



Winter Newsletter 2023



Education changes lives. And families. And communities.

FROM THE CEO'S DESK...

Welcome to our winter newsletter. May your woodpile be stacked, the slow cooker on and tea brewing as you digest all good things from CEF.

I'll begin with a heartfelt congratulations to this year's winner of the Katie Walker Outstanding Service Award, Robyn Philips from CEF Gwydir. Like many of our volunteers, you represent the driving force of our community foundations, without whom we would not exist.



With our team at national office gradually expanding, it gives me great pleasure to welcome our newest recruit from Grenfell, Hilary Matchett, as Manager of Partnerships, who is already creating connections and opportunities like she has been with us for years.

As the team grows, so too does our CEF footprint. The impact of our work described as 'undeniable' by locals in the NSW town of Coolah when Lisa and I visited earlier in the year, resulting in the establishment of their own local foundation.

We are excited to continue our partnership with VERTO and to provide scholarships to students undertaking apprenticeships, traineeships and vocational training, Claire Miller being one of this year's worthy recipients

It goes without saying that our capacity for growth and development is only as large as the funds we raise. This EOFY, thanks to a generous donor, your donation will be MATCHED up to \$500K to support national programs and resources that will help rural and regional youth. Please donate before June 30 to see your donation doubled and to take advantage of this extraordinary gift. You WILL change lives. And families. And communities.

Juliet Petersen



Image: Felicity McMaster, Doug Arnott, Ben Cavanagh and Rowan Cox of CEF Coolah with Lisa Carrick and Juliet Petersen from CEF National Office.

CEF Coolah Joins the Family!

We are thrilled to welcome the community of Coolah in NSW to the CEF family. Our new volunteers have hit the ground running! The paperwork was completed and Facebook page up and running faster than we could keep up. With money already in the kitty, we can't wait to see the difference they will make for their regional youth.

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ROBYN RALLIES FOR REGIONAL YOUTH

The 'Change Makers' theme of this year's National Volunteer Week certainly resonated with us. Particularly with our belief that education changes lives. And families. And communities. It seems the perfect time to formally thank our volunteers and take the opportunity to highlight our own outstanding Change Maker for 2023



The Katie Walker Outstanding Service Award is an honour bestowed annually to a volunteer for their extraordinary efforts. An independent panel joined the award namesake, board member, and volunteer advocate Katie Walker to review the compelling nominations.

After difficult deliberation and debate, the decision for 2023 was made. We are thrilled to announce Robyn Phillips, a decade-long committee member and secretary of CEF Gwydir as this year's outstanding volunteer.

"Her efforts in encouraging and attracting local school leavers to apply for CEF funding has been fundamental to the success of the organisation."

CEF CHANGEMAKER

Robyn has been involved with the Gwydir Branch of CEF for the past 10 years and has undertaken the role of Secretary since 2019. She has been instrumental in promoting the purpose and benefits of CEF Gwydir and Country Education Foundation of Australia for regional and remote students. She understands the value of investing in the futures of our youth to ensure they have every opportunity to reach their potential. Our volunteers know that showing confidence in our recipients is as important as the funds provided. Showing our regional youth that their community believes in them is life-changing.

"Robyn's devotion, commitment and enthusiasm for sourcing additional funding for CEF Gwydir has greatly contributed to it's sustainability."

Whilst student well-being is paramount, Robyn appreciates that emotional support alone won't buy textbooks. So she set to initiating high-profile fundraisers.

The song and dance of the 'Oliver Twist' performance was a local hit and fundraising event that put the CEF brand in front of the community.

The 'Discover Gwydir Car Rally' involves participants travelling throughout Gwydir Shire to complete tasks at designated locations. Robyn devoted her time and effort to planning the many details of what will be a memorable Rally on the Gwydir Shire calendar.

CEF LIFE CHANGER

Thanks in large part to Robyn, we are now seeing a student flourishing in study, work and personal growth.

When Chelsea, a CEF Gwydir supported student, was going through an extremely challenging and difficult time, Robyn was there. Going above and beyond without hesitation, providing a safe-haven, guidance and support for Chelsea, who explains the immense gratitude and respect she has for Robyn:

"Robyn is a kind and generous community leader, whose passion for helping disadvantaged children has been important to the ongoing success of the community and my own personal growth, as a young person. I will always have a deep gratitude for her taking me under her wing."



"She not only supported me through financial needs but also provided a caring environment that fostered me through times of hardship. Her ongoing dedication to my wellbeing has been a great pillar of support and encourages me to face challenges and pursue opportunities. Robyn has spent countless hours volunteering. Her community oriented attitude is a great asset. She is both a professional and personal leader who is very well respected in the Gwydir community. She is extremely deserving of this award. Robyn is one of my biggest role models and I will be forever grateful for our friendship."

