

**Country
Education
Foundation**
OF AUSTRALIA

Education
Changes lives.
And families.
And communities.

From the CEO's desk...



What an exciting and productive three months it has been in starting as the incoming CEO. I was fortunate enough to attend some of our local foundations' presentation events in December and January. This was a great way to experience the critical work of CEF on the ground and I look forward to visiting more communities in the upcoming months.

Our 2023 Student Impact Report contains record breaking figures, and highlights some important areas where we're making a real difference. A staggering \$2.2m in support to students within our CEF network chasing their dreams through education, more than 8,000 grants awarded since 1993 and 95% of students having a good or great relationship with their local foundation.

With 79% of our CEF students in 2023 having to leave home to access education or employment, and in the face of the rising cost of living, the need to support rural, regional and remote students in obtaining education has never been more important.

Our inaugural CEF Boot Bash is designed to provide direct additional financial support to students. Please join me in getting behind this important campaign. Wear your favourite boots on Friday 15th March, post photos on social media using the hashtag #CEFBash, bid in our Charity Auction and donate.

Finally, we're proud to share with you the news of an accommodation partnership with Sancta Sophia College, Sydney. We look forward to bringing this partnership to life and providing another offering for young rural and regional women to access a tertiary education.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Wendy Mason

Wendy Mason, CEO



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CEF KICKS OFF INAUGURAL BOOT BASH

Our goal is to build awareness of the post-school education participation gap that exists between regional and metropolitan youth, and raise additional funds for every CEF student in 2024. We want to help them kickstart their year – and we need your support!

We can't sidestep the fact that rural and regional students have a harder hike to education success. The cost-of-living crisis has made it more difficult, and that's why the Boot Bash aims to raise funds to provide additional direct support to CEF students supported in 2024 to kickstart their year.

GET INVOLVED

-  Wear your favourite boots for the Boot Bash and post photos on social media using the hashtags #CEFBash and #kickingitforeducationequality
-  Donate now to help our students give the cost-of-living crisis the boot

BID IN OUR CHARITY AUCTION

Monday 11th March - Friday 15th March

Registration is
simple and takes 24
hours to process.
Register here



View our charity
auction and
bid here




 AuctionsPlus™

CONNECT

 www.cef.org.au  [@countryeducationfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/countryeducationfoundation)

 [@countryeducationfoundation](https://www.instagram.com/countryeducationfoundation)  [@countryeducationfoundation](https://www.linkedin.com/company/countryeducationfoundation)

CEF
Principal
Partners:  Audi Foundation

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THE
SNOW
FOUNDATION

Thyne Reid
FOUNDATION

Waratah
Education Foundation

FINDEX
Community Fund.

BOYCE
FOUNDATION

CEF STUDENTS SUPPORT CHARITY AUCTION BY DONATING ITEMS

CEF alumni Heather Walker, Georgia Ditchfield, Chloe Wilson and Stella Evans have given back to CEF by donating bespoke items to our Charity Auction. Read all about each item below.

'Life in the Country' by Stella Evans Art & Design



Bespoke artwork created by CEF Boorowa Alumni and Boorowa local artist, Stella Evans. 'Life in the Country' is a visual representation of a student studying in the country. The acrylic artwork on a canvas framed in Australian Oak, depicts an inspiring room full of books, plants and art with the vast countryside shown through the back window. 30cm x 30cm acrylic on canvas painting, framed in Australian Oak.

Georgia Ditchfield Original Framed Photograph

Framed photograph taken by CEF Coonamble student, Georgia Ditchfield, for the Galah Magazine Photography Prize. This photograph captures the essence of exploration. The road winds through shades of blues and greens leading to the iconic Split



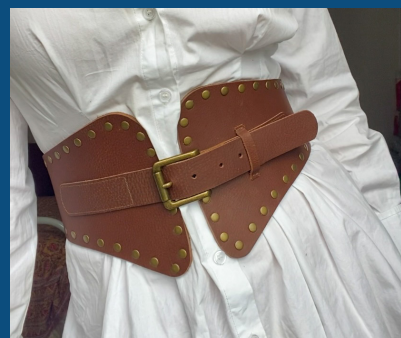
Rock. The image serves as a reminder that curiosity drives us forward. The calm colours and scenic backdrop inspire the traveller within. A3 Photograph in 100% Australian made timber frame.

Heather Walker Original Framed Photograph



Framed photograph taken by CEF Grenfell student, Heather Walker, for the Galah Magazine Photography Prize. This photograph, titled "Early Mornings at the Sheep Sale" was taken at the Central West Livestock Exchange just before 6am. A captivating sunrise paints the sky, creating a silhouette of distant mountains acting as a backdrop to the bright lights illuminating the sheep sale yards. A3 Photograph in 100% Australian made timber frame.

Chloe Louise - Bespoke Women's Leather Belt



Specially designed and handmade leather belt by CEF Grenfell Alumni, Chloe Wilson. This bespoke, leather belt is a chic and classy design that is versatile for both professional and casual purposes. The belt has been meticulously crafted by hand and made from 100% Genuine Leather. Size: 8-10 - Size Small Waist: 66cm - 76cm waist Dimensions: Total Length: 70cm CF Width: 15cm Side Width: 7.5cm CB Width: 5.5cm Closure: Gold Buckle Fastening - 4cm wide.

