



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

From the CEO's desk...



It's that time of year when our 'list of things to do before the end of the year' becomes a little bit out of control, but I can't wait to start 'wrapping' things up. Bring on summer and some warmer weather, show me the festive spirit and Christmas cheer and let's put this crazy pandemic behind us. After all, we have many wonderful things to celebrate.

Our Audi Foundation – CEF Alumni Awards were bigger and better than ever this year with alumni representation from more than half of our CEF communities, and the added excitement that this partnership will be continuing.

The Matched Giving Campaign which raised in excess of \$400K over two months was a wonderful achievement and example of the power of community.

The annual Katie Walker Awards once again saw the nominations of our most outstanding volunteers, always a reminder of their impact and significance to our organisation.

Lastly, Big Dry Friday is a fabulous fundraising initiative and I would like to thank Morgans for their commitment to rural and regional Australia.

I hope you enjoy time with family and loved ones over the coming months.

Juliet
Juliet Petersen, CEO



A Virtual Success

CEF announced the winners of the 2021 Audi Foundation – CEF Alumni Awards during a live, free virtual event on Saturday 23rd October. After another very difficult 12 months, the online event gave past and present recipients, volunteers, families and passionate stakeholders the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of more than 6000 rural and regional youth the organisation has supported since 1993.

The level of engagement from not only our foundations but our communities and the friends and families of our recipients this year has been extraordinary. We received **more than 50 nominations across the five categories** which is a testament to the talent and dedication of our rural and regional youth, and to the impact they have on the lives of others.

- Audi Foundation – CEF Alumnus of the Year**
Kimberly Becker, Kapunda High School Centenary Foundation
- Audi Foundation – CEF Community Alumni Champion**
Jemma Burrell, Coonamble & District Education Foundation
- Audi Foundation – CEF Young Achiever**
Brianna Kerr, CEF Snowy Monaro
- Audi Foundation – CEF Launching Star**
Cody Logan, CEF Orange & Districts
- Audi Foundation – CEF Rising Star**
Axel Nurdin, Shoalhaven Education Fund



Audi Foundation have partnered with CEF since their establishment in 2017. Paul Sansom, Chairman of the Audi Foundation made the exciting announcement during the event that **the Foundation will continue to partner with CEF for another two years.**

Congratulations to all of our fabulous nominees and winners. **You can read about each of our winners at www.cef.org.au/cef-blog**

Matched Giving

Following its launch in 2020, our **Matched Giving Campaign** has once again proved a huge success with our **local foundations raising over \$249,891** throughout September and October.

Thanks to the matched funding pledges of two dedicated philanthropic supporters, the **total amount for the campaign is an astounding \$400,637.**

Not only did we raise more than last year but more foundations hit and exceeded their individual targets with lots of innovative ways to raise funds.

Thank you to all that donated and to our volunteers who took up the challenge! This funding will go directly to support their students in educational pursuits for 2022. We look forward to continuing this annual campaign.



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Margaret is Simply Outstanding

It is no secret that CEF's impact is attributed to the dedication and efforts of our local foundations. The recipient of this year's Katie Walker Outstanding Service Award was Margaret Carey, CEF Grenfell.

DRIVING FORCE

Margaret was instrumental in the establishment of CEF Grenfell. In 2014 when Margaret was Principal at The Henry Lawson High School the realisation of a local CEF took shape.

Since its inception in 2017 Margaret has served as Secretary of CEF Grenfell. **Over the past four years 98 grants have been awarded and over \$113,000 distributed to students within the Weddin Shire.**

Margaret publishes the newsletter that informs the wider community of the achievements and challenges faced by past and present recipients.

ACTIONS FOR STUDENTS

Margaret is passionate and has the drive to motivate and support her local youth. It is with grace and candour Margaret deals with recipient adversity where COVID restrictions and financial hardship have placed ongoing pressure on families.

Regardless of her geographical location Margaret follows the paths of all recipients and is highly skilled at matching their educational needs with additional opportunity.

Student wellbeing is at the heart of her every action. Thanks to the mentor program inspired by Margaret, Grenfell recipients are supported and mentored by individual committee members.

FOR THE FUNDS OF IT

During this COVID dominated period **Margaret has inspired the committee to think laterally about fundraising.** Initiatives like securing 25% of gate takings at the rugby in exchange for CEF



members managing the gate during the season. Similarly using this activity to further educate the community about their work and great local students.

