foundation level goes directly into bursaries and student support and that is only the parent foundation, being the CEF National entity, that incurs overhead expenses. We will continue to report in a transparent way to make clear how we spend the funds and are responsible for the funds we receive.

I had the sad duty in mid-2019 of recording the death of the Hon. Tim Fischer, our Patron for so many years. Tim understood the value of education in regional Australia at the grass roots level.

I am extraordinarily proud and excited to announce that Judy Brewer has agreed to carry the torch and become our new Patron in 2021. Judy, like Tim, understands first-hand the hardships and frustrations of living in the country without the same access to further education as our city based counterparts. We are so pleased to be welcoming her to the CEF family.

Once again, the Board and I are forever grateful for the way in which team at our national office has exhibited a combination of professionalism and energy for which we thank them profoundly.



Nicholas Burton Taylor AM
Chairman



L to R: CEO Juliet Petersen, Chairman Nick Burton Taylor AM and Secretary Julia Burton Taylor at the CEF National Office opening - March 2020

CEO MESSAGE



In compiling this review, it gave pause for thought on what a truly relentless year 2020 was. Persistent drought. Devastating bushfires. World stopping pandemic. Flooding rains. Most of us would have no idea how to cope with seemingly never-ending disaster. And yet, that is exactly what rural and regional communities do. They are resilient and strong. Not only do they clean up and get on with things despite the personal hardships they face, they commit to help each other. This is what is so special about these communities, and about CEF.

CEF's unique community-based model is what sets our organisation apart from so many. We believe in grass-roots movements and the knowledge that there is no one who understands a community and its needs better than its people. Thus, when put to the ultimate test, it is this model that has not only withstood these challenges but one that has truly flourished. This past year we have built resilience and strengthened our efforts through the development and adjustment of our operations and programs while maintaining financial discipline and strong capital and risk management practices.

In March we celebrated the opening of our new 'home' in Orange NSW. Newly renovated and in the heart of the CBD, the building also has two offices rented to tenants. Made possible through the generosity of an anonymous donor, this permanency and additional income provided a major step towards ensuring our long-term sustainability.

For young people within our rural and regional communities, we continued to recognise the importance of inspiring and broadening aspirations. In response to the pandemic, a pivot was made from the face-to-face opportunities and outreach activities usually held. In August we launched The Make it Possible Rural and Regional Inspiration Hub, an online resource endeavouring to break down post school options and assist with decision making for students. This project strongly resonated with our youth, their key influencers and stakeholders and has become a permanent feature on our website.

With a barrage of natural disasters and a global pandemic making local fundraising difficult, supporting our communities'

fundraising efforts became an immediate focus. In October, a national matched giving campaign was launched with funds pledged by a generous anonymous donor to match those raised locally. Marketing resources and promotional materials were provided to our foundations to assist with driving the campaign nationally, resulting in an almost 50% increase in donations to local foundations to those of the same period the previous year.

The implementation of the new CEF Extra, a bespoke national scholarships program, has provided a platform for additional support and opportunity to students within the CEF geographic footprint while retaining the vital connection we have with our volunteers. This new resource is already hosting more than 55 tailored scholarships for eligible students in 2021.

In acknowledging and building on the importance of the interconnectedness between students, alumni, family, local foundations and other stakeholders, in November 2020 we planned and conducted our first virtual alumni awards event. Since 2018 the awards have grown to be a much-loved offering from CEF.

There is no doubt that the 2020 financial year has been one of the most challenging we have faced. It has also highlighted to me that CEF is so much more than a charity, but the centre of a very special community. We are so grateful to all those who continue to reach out and support our young people and communities, for their steadfast loyalty, particularly when there is so much difficulty and hardship around us.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the extreme commitment and dedication of the CEF team and Board for their efforts and achievements during the year. With their stability and long service, our unity of purpose to support vibrant and thriving rural and regional communities is assured.

And as we look to the future, we move forward with a confidence and surety that CEF has what it takes to continue our wonderful work in closing the education gap in rural Australia.



Juliet Petersen
Chief Executive Officer



NATIONAL OFFICE

The CEF National office in Orange, NSW which was gifted to us in December 2018, was officially 'opened' in March 2020.

Housing a team of eight, the premises holds the administrative functions that allow us to do what we do best – support our communities and their young people.

One of the things we are most proud of is that we outsource very little of our work. In fact, 90% of our data, research and systems is done in-house and importantly, all words, design, images and content you see or hear comes directly from one of our dedicated staff members, who are just as passionate about our mission as our supporters are.

