

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

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



The bumper Spring newsletter has rolled around again, and with it, the 2022 Student Impact Report with record breaking figures. A staggering \$2 million in support to students within our CEF network chasing their dreams through education.

We are proud to share with you the updated 'Make it Possible' Rural and Regional Inspiration Hub, focused on both current and aspiring tertiary students seeking advice and ideas for ALL study and training after school.

And to support our local foundations, we are excited to announce the return of the Matched Giving Campaign for 2022.

Once again all donations made to CEF local foundations during September and October will be matched dollar for dollar up to a capped amount, doubling the impact of your contribution.

It has been said that within five years, 90% of all jobs in Australia will require a post-school qualification of some description.

The need to support regional students in obtaining education has never been more important so please join me in getting behind this rewarding campaign.

*Juliet*

Juliet Petersen, CEO

## Over \$2 Million in Student Support

**Despite the challenges in recent years, you have helped us reach an incredible milestone.**

Thanks to your unwavering support, passion for education and continued belief in the potential of our rural and regional youth, CEF has this year provided **over \$2 million in direct financial support** to students.

At the heart of this success is more than \$1 million raised locally and awarded by our local foundations.

This is only made possible by the dedication and commitment of our volunteers.

**These results are undeniable proof that what we do works.**

It is validation of the strength of our community-based model, and reaffirms our belief in the resilience of regional Australia.

**\$1,012,850**

Local grants awarded

**\$687,966**

National partner funding

**\$299,318**

Education partner funding



**653**

Grants and scholarships

**\$2,000,134**

Total value of support 2022

## The Student Impact Report is the annual snapshot demonstrating the value of our work.

As we continue to grow and improve processes, including what data we collect and how it is evaluated, we are beginning to establish a clearer and more accurate picture of what students need, and the difference we make.

As a result, you will notice changes to the Student Impact Report.

We know the stories we share are so important and inspiring. Rest assured, they will keep coming!

We are pleased to also provide our own organisational statistics.

Combined with our anecdotal information and sector research, this data will inform our operations and strategic plan.

Most importantly, it will hold us accountable, making sure we stay true to our values, mission and vision.

## CONNECT

-  [www.cef.org.au](http://www.cef.org.au)
-  [@countryeducationfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/countryeducationfoundation)
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# By George, Millie's Got It

Millie George radiates joy, enthusiasm and positivity, so it's easy to understand why she's already excelling in her employment as a Market Operator with AuctionsPlus. Conversation seems to come naturally to her. It's hard to believe this kind of interaction is something that, according to Millie, still pushes her well out of her comfort zone.

## NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Millie grew up with an older sister on the family property 30km from the small Central West town of Nyngan, NSW. "Dad has been part of the family farm business since he was in Year 10 when he knew it was what he wanted to do, and his Dad couldn't get rid of him!" Millie's mother hails from a small nearby community, 'The Marra.'

Millie started studying Agribusiness at the University of New England. Ever grateful for the chance to participate in tertiary education, Millie concedes that at the time she couldn't help but look forward to being home. Unfortunately, like so many from the bush visiting home, this now needed to be well-planned, given it was a 16-hour round trip.

*"I love everything about farm life and always wanted to be out at the farm."*

## MAKING THE MOST OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY

A farming income can be unreliable. Add unpredictable weather patterns and an international pandemic, this income became almost non-existent. Millie was acutely aware of the financial strain her studies added, saying, "I'm not someone who likes to have help in regard to financial aspects, especially from my parents as they already do so much."

Receiving the grant from CEF Nyngan as well as a national Findex Community Fund – CEF scholarship, "made me feel empowered and recognised for what I was doing in my studies. It enabled me to purchase textbooks which I stopped purchasing after my first trimester as they were way too expensive. It was difficult," Millie explains.

In her second year, she made the move to a business degree - she wanted to be well rounded. Choosing management to develop



*"If something falls in your inbox or phone call or a mutual friend of a friend has an opportunity that you like the sound of, take part in it and don't sit on the sideline!"*

her leadership skills, marketing to release her creative side, accounting to satisfy the analytical side of her brain, public relations to develop her people skills.