The committee devised a sponsorship program enabling volunteers to approach organisations, former residents, and businesses to contribute to CEF, supplementing traditional fundraising activities.

THANK YOU

Our volunteers are vital to our organisation and we are grateful for everything they do for their community. This is our opportunity to showcase the support and impact an individual has thanks to the compelling nominations by fellow committee members and local students. Congratulations Margaret!

“Margaret has supported me through my degree, going above & beyond to ensure I'm managing my studies and my mental health through stressful periods of study and impacts from COVID restrictions. Through messages and phone calls, I know she is always there for me.

Grace, Bachelor of Nursing



Big Dry Friday, an initiative by Morgans Financial, is a day to connect city and country and to provide support where it's needed most.

The concept is simple....on a Friday, once a year, city people forego (or match) what they might spend on a nice lunch and donate it instead to the cause.

CEF was extremely grateful to be selected as one of six beneficiaries in 2021. Our congratulations on a fantastic result and heartfelt thanks go to the Morgans community of staff, family and friends.



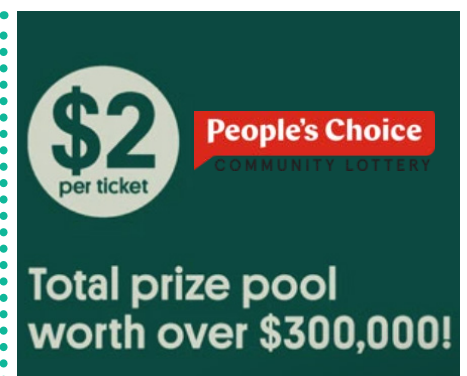
The Audi Foundation prize draw is back!

Purchase a ticket and not only will you be supporting your favourite charity (that's us!), you will also be in with the chance to win an Audi RS Q3 Sportback in Kyalami Green, valued at up to \$106,640!

Tickets are \$50 each. Be quick though, there are only a limited amount available and tickets sales close on 15th December.

Get your tickets at:

www.audifoundation.com.au/prizedraw



Whilst on the subject of winning...we have another chance for you to win some amazing prizes. As a nominated charity of Peoples Choice Community Lottery, CEF receives 100% of tickets sold via our dedicated page.

Prizes include a Toyota Kluger GX AWD Hybrid, Toyota Corolla Ascent Hybrid Hatch and a Grand Home Package worth \$25,330 from Harvey Norman!

www.communitylottery.peopleschoice.com.au and search for **Country Education Foundation**

STEM Success Beckons Kim

For academics, The University of Oxford is hallowed ground; the stuff dreams are made of. This is where Kim Becker is – completing her PhD – when we call and tell her she has been named our 2021 Audi Foundation – CEF Alumnus of the Year.

FROM KAPUNDA TO ADELAIDE TO OXFORD

Maths was Kim's favourite subject during her studies at Kapunda High School in South Australia. So much so that she says: 'I used to leave my maths homework last as a reward for studying everything else.'

When she ventured to the University of Adelaide to undertake a Bachelor of Science (Advanced Mathematics), she didn't realise the amazing opportunities that would become available to her.

A true, passionate and dedicated supporter and advocate for women in STEM, she founded the Women in STEM Society (WISTEMS) at the university, a club she says, 'aims to foster a supportive community for women, non-binary people and allies in STEM degrees at the university, as well as advocate for diversity of all kinds in the sciences.'

"I began WISTEMS in 2017, together with an all-star founding committee, and am deeply proud to see it continue to blossom and grow long after I have left Adelaide."

WISTEMS is one of the things of which Kim is most proud of alongside her impressive mathematical achievements.

She won the Adelaide University Research Medal for her thesis in Pure Mathematics and had her first maths paper published in the Journal of Geometry and Physics.

And, if this isn't remarkable enough, she was awarded the Oxford-Australia Scholarship in 2019, which funded her move to the holy grail of academia.

When many of us think of Oxford, we immediately picture extremely intelligent academics wandering the prestigious halls, and there is no doubt that Kim is that picture in living colour.



The other image that immediately springs to mind – rowing on pristine waters in college uniforms with people cheering from the waters' edge.

Despite professing she has 'never been a particularly sporty person,' the call of oars was one that even Kim has not been able to ignore. In fact, she loves it.