**Chelsea Stevenson, CEF Gwydir
Bachelor of Agriculture, UNE**

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR CEF CHANGEMAKERS!

To our valued volunteers, thank you. Your time is precious and the fact you support CEF in the work you do is priceless. More importantly, the impact you have on your local youth and your community is a legacy that will have lifelong outcomes.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN OUR COMMUNITY OF AMAZING CHANGE MAKERS?

www.cef.org.au/volunteering-for-cef/

CLAIRE A VOICE FOR DIVERSITY

Living, working and studying in a regional community, Claire Miller is a bright young Indigenous woman, with a passion for agricultural mechanics. Thanks to a grant from CEF Orange & District and a VERTO – CEF Scholarship, she is one step closer to her dream. We are proud to share her story and belief in diversity in the workplace, enabling her to 'Be a Voice for Generations' during National Reconciliation Week.



What does receiving your local CEF grant (CEF Orange & District) plus the VERTO scholarship mean to you?

Receiving the local CEF Orange & District grant and the VERTO scholarship has given me the opportunity to purchase the tools and toolbox needed for my job every day, without any financial stress. It is greatly assisting with costs while I'm away at TAFE, such as accommodation and travel. Also, with the grant and scholarship they are providing many services and support to aid me in my studies and apprenticeship, such as a buddy project where there is some regularly checking in with me and how I am doing.

"I wanted to prove that you can do any job you wish if you are persistent and willing to learn, it doesn't matter who you are."

Why have you chosen to do your Certificate III in Agricultural Mechanical Technology and your apprenticeship with On-Trac Ag?

In year 10 when asked what I wanted to do after school, I didn't have a clear plan. I have always been interested in the agricultural industry. I did some work experience in a couple of jobs and really enjoyed the time I spent at On-Trac Ag. They offered me a trial late last year and I began the apprenticeship early this year.

"As an apprentice there is someone that is always willing to guide you and teach you new things every day."

What is the best thing about doing an apprenticeship?

The best thing about doing an apprenticeship is being able to leave school and begin working. With an apprenticeship it allows you to work full time while going to TAFE and studying the necessary concepts that you use everyday at work. An apprenticeship gives you the knowledge and experience needed when you're fully qualified to do the job efficiently and effectively.

What do you hope to do once you finish your study?

Once I have finished my studies at TAFE and my apprenticeship, I hope to continue working at On-Trac Ag in the workshop and out in the field. I would also like to leave for a while and work on a property using my knowledge from the workshop and using it in everyday farming life.



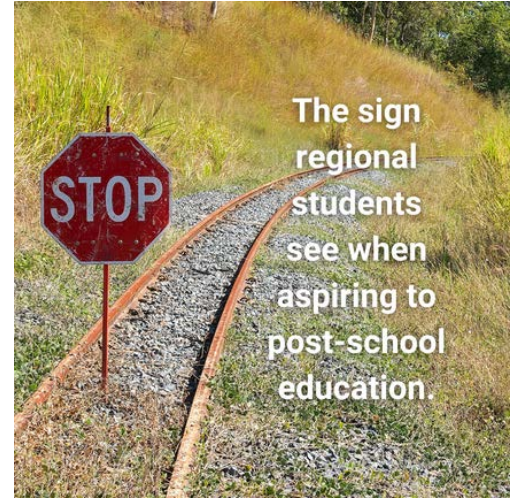
What does the Reconciliation Week theme 'Be a Voice for Generations' mean to you?

This year theme 'Be A Voice For Generations' is a great opportunity to have greater diversity in the workplace, community we live in and in our everyday lives. I also want to show that a female can succeed in her chosen field in a male-based industry, regardless of culture and sex.

BE A VOICE FOR GENERATIONS

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) was held from May 27th to June 3rd this year, and is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. The theme for National Reconciliation Week 2023, Be a Voice for Generations, encourages all Australians to be a voice for reconciliation in tangible ways in our everyday lives – where we live, work and socialise.

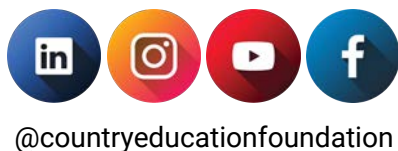
Open roads and create the right destination.



Someone has got to give. Will it be you?



Donate before June 30 and your generosity will be **MATCHED** to support national programs and resources that will help rural and regional youth and communities thrive.



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