Services managed in-house by our team include:

- ✓ governance and compliance
- ✓ committee support
- ✓ fundraising (individual, corporate and philanthropic)
- ✓ education partner services
- ✓ program and resource development
- ✓ national scholarship management
- ✓ marketing, media and communications
- ✓ website and information systems management
- ✓ human resources
- ✓ finance





- ➔ Successful completion of year 12 or equivalent drops from 78% in major cities to 43% in very remote areas
- ➔ Only 39% in regional areas and 32% in remote areas aspire to higher education
- ➔ Parents in regional areas are up to 12.3% less likely to expect their children to go on to higher education
- ➔ Over 64% of regional students worried about their financial situation
- ➔ 19% often go without food or necessities due to financial hardship
- ➔ Less than 1/3 of all Australians in country areas have a university qualification or higher-level VET qualification, compared to more than 1/2 in metropolitan areas
- ➔ 31% of country students cite financial difficulties as the reason for considering early departure from higher education
- ➔ Up to 57% of regional students need to relocate for university studies
- ➔ 28.4% of country students also come from a low socioeconomic background

EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

There is no doubt that students from rural, regional and remote areas face unique and often significant challenges in undertaking, aspiring to and accessing education. This issue of equity in education for rural and regional students has long been studied by tertiary institutions, governments and independent organisations.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

In 2017, the Australian Government commissioned an independent study into the factors affecting education for country youth – the Independent Review into Regional, Rural and Remote Education (IRRRRE).

The study identifies 9 key areas creating disadvantage and barriers for our youth across all levels, ages and forms of education.

As a result, the National Rural, Regional and Remote Tertiary Education Strategy has been implemented. This focus on the education of our students and the

challenges they face shows this is a national issue, and one we must all work together to address.

While this is a start, there is no question that the work of CEF plays a vital part in helping address the issues our student face.

COUNTRY STRONG

What we do know is that no matter what is thrown at them, our country students always show resilience and determination, finding a way to make their education goals reality. And what we can say for certain is that every CEF-supported student we talk to is forever grateful for the support they receive.

Not just for the financial support, but the social, emotional and community support that makes them feel empowered, and makes the transition to life after school that little bit easier.

SOCIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT (SROI)

In late 2019, CEF worked with 180 Degrees Consulting, the world's largest consulting organisation who give real world experience to top university students, to update our SROI data. The team of students from the University of New South Wales (UNSW) was led by one of our own Alumni, Saul Brady from Great Lakes Education Fund.

We wanted to see how much we had improved the way we work to provide a great social return for our passionate donors since it was last measured in 2011.

HOW IS THIS NUMBER DETERMINED?

The SROI measurement model is a complex measurement method that is a widely recognised and accepted way to measure social impact.

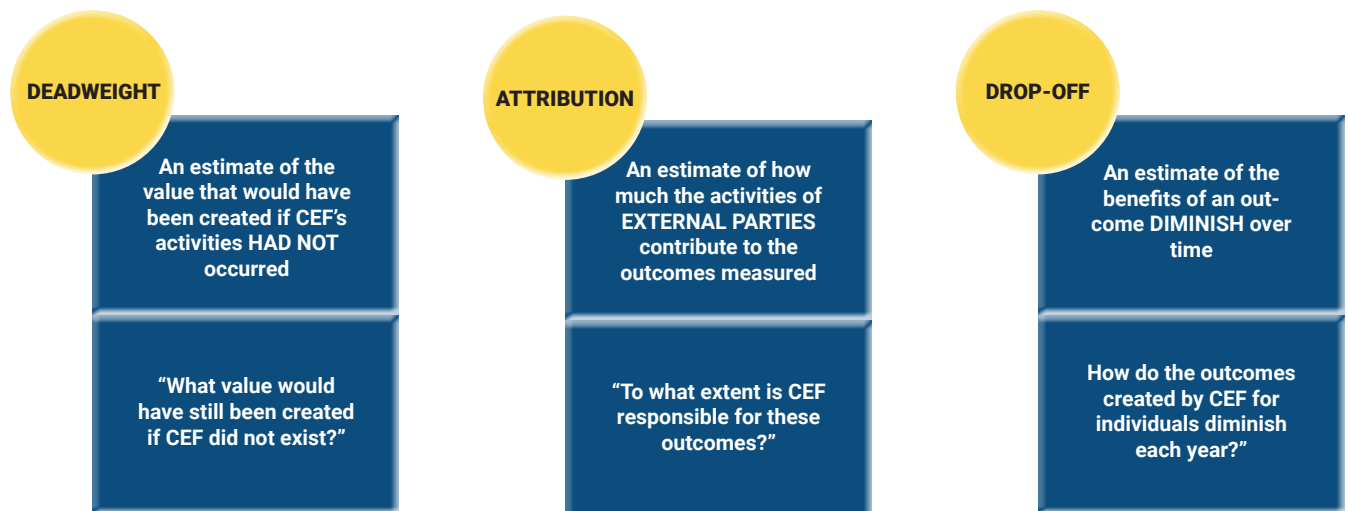
A dollar value was attributed to each of the following categories:

- ✓ Recipient value
- ✓ Volunteer value
- ✓ University partner value
- ✓ Donations
- ✓ Fundraising
- ✓ In-kind support
- ✓ Volunteer time

These dollar values were determined based on:

- ✓ CEF reporting
- ✓ Their own research
- ✓ Data from institutions such as the National Centre for Vocational Education Research, Social Value Bank and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
- ✓ General financial information like the Australian minimum wage and the value of volunteer time

Finally, the following important information is also taken into consideration:



THE RESULT = 60.97% INCREASE



FOUNDATIONS

Our 415 active volunteers work tirelessly throughout the year within their communities to provide grants, opportunities and mentorship to local school leavers.

Every community is different, and our unique model allows volunteers to run their foundations in a way that works best for their own town or region.

Likewise, proving the power of communities coming together goes a long way, after the horrific bushfires of 2019-2020, both our Walgett and Harden foundations donated a portion of their funds to the impacted communities of Braidwood and Kangaroo Island to ensure their students could be supported into 2020 study.

Despite all our foundations feeling the effects of the drought, bushfires, floods and COVID-19, they have still raised over \$860,000 locally in 2020 for their students, an increase of 26% from the previous year.

RECOGNITION

Nominated by their peers, the Katie Walker Outstanding Service Awards are awarded annually in recognition of dedication and untiring efforts addressing and raising awareness of the educational equity issues facing rural youth pursuing their dream of further education.

The 2019 recipients were:

★ Jane McGrath - Griffith
Pierre Gregor - Kangaroo Island
Sam Flanery - Harden
Nic Carmody - Yass

The 2020 recipients were:

★ Mary Browne - Great Lakes
Beth Hoskins - Goulburn



Lisa Carrick, CEF Committee Liaison with Chris Tudor OAM and Nathan McAuliffe from CEF Central Australia



2019/20 HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Road trips to visit our foundations in Gwydir, West Wyalong, Coleambally/Darlington Point, Broken Hill, Griffith, Central Australia, Canowindra, Young, Boorowa, Braidwood and Goulburn
- ✓ National committee conference (November 2019) - volunteers representing 21 of our committees
- ✓ Launch of online fundraising and marketing resource
- ✓ Customisable volunteer induction manuals created
- ✓ 60% of local foundations adopting the national brand
- ✓ Increased cross foundation collaboration via closed Facebook group
- ✓ Two month matched giving campaign - foundations raised over \$232,000 locally

GOALS FOR 2021

- 🎯 Assist committees with succession planning, recruiting and retaining new members
- 🎯 Regional mini committee conferences - South Australia and South East NSW
- 🎯 National marketing of video to promote foundations and volunteering opportunities
- 🎯 Continued work to increase presence in Victoria
- 🎯 Increase CEF national brand adoption to over 65%.

CEF LOCAL FOUNDATIONS

NEW SOUTH WALES

Balranald
Boorowa
Braidwood
Broken Hill
Canowindra
Coleambally/Darlington Point
Coonamble
Cootamundra
Cowra
Edward River
Gilgandra
Goulburn
Great Lakes
Grenfell
Griffith
Gulargambone
Gunnedah
Gwydir
Harden
Hastings
Macleay Valley
Merriwa
Moree
Namoi
Nyngan
Orange
Shoalhaven
Snowy Monaro
Temora
Walgett
West Wyalong
Yass
Young

QUEENSLAND

Blackall Tambo
Clermont
Maranoa
Paroo

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Clare Valley
Eudunda
Kangaroo Island
Kapunda
Kimba

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Central Australia

VICTORIA

Warracknabeal

OUR FOUNDATIONS
RAISED IN THEIR LOCAL
COMMUNITIES:

2019 = \$684,094

2020 = \$860,240

IMPACT

IN 2020

663

INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS AWARDED
GRANTS OR SCHOLARSHIPS