She recently competed in a race called 'Torpids.' She says it's a little difficult to explain but, essentially it is an Oxford tradition of races held over four consecutive days. If you win each day you get 'blades,' and Kim and her crew did just this, giving her 'one of the most exciting times in recent memory.'



"There's nothing like the feeling of getting on the water and rowing in perfect unison with your crewmates."

KAPUNDA WELCOMED KIM AND FAMILY WITH OPEN ARMS

Our Alumnus of the Years' story begins with an Australian Mother and French Father settling in the United States to have children. The family lived in California until Kim was 13 when they relocated to the small regional town of Kapunda.

She says she's not entirely sure how they ended up there, she thinks mostly by 'dumb luck', but is so grateful they did. The community was wonderful and welcoming, and she still remembers the excitement of getting to put on a school uniform for the first time ever to attend Kapunda High School.

When it came time to pack the uniform away and head to Adelaide, Kim says what she remembers most about **receiving her grant was the feeling of support** as she embarked on a journey where she would



Kimberly Becker
2021 Audi Foundation - CEF Alumnus of the Year

'join a massive cohort – just one person in what felt like a sea of people.'

Kim thinks very highly of her local Kapunda High School Centenary Foundation and the work they do, knowing firsthand just how important their assistance is saying, "With the CEF grant, and the support of the Kapunda High School Centenary Foundation, I never really felt like Kapunda was all that far away."

These feelings are very much reciprocated by the Kapunda High School Centenary Foundation, who nominated Kim for this year's awards.

"Her sense of purpose and focus on her chosen path in Mathematics and success to date is remarkable. We are very proud of her and believe she is very deserving of recognition for all her achievements," the volunteers say of their Oxford PhD scholar.

Her life in Kapunda has left Kim with a deeply profound sense of community. She is grateful for the small town that welcomed her family all those years ago, for the local foundation who supported her journey, and for her high school teachers who she says she 'still thinks of and looks up to today.'

When asked about the importance of the CEF alumni network, Kim says it is a **wonderful representation of the sense of community in and diversity of country Australia**, both subjects she is passionate about.

She believes the strength of the alumni shows the positive impact a student can have on their local community, no matter where they end up.

And Kim is proof of this! From California to Kapunda; Adelaide to Oxford and whatever comes next, it is clear that Kimberly Becker is a trailblazer in STEM, destined for success and leaving a trail of inspiration in her wake.

"I look forward to the day when I can donate to the foundation and watch the new generation of alumni grow and prosper."



648 STUDENTS SUPPORTED IN 2021!

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

Thomson Fleming
McLean Foundation
CEF Scholar, Broken Hill
2020 - 2022



CEF EXTRA



RURAL AND REGIONAL INSPIRATION HUB

“I'm just a country kid trying to have a go in the city and would love all the help I can get.”

OSCAR CHEAL
CEF WALGETT
ST ANDREWS & CA ANZ SCHOLAR



2021



“ IT HAS BEEN HARD IN THE DROUGHT FOR MY FAMILY SO THE GRANTS AND EXTRA MONEY HAVE HELPED TO EASE THE PRESSURE OFF US ALL.

KOBEY WARREN
CEF Paroo
grant recipient
2019 - 2021



UNMASK your POTENTIAL
2022 CEF Scholarships Guide



NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK
17-23 MAY 2021
RECOGNISE. RECONNECT. REIMAGINE.



“ Be proud of where you have come from. This integrity and honesty is valued and you will make authentic and beautiful friendships based off it.

LOUISA GILMOUR
CEF Gwydir grant recipient



112
YOUR DOLLAR + MATCHED DOLLAR = DOUBLE THE IMPACT
Donate to a CEF local foundation during September and October and your donation will be doubled!



CEF ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS 2021



EDUCATION CHANGES LIVES AND FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Please donate to help more rural and regional youth continue their education and training

CEF is a registered charity with Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR1) status. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

There are three easy ways to donate to CEF

Online: visit www.cef.org.au and click the **Donate** button

Phone: 1300 652 144

Mail: Country Education Foundation
PO Box 245, Orange NSW 2800

I would like to make my donation

Weekly Monthly Annually Once off

I would like to donate

\$25 \$50 \$100 Own choice

Please make my tax receipt in the name of:

Name

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Payment options

Cheque: Payable to Country Education Foundation of Australia

Bank Transfer: Country Education Foundation of Australia
BSB: 062-629 Account: 1009 0818 Reference: (YOUR NAME)

Credit Card:

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Card number

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