



**Education**  
Changes lives.  
And families.  
And communities.

**From the CEO's desk...**



Winter is here – ready or not!

Sitting at my desk, contemplating life's uncertainties with the heater blasting, I realise that an Orange winter is one of the few things in life that is certain! Each year, almost to the day, the icy winds, snow and driving rain arrive, their predictability bringing 'comfort' to our daily lives. And this newsletter is really no different.

It brings great comfort to share with you the appointment of our new Patron, Judy Brewer AO. We are absolutely delighted to have Judy in this role, whose wisdom, values, and passion are an inspiration to anyone who meets her. Her enthusiasm is contagious, and we look forward to sharing many more experiences with her on our team.

Our 2022 most Outstanding Service Award recipient is Justin Fleming and he has shown us what a committed volunteer can achieve. We are fortunate to have Justin supporting us and his local community and I know he will inspire many more to help with his dedication and strong leadership.

Lastly, don't forget that it is nearly the end of the financial year so please consider helping to support the students of the future through our "Fund the Future" campaign.

*Juliet*

Juliet Petersen, CEO

## Judy Brewer AO announced as Patron



**Ms Brewer was officially welcomed to the role with an intimate dinner at Pialligo Estate in Canberra on the 24th March.**

Ms Brewer is the wife of the late Hon. Tim Fischer AC, who held the role of CEF Patron for more than 15 years until his passing in 2019. The position has remained unfilled until now, making her appointment particularly special. The evening was made even more significant with members of her family in attendance.

Asking Ms Brewer to assume the position of Patron was an obvious and natural choice for CEF founder and Chairman, Nick Burton Taylor as she shares her late husband's dedication to improving educational outcomes and has a passion for rural and regional Australia. She is also an accomplished professional and devoted advocate in her own right.

In welcoming Ms Brewer to the role, Mr Burton Taylor described her as 'fearless in nature,' going on to say "We are so pleased the country girl who is imbued with such wonderful values of regional Australia and country living, and such empathy with our constituency has agreed to continue this work," as he addressed the small gathering.

"He (Tim) loved his involvement with Nick, Julia and the team at CEF, and so it was not a difficult decision for me to continue his role as Patron when honoured with the invitation to do so," said Ms Brewer.

For over 25 years, Ms Brewer has been a high profile speaker, writer and advocate on issues relating to education, autism, and family carers. She has been actively involved in an executive capacity for many related organisations over this time.

Judy's professional background encompasses a range of positions from working as a parliamentary advisor, to management roles and as a Lecturer in Business and Economics at both La Trobe and Charles Sturt universities. She was also Pro-Chancellor of Charles Sturt University for the Southern Region until 2020.

In 2013, Ms Brewer became an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for distinguished service to people with a disability, particularly those with Autism Spectrum Disorders, to refugees living in rural areas, to women, and to education.

Judy lives on her farm at Mudgegonga in North East Victoria. This property has been in her family for over 150 years, and she is deeply connected to the land and the community. She knows living in regional areas can limit educational opportunities for youth but has also experienced and seen firsthand the benefits grants and scholarships can have. "They not only change one life but have the potential to flow on to change the circumstances of a web of families in a very permanent way," she says.

Ms Brewer says of her late husband and the CEF Patronage, "I cannot guarantee that I will be as dynamic (as Tim), but I do promise to be as passionate. I am greatly looking forward to playing a part in the future of such a valued and vital organisation."

## CONNECT

- [www.cef.org.au](http://www.cef.org.au)
- [@countryeducationfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/countryeducationfoundation)
- [@countryeducationfoundation](https://www.instagram.com/countryeducationfoundation)
- [@CEF-Australia](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cef-australia)



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# Justin is a Volunteer Juggernaut

'Juggernaut' is defined as a huge, powerful, and overwhelming force. When it comes to community involvement and volunteering, CEF Boorowa Chair, Justin Fleming, is exactly that.

The Katie Walker Outstanding Service Award is an honour awarded to volunteers in recognition of the wonderful work they do with CEF. Justin Fleming has been part of CEF for eleven years, serving as Chair of the Boorowa foundation for ten of those years.

There is no question he has served CEF outstandingly during this time however, it would be remiss of us to not acknowledge his numerous community memberships in order to paint a true picture of what an outstanding volunteer he is.

Justin has been President of the Boorowa Rugby Club for the past 10 years and overseen its growth with increased sponsorship and community involvement. During this time, more than \$100,000 has been raised for charity.

He is currently a board member of the Boorowa Ex-Services Club, Boorowa Early Education Centre and Boorowa Rotary. This year Justin was named Lions/Apex Boorowa Citizen of the Year, and it is very clear why.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

"This is a great honour! I wasn't expecting it. There are so many other worthy candidates! I have thoroughly enjoyed supporting CEF and the young people of Boorowa."

Justin was nominated for the award by his local foundation who say: "His leadership is evident in the manner in which he supports CEF applicants. He looks at applications in a fair, consistent and genuine manner."

"He goes above and beyond to ensure students of Boorowa get the chance to access education and gain a CEF grant."

So committed to the mission of CEF and supporting the youth of Boorowa, Justin took a grant recipient into his home while the student completed their education.