LOCALLY RAISED
COMMUNITY FUNDS
\$860,240

CORPORATE
PARTNER FUNDING
\$249,922

NATIONAL
SCHOLARSHIPS
\$191,800

EDUCATION PARTNER
FUNDING
\$453,178

\$1,755,640
TOTAL VALUE OF SUPPORT

GROWTH

SINCE 1993

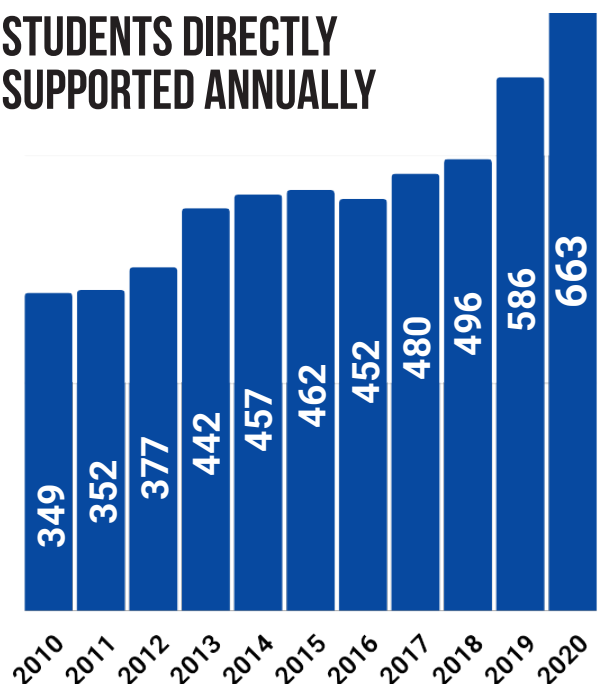
\$12,693,534

IN FINANCIAL SUPPORT

6132

INDIVIDUAL STUDENT GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

STUDENTS DIRECTLY
SUPPORTED ANNUALLY



USE OF FUNDS

During 2020, CEF continued to raise funds for investment in the education of rural and regional students.

The collective fundraising efforts have seen support distributed to students through a network of more than 44 local foundations which are run by their many loyal volunteers.

The costs of operations have also been carefully managed throughout the year with overhead expenses across the network being restricted to 16 per cent of income.

✓ STUDENT GRANTS

Direct financial support provided to students in the form of 'non-cash' grants. Grant money is provided to students in the way of reimbursement for goods or services purchased directly relating to study or paid on invoice direct to a supplier e.g. for a new laptop the student cannot afford to pay for upfront.

✓ ADVOCACY + COMMUNITY

Costs associated with being involved in and promoting education equity for our rural and regional students.

✓ STUDENT RESOURCES + SUPPORT

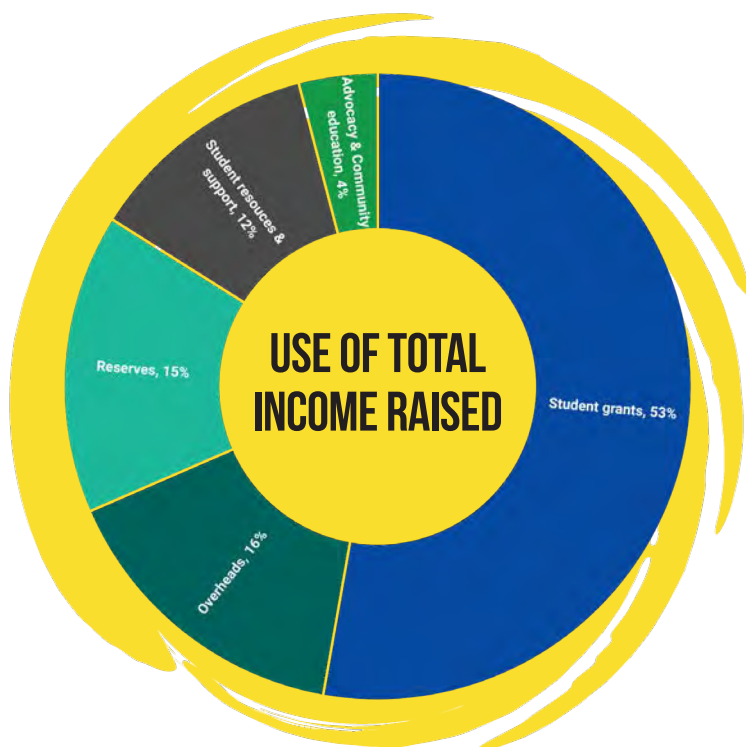
Funds directed to CEF developing student resources and support programs – the Scholarships Guide, Make it Possible Inspiration Hub and the CEF Alumni Program. This also includes the costs of maintaining relationships with education partners, supporting committees providing other resources for members of the CEF family, and staff time associated with student, scholarship and committee support.

✓ OVERHEADS

Overhead costs of the CEF national office include administrative staffing, IT & other running costs essential to ensuring good governance and business operations can continue to support local CEF foundations, volunteers and students.

✓ RESERVES

Monies on hand to improve the long-term sustainability of the organisation.



OUR STUDENTS

87% UNI
13% TRADE/
APPRENTICESHIPS

32% MALE
68% FEMALE

60% ARE 1ST
YEAR STUDENTS

6% OF
APPLICANTS
IDENTIFY AS
INDIGENOUS

40% ARE 'FIRST
IN FAMILY' TO
PURSUE FURTHER
EDUCATION



19% RECEIVE
FINANCIAL SUPPORT
FROM FAMILY WHILE
STUDYING

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



"The funds this year have helped me enormously. I was able to participate in my education, as well as be relieved of financial pressures."