Millie says she has often struggled with people skills, confessing she can be a nervous individual. Despite this, she is a strong believer in pushing one's limits and making the most of opportunities. She says, "I found myself pushed out of my comfort zone when applying for summer programs and communicating with older people in employment positions which I aspired to."

It is this growth, personal achievement and finding self-acceptance that she says are highlights from her time at university.

*"It also comes with age to learn that life is actually short and so many people grab onto opportunities because they are able to speak up."*

You could be forgiven for finding humour in this advice coming from such a young woman but, they are delivered as the words

of a wise soul, one that has already been around the block once or twice. They are the lessons learned that inspire her advice for other regional students, in fact, for most of us! "Send that email enquiring about a job. Find a phone number and make a call! This scared me, to ring a stranger and introduce myself." This very sentence is one many people can relate to and unlike Millie, something many of us never quite get the hang of.

## GROWING INTO GREATNESS

Knowing her studies were finishing at the end of 2021, Millie began practicing what she preaches, as she started to look for employment. In an extremely competitive post-COVID job market, Millie found work with AuctionsPlus. Not long after her final exams, she packed up and moved to Sydney. Millie is proud to be involved in a progressive business, in an industry that is starting to empower and embrace young women. "I love what I do and enjoy working every day as it gives back to the community as well as being able to chat with people all over Australia!" she says excitedly, and it is safe to assume she has well and truly pushed the boundaries on that comfort zone of hers.

*"I am beginning to see my career develop already as well as gaining insight to what I want to do in the future – a path that I didn't know would be possible for me!"*

The ultimate dream? To be a successful businesswoman. There is no denying Millie's ambition, dedication and work ethic. More importantly, there is no questioning her kindness, authenticity and passion. She still holds dear that passion for the farm and hopes that her education, employment and continued personal empowerment will lead her to a place where she will be able to help "other Aussie farmers, my Dad and my children's Dad."

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## FINDEX Community Fund.

In partnership with CEF since 2017, Findex Community Fund (FCF) has supported more than 60 students through scholarships and funding totalling more than \$128,000.

In 2022 FCF provided 9 scholarships to regional students.

With a shared belief in the power of education and true commitment to regional communities, we are thrilled their support will continue into 2023!





# Student Support Key to Success

Some of the best ways to inform, inspire and support the education of regional youth is with first-hand experiences and by creating connections.

With the world returning to back to normal and travel on the cards, CEF is proud to offer and support such opportunities for connection. Because of the importance of these activities to participation and completion outcomes, it is a facet of our work that continues to grow.

From university open days and experience camps offering students valuable insights on university life, to casual 'catch ups' to connect our current students with each other and university support teams, our very own Emma Burns has been extremely busy organising, facilitating and chaperoning these events.

We hope you enjoy this collection of happy snaps from the opportunities made possible by some of our wonderful partner universities listed below.



University of Newcastle  
University of Canberra  
Australian National University

University of Adelaide  
University of Sydney  
Macquarie University



# Inspiration Hub Now Helping to Make All Pathways Possible



Thanks to principal partner, **Waratah Education Foundation**, this FREE online resource not only informs and inspires post-school options, but includes everything our youth need to survive and thrive as students **AND** adults.

The updates replace the 'CEF University Survival Guide,' with the resource supporting ALL post-school endeavours.

There are now TWO sections to 'Make it Possible':

**GET INSPIRED – ASPIRING STUDENTS**

Helping students figure out what they want to do. It looks at who they can turn to for help, post-school options and how to get to where they want to go.

**GET IT DONE – CURRENT STUDENTS**

Containing information about how to be successful after school. It includes advice on things like managing the basics of being an adult, finances and health.

And of course, the resource contains plenty of helpful hints, tips and advice from our amazing CEF students and alumni.





**ALL DONATIONS TO LOCAL FOUNDATIONS MATCHED DURING SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER!**



**1** **YOUR DOLLAR** + **1** **MATCHED DOLLAR** = **2** **DOUBLE THE IMPACT**

**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](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

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**Payment options**

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

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



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



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