Justin regularly participates in CEF fundraising events, at both a local and national level. Most recently he was integral to the success of the 2021 Derby Day lunch in Boorowa and the Cocktails event at Boorowa Showground.

At a national level, Justin has been Master of Ceremonies for our 'Friends Event' and perhaps most notably, is one of the driving forces behind CEF's most successful fundraiser, the Pig Push.

"Justin's commitment to the Boorowa community is evident in how long it takes him to walk down the main street, as everyone wants a chat with Flemo!"

Charlotte Boyer, CEF Boorowa Secretary

## PIG PUSH

In 2015, he and fellow committee member Richie Fleming (no relation), came up with the idea of pushing a giant paper-mache pig from Boorowa to Orange to raise funds for and awareness of CEF.

It took almost two years of planning and a huge effort from Justin and Richie to get the Pig Push underway. The event finally came to fruition in March 2017 with Percy the Pig making the journey from Boorowa to Orange. The event raised \$60,000 and importantly increased the charity's national profile.

The event was such a success that in 2018, the team pushed Percy the Pig from Orange back to his home in Boorowa, this time raising just over \$50,000.



# What are the Katie Walker Outstanding Service Awards?

A founding director who has served CEF for almost 30 years, Katie Walker is an active member of the Yass District Education Foundation, this is why our volunteer award is named in her honour.



The award recognises a member who:

- ✓ Has been volunteering with a local foundation for more than two years;
- ✓ Contributes to an initiative for the benefit of their local foundation; and
- ✓ Demonstrates a commitment and dedication to supporting local youth.

After reviewing nominations, a three person panel considers and discusses the following:

- ✓ Committee participation
- ✓ Student support
- ✓ Community involvement

Traditionally awarded at the end of the year, from 2022 this announcement will take place to coincide with National Volunteer week (NVW).

NVW is an annual celebration of the invaluable contributions volunteers make to our communities and therefore the perfect time to honour CEF outstanding members.

**NATIONAL** 16-22 MAY 2022  
**VOLUNTEER**  
Better Together **WEEK**

# How do Grants and Scholarships Work?

With applications for 2023 opening soon, this is a great time to remind you about what is considered when awarding grants, and how they work.

Every student and community is different, so the way in which grants and scholarships are awarded by local foundations and national office as well as the amount of money granted is also different.

There are a number of factors taken into account when assessing a student's need for assistance, and all our foundations place varying levels of importance on these factors.

We take into consideration things such as:

- ✓ Does the student have limited family and/or social support?
- ✓ How will education expenses impact the student's family?
- ✓ Are they able to receive support from Centrelink?
- ✓ Have they been successful in applying for other scholarships?
- ✓ Does the student have any medical or health challenges?
- ✓ Will they need to travel frequently or long distances?
- ✓ Does the student have any significant savings?
- ✓ Will they need to work to keep their head above water?

## All CEF grants and scholarships are non-cash.

This ensures the financial support provided is used for approved expenses related to education.

Students must either:

- ✓ Pay for their education related-expense and then provide the receipt to their local foundation for reimbursement to their nominated bank account, or
- ✓ Provide an invoice, which can then be paid directly to the supplier on the student's behalf.

### CEF KEY ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

All students need to meet these in order to be considered for grants or scholarships:

- *Demonstrated need*
- *Aged 16-25 years*
- *Demonstrated commitment to achieving goals*
- *Gone to school or reside in a region covered by CEF*

# Accommodation Scholarships Help Students Sleep Easy

Almost 60% of rural and regional students who undertake education after school are required to move away from home. By far, the most burdensome cost they face is accommodation – and this is a very real barrier to pursuing education.

Fortunately, many great student accommodation providers are aware of this and support regional youth by making living more affordable and accessible. We are now excited to offer a suite of accommodation scholarships to CEF students through the national CEF Extra program.



These scholarships apply part-fee relief for accommodation at some of the best university campuses. This means students can attend university and be part of the college lifestyle many students say helps to build new support networks and create lifelong friendships.

To be eligible, CEF students need to apply and be accepted for a place at the institution AND apply directly with their CEF local foundation.



"To receive this scholarship is truly an honour as it takes a lot of the pressure off financially and allows me to focus on other costs associated with university. It also allows me to have a bit of breathing room to be able to study without the stress of worrying so much about money."

**Jordan Phelan**  
Harden District Education Fund  
Dunmore Lang College



"I am able to achieve my dreams. Without worrying about the cost of accommodation each week. Without the scholarship, I was very stressed about being able to achieve balance and I was concerned about passing my studies and being able to put 110% effort in."

**Jennifer Dwyer**  
CEF Orange & Districts  
ICMS College



"This scholarship is an absolute blessing and I am undoubtedly grateful for CEF's unwavering generosity in helping university students like myself get on their own two feet and establish themselves in their new community."

**Johnathan Woods**  
CEF Gilgandra  
Morling Residential College



# FUND THE FUTURE

Invest in the education of rural and regional youth  
this financial year.

**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](http://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   
Address   
Email   
Phone

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

### 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:

Name on card

Card number

Expiry Date

CCV

Visa

MasterCard

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Signature

Please send me some information about leaving a gift in my will



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



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ONLINE**