Abbey Trotta
Kapunda High School Centenary Foundation
Grant recipient, 2020

“

I used much of my grant last year to reimburse my grocery shopping. This has been immensely helpful as it gave me the opportunity to not have to stress about that weekly cost.

LILY-ANNE CHAPMAN
Eureka Benevolent Foundation - CEF
Scholarship recipient,
2019 - 2021



“

Without the CEF scholarship, there is no way I would be able to attend university.

The funds have helped me to purchase textbooks, stationery equipment, a laptop and equipment, pay for accommodation fees, food and other important utilities.

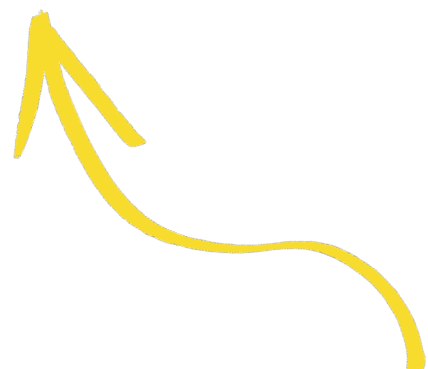
I am forever grateful for being a recipient.

THOMSON FLEMING, Broken Hill
McLean Foundation - CEF
Scholarship recipient, 2020 - 2022

“

I HAVE ALSO PURCHASED A GIFT CARD FOR FANTASTIC FURNITURE SO THAT WHEN I AM HOPEFULLY ABLE TO GET BACK TO UNI THIS YEAR, I WILL BE ABLE TO BUY A BED AND A MATTRESS.

APRIL RODDA
Bachelor of Law/Bachelor of Politics,
Philosophy and Economics
Snow Foundation - CEF Scholar 2020
Shoalhaven Education Fund



“

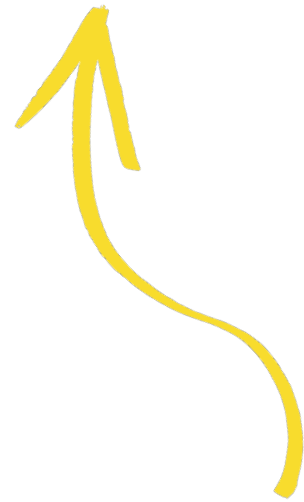
The funds really helped me especially due to the fact that my parents were in a drought back on the farm.

They went towards the accommodation and costs that came up when moving away from home for the first time to study.

”

BEN
CEF COLEAMBALLY/
DARLINGTON POINT GRANT
RECIPIENT

MECHANICAL ENGINEER
UNIVERSITY OF
WOLLONGONG



“

THE FUNDS FROM MY SCHOLARSHIP HELPED ME TREMENDOUSLY. IT ALL WENT TOWARDS RENT AND HELPED ME TO GET BY EACH WEEK STRESS-FREE.

ISABELLA JAMES-CORSARO
Bachelor of Secondary Education &
Bachelor of Science
Audi Foundation - CEF Scholar 2020
Shoalhaven Education Fund



“

I love how they check-up regularly and always acknowledge you in public. It's not just a job for them.

SOPHIE RENFREY
BALRANALD RECIPIENT 2020



“

My local foundation has been amazing. They check in every year and it's really nice that they remember who I am even though I have been away for some time. It is nice they want to see me succeed.

ZACHERY LEACH-DEAHM
COLEAMBALLY/DARLINGTON POINT
RECIPIENT 2019-2020



COVID-19 RISING ABOVE THE CHALLENGE

Moving back home. Social distancing.
Part-time jobs lost. For our students,
2020 wasn't quite what they expected.

When COVID-19 hit, CEF Grenfell grant recipient Francesca, was completing her third and final year of a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in Dance at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts in Perth. When the school temporarily closed Francesca headed home to Grenfell.

"Studying dance is obviously a very collaborative and practically based course, so not physically being in the studio with my teachers and peers had quite a significant impact on my studies.

"Completing a degree in the performing arts requires a majority of our training and preparation to come from the public performance seasons we hold three times a year.

"These large scale and high production performances create the basis for our marks and they are something that us as students are constantly striving towards, helping to motivate us through the intense training."

"For me, it was really crucial that during that time I tried to keep a regular routine, similar to something I would follow whilst I'm at school. I had to do that to ensure that it was not such an immense adjustment mentally as well as fitness wise when I got notified that it was

safe to return to school. It allowed me to jump back into an extremely rigorous schedule without risking injury as opposed to if I had spent the whole time doing absolutely nothing."

To help imitate a studio space to do my practical classes, with help from my dad, I created a makeshift dance studio with a homemade ballet barre in our back room. The linoleum flooring is the closest match to the Tarkett floors that we dance on in the studio, making it a lot easier and safer to dance on than the polished floor boards in other areas of the house."

In late February, Sean moved from Broken Hill in far west NSW to study a Bachelor of Business at the International College of Management Sydney (ICMS). A month later, when on a brief home visit, he received a message from the college that the campus and the accommodation had been shut down.

I had only one weeks' worth of clothes and my laptop and was unable to travel back to Sydney to collect my things.

"Although the transition was quick and simple, I feel it impacted the effectiveness of my studies. Studying online rather than in the classroom impacted my motivation, commitment, and concentration.

"All the classes were 3 hours long with minimal breaks and that amount of time spent at the screen was a significantly different experience to 3 hours in an interactive classroom with physical activities – but I had to make the best of this situation and keep striving towards my goals.

"My mum works for the Royal Flying Doctor Service which added another level of necessary security and isolation for the rest of the family. If anyone contracted COVID-19, it could have reached all the nurses in Broken Hill which is a serious issue especially due to the elderly population of the town. It could also have reached the more rural areas that she flies to for work."

Image: Francesca Fenton,
2020 CEF Grenfell grant
recipient





MAKE IT POSSIBLE

RURAL & REGIONAL INSPIRATION HUB

The Make it POSSIBLE Rural and Regional Inspiration Hub was developed with the aim to inspire and broaden aspirations of regional and rural students as well as provide decision making tools to make it happen.

It was especially important to launch this digital resource in 2020 due to limitations of COVID-19 which meant we could not conduct experience camps or any other face-to-face outreach activities.

The resource features CEF student videos, case studies, a breakdown of post school education options, additional resources, tools and content that inspire and inform decision making.

We believe that once the pandemic is over, there is a likelihood that much engagement will continue online or can be complimented and enhanced by the online platform. Therefore, this project model and the content and resources will focus on and be framed in a way that is relevant to issues for regional and rural students in 2020 and beyond. This resource will work in conjunction with the CEF Alumni program and the upcoming CEF Aspirational Influencers which is planned for roll-out in 2021.

PRINCIPAL PARTNER



MACQUARIE
University

COLLABORATING ORGANISATIONS





CEF STUDENT ADVICE



“Don’t ever lose your country spirit. I firmly believe there is something special that sets us apart from people who have never lived on a farm, or had to ride a pushbike half an hour to visit a neighbour.

There is a strength of character and a respect for the people in our lives that those of us born in the country are raised with. It’s something people notice. I believe it is something worth holding onto.”

Ben - Kapunda



“Always be optimistic and stay confident in yourself - do what makes you excited and motivated and don’t be afraid to say yes! Also, take on any opportunity you get for a job or networking as you never know where it may lead you.”

Hannah - Braidwood



“Moving away from your hometown in either a rural, regional or remote area to a place like Sydney can be a massive change!

My advice; be brave and show everyone how people from the country are resilient and can adapt to anything life throws at them.”

Jim - CEF Nyngan





NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM



“Don’t think these grants are just for university students. I had always assumed apprentices weren’t eligible.

“My grant from CEF Goulburn combined with the scholarship from The Snow Foundation has provided extreme financial relief to me and I am very grateful.”



**Callum - CEF Goulburn & Snow Foundation Scholar
Cert III in Bricklaying Apprentice**

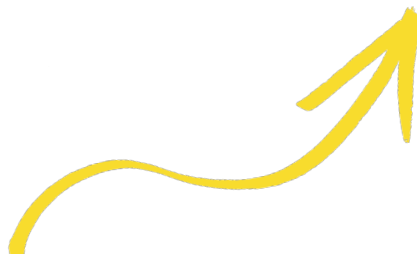
CEF Extra is a bespoke scholarships program offering financial support and other opportunities to rural and regional students within the CEF geographic footprint.

Managed through the CEF national office, the program not only provides direct financial support in the form of scholarships, but can also facilitate engagement activities and opportunities such as mentoring, work experience and networking.

Uniquely flexible, scholarships can be managed at the community level via our volunteer foundations right through to full management by the team at the national office.

Since its launch in August 2020, over \$381,845 has been made available to students in 2021.

As we continue to grow this program, CEF will implement an alumni portal to allow our partners to promote employment or work experience opportunities directly to current and former recipients.





CEF ALUMNI

Our alumni are our greatest champions, and their engagement with CEF is vital to organisational sustainability in the years to come.

With over 6000 students supported since 1993, we work hard to stay connected with our past and present students. With a dedicated staff member and the help of our volunteers, we have seen increased engagement and are continually working towards ongoing professional benefits for this cohort.

ALUMNI AWARDS

Established in 2018, the CEF Alumni Awards allow us to connect with and celebrate the amazing achievements of the young people we have supported.

With our partner Alinta Energy, our inaugural awards presentation evening was held in November 2019 at the University of Sydney. Not to be beaten by the ensuing pandemic, some creative thinking was needed and with the help of our 2019 Alumnus of the Year, Lee Constable, we successfully live streamed the virtual 2020 awards.



L to R: CEF Alumni Ambassador - Chris Mercer, Saul Brady, Dr Grace Causer, Molly Dennis and keynote speaker - Annabelle Chauncey OAM



Lights, camera, action - live streaming of the 2020 Alumni Awards with Emma Burns and Juliet Petersen, CEF National Chauncey OAM

2019 ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS

Lee Constable – Harden

Alinta Energy – CEF Alumnus of the Year

Molly Dennis – Goulburn

Alinta Energy – CEF Community Champion

Dr Grace Causer – Young

Alinta Energy – CEF Young Achiever

Saul Brady – Great Lakes

Alinta Energy – CEF Rising Star



2020 ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS

Brooke Kaveney - Young

Alinta Energy – CEF Alumnus of the Year

Lauren Hutchinson - Orange

Alinta Energy – CEF Community Champion

Raymond Happ - Coonamble

Alinta Energy – CEF Young Achiever

Jamee Johnson - Blackall-Tambo

Alinta Energy – CEF Young Achiever

Heather Walker – Grenfell

Matilda Langford - Shoalhaven

Alinta Energy – CEF Rising Star (joint winners)

YEAR IN REVIEW



**NATIONAL COMMITTEE
CONFERENCE**

November 2019



**2019 ALUMNI
AWARDS**



**WORKING FROM
HOME**

March 2020



**NATIONAL OFFICE
OPENING**

May 2020



**NATIONAL VOLUNTEER
WEEK**

June 2020

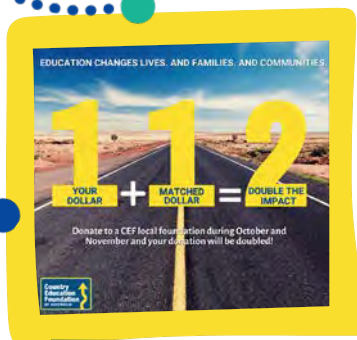


EOFY CAMPAIGN



**2020 VIRTUAL
ALUMNI AWARDS**

November 2020



**MATCHED GIVING
CAMPAIGN**

Oct/Nov 2020



**SCHOLARSHIPS GUIDE
LAUNCH**

September 2020



**CEF EXTRA
LAUNCH**

August 2020



**MAKE IT POSSIBLE
LAUNCH**



**EDUCATION
CHANGES LIVES.
AND FAMILIES.
AND COMMUNITIES.**

www.cef.org.au

EDUCATION PARTNERS

Just like CEF, Australian universities are committed to improving the education of rural and regional students, and know this cohort is underrepresented in their institutions.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

To improve enrolment and completion rates, universities partner with CEF by providing 'co-funding' to students attending their university who have received a CEF local grant. This funding provides direct, additional monies to students to assist with costs such as accommodation, travel and textbooks.

Each education partner pledges an annual amount of financial assistance to CEF students, either matched dollar for dollar, or up to the overall capped amount annually.

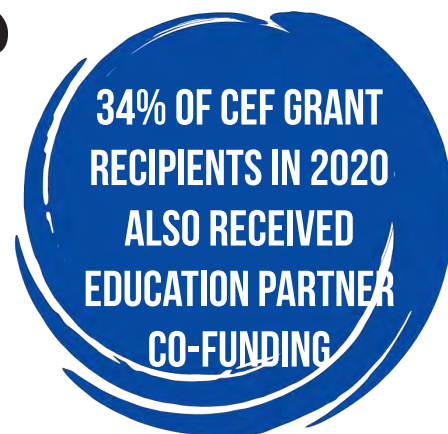
This additional money is then given to the local foundations supporting the students, who administer the additional funds in the same way as a local grant.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Our university partners also realise that social and transitional support during this time is just as important as financial support.

Through these collaborations, students are also provided opportunities to connect with other CEF recipients at their university and with rural and regional specific services.

Each year, university partners also sponsor online CEF resources such as the 'Make it Possible' Hub and CEF Scholarships Guide, with the knowledge and understanding that as much information and inspiration as possible is provided to regional youth to encourage to uptake of post-school education.



“La Trobe University’s founding mission was, and remains, to serve the community of Victoria for the purposes of higher education, for the education, economic, social and cultural benefit of Victorians and for wider Australian and international communities. Because of this, at La Trobe, we are particularly passionate about encouraging and supporting young people in regional Victoria to attend university.

“These scholarships are a great way to assist students in regional areas fulfil their aspirations and help bridge the educational gap between young people in metro and regional areas.”

Dr Guinever Threlkeld
Head of Campus, Albury-Wodonga
La Trobe University



2019/20 EDUCATION PARTNERS



CORPORATE & PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORTERS

In addition to the efforts and dedication of our volunteers, our work in rural and regional Australia is made possible through the support of generous individual donors as well as corporate, philanthropic, community and pro bono partnerships.

NATIONAL MAJOR DONORS AND PARTNERS:

- Alinta Energy
- Allan & Gill Gray Philanthropic Australasia Giving Fund at the APS Foundation
- Anonymous
- Anonymous
- Audi Foundation
- AWKID
- BGC Partners (Australia)
- Burton Taylor PPF Foundation
- C Roberts
- Charles Warman Foundation
- Chartered Accountants of Australia and New Zealand
- D and I Smithers
- D Holt
- Estate of the late C Connell - ACT Public Trustee
- Eureka Benevolent Foundation
- Findex Community Fund
- G and C Grubb
- Greenwich Capital Advisory
- James N Kirby Foundation
- Lennon Family Endowment
- Liveris Family
- Millett Family Foundation
- Not Doppler Pty Ltd
- Officeworks
- Profield Foundation
- Raymond E. Purves Foundation
- SC Maple-Brown
- SELX Operations
- The Alfred and Jean Dickson Foundation
- The Loder Foundation
- The McLean Foundation
- The Snow Foundation
- Thyne Reid Foundation
- T Fairfax
- Vernon Foundation
- Wilson Asset Management
- Future Generation Australia
- Future Generation Global
- Zagora Family Foundation

"The WIN Network, as Australia's largest regional broadcaster, is proud to be a partner of the Country Education Foundation of Australia.

"The important work of the Foundation in the areas where we broadcast makes a significant impact in delivering education equity and helping close the participation gap to create vibrant and thriving regional and rural communities where young people can reach their full potential."

Andrew Lancaster
CEO, WIN Network



CORPORATE & PHILANTHROPIC PARTNER FUNDING MADE UP 34% OF STUDENTS GRANTS IN 2020

PRO BONO:

- Boyce Chartered Accountants
- Origin Foundation
- Sydney Business Lawyers
- WIN Television

2019/20 PRINCIPAL PARTNERS



Audi Foundation



FINANCIALS CONDENSED

18 MONTHS - 1 JULY 2019 TO 31 DECEMBER 2020

COUNTRY EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA LTD

	6 months to Dec 19	12 months to 31 December 20	2018-19
Funds we raised			
Donations to program funding	789,000	2,473,000	1,784,000
Donation to build our future	-	200,000	770,000
Fundraising events	1,000	-	56,000
Income from funds invested	19,000	26,000	65,000
Other income	94,000	492,000	159,000
	<u>903,000</u>	<u>3,191,000</u>	<u>2,834,000</u>
What we spent			
Distributed to regional foundations for students	422,000	1,606,000	1,184,000
Student resources	23,000	28,000	32,000
Other programs to support students	156,000	254,000	257,000
Advocacy and community education	50,000	119,000	96,000
Fundraising events	-	-	18,000
Fundraising, accounting and administration	201,000	345,000	396,000
Depreciation, amortisation	5,000	15,000	27,000
	<u>857,000</u>	<u>2,367,000</u>	<u>2,010,000</u>
Change in value of our investments	(32,000)	(46,000)	(3,000)
Retained for ongoing initiatives	14,000	778,000	821,000
What we own			
Cash	979,400	1,920,000	1,013,000
Investments	264,000	218,000	296,000
Land & building	1,144,000	1,141,000	1,058,000
Other assets including intangibles	118,600	89,000	33,000
	<u>2,506,000</u>	<u>3,368,000</u>	<u>2,400,000</u>
Sundry payables and provisions	473,000	557,000	381,000
Our net assets	<u>2,033,000</u>	<u>2,811,000</u>	<u>2,019,000</u>

On 26 February 2020, CEF was granted permission by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) to change its financial year from a year ending 30 June to 31 December.

In addition to the income reported in the condensed financial report, our network of 44 foundations individually raise money to support their local beneficiaries.

To read a copy of Country Education Foundation of Australia's full audited financial statements visit www.cef.org.au

“ No one should be held back because of their financial circumstances or family situations. Every bit of encouragement goes a long way. For that, I am forever grateful for my local CEF.

Heather - Grenfell





**Country
Education
Foundation**
OF AUSTRALIA

COUNTRY EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA
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info@cef.org.au | www.cef.org.au
ABN: 60 103 889 452

Country Education Foundation of Australia is a registered charity with Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR1) status.

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