JONO FORREST WELCOMED AS CEF'S NEWEST BOARD MEMBER



CEF's newest Board member, Jono Forrest.

The Board of Country Education Foundation of Australia (CEF) has welcomed its newest Director, former CEF Snowy Monaro local foundation volunteer and committee member Jono Forrest.

Mr Forrest has had a long association with CEF, having served on the committee of CEF Snowy Monaro from 2005 until 2019. He also completed work for the Foundation as an accountant at Boyce Chartered Accountants, a longstanding partner of CEF.

He helped guide the Foundation in its early years through taxation

and organisational policy, which, according to CEF Chairman Nick Burton Taylor AM has positioned the Foundation strongly over its 30 years of operation.

Mr Forrest said he decided to join the CEF Board after having witnessed the great work of the organisation while serving on the committee of CEF Snowy Monaro.

"I experienced the opportunity of helping students with their own journeys and can continue that passion through my involvement with the CEF Board," he said.

Through his work on the CEF Board, he said he hopes to achieve continued growth and success of CEF in the communities it serves.

Mr Forrest grew up in Mount Pleasant, SA, but has called Cooma and the Snowy Monaro region home since 1996.

He worked in agriculture at the start of his career before attending university then working as an accountant for the next 27 years. He has recently returned to agriculture to work as the General Manager for Mulloon Consulting, where he is focusing on landscape rehydration.

CEF ALUMNI WIN PHOTOGRAPHY PRIZE



Galah Press' Annabelle Hickson with Georgia Ditchfield, Heather Walker and Taleah Anderson at the exhibition in Murwillumbah, NSW.

Country Education Foundation of Australia alumni Heather Walker and Georgia Ditchfield took out the inaugural Galah – CEF Student and Alumni Photography Prize in November, with stunning photos showcasing their talent behind the lens.

The competition was run by Galah Press, which publishes a triannual magazine themed on rural Australia.

Heather, from Grenfell, NSW and Georgia, from Coonamble, NSW, won with their entries 'Early Mornings at the Sheep Yards' and 'Warrumbungle Way'.

Their prize was a fully subsidised trip to Murwillumbah, NSW for the opening night of the Galah Regional Photography Prize exhibition.

OUT AND ABOUT AT LOCAL PRESENTATIONS



Image captions, from top to bottom, left to right: Hastings Education Fund presents its 2024 grant recipients; Jim O'Brien (Chair, HEF), Tom Burton (Executive Director, Engagement and Enterprise, Charles Sturt), Wendy Mason (CEO, CEF) and Kate Wood-Foye (Director External Engagement, Charles Sturt) at the HEF presentation; the CEF Coleambally/Darlington Point grant recipients at their presentation; CEF Coolah's 2024 grant recipients; 2024 Shoalhaven Education Fund Grant recipients pictured with Mayor Amanda Finlay (Shoalhaven City Council) and Wendy Mason (CEO, CEF).

CEF ANNOUNCES NEW ACCOMMODATION PARTNERSHIP WITH SANCTA SOPHIA COLLEGE



Female students supported by Country Education Foundation of Australia (CEF) now have more accommodation options in Sydney, with CEF announcing a new partnership with Sancta Sophia College (Sancta).

Sancta is a residential college located on the grounds of the University of Sydney in Camperdown, NSW, and is a great option for those enrolled at The University of Sydney, University of Notre Dame and University of Technology, Sydney, seeking a vibrant and supportive environment as they undertake tertiary studies.

It's the first time Sancta has partnered with CEF, with up to five accommodation bursaries of \$7,000 in fee relief on offer to eligible female undergraduate students for the 2025 academic year.

Known as the Sancta Sophia-CEF Bursary, they will become part of CEF's national scholarship program, 'CEF Extra'.

CEF Manager of Partnerships, Hilary Matchett, said the partnership will strengthen its suite of dedicated accommodation scholarships, providing regional women with another secure option for a place to live in Sydney.

"With an emphasis on community engagement, this partnership will give female students wider access to a well-rounded college experience; one which is focused on a balance of academic, social, sporting and community activities."
- Hilary Matchett

Sancta Principal Fiona Hastings said "Partnering with CEF enables Sancta to activate local networks to support young women from country towns. More than just telling young women about these scholarship opportunities, CEF volunteers provide encouragement and provide practical support along the HSC-to-Uni journey. This type of personalised community support for young women is transformative," she said.

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scholarship opportunities, CEF volunteers provide encouragement and provide practical support along the HSC-to-Uni journey. This type of personalised community support for young women is transformative," she said.

CEF alumnus Josie Kearney, a grant recipient of CEF Orange and District, lived at Sancta last year while studying in Sydney.

She said there were many benefits of living there and highly recommended it to future students.

"Sancta is conveniently located a short bus trip away from the centre of Sydney. The ease continued with meals provided in the dining hall, and this meant I could focus on day to day living and studying without worrying about expenses and preparing food," she said.

"Sancta provided me with various pockets of friends and experiences I would not have found elsewhere."
- Josie Kearney

Any female student who receives support from a local CEF foundation and has an offer of place at Sancta in undergraduate accommodation in 2025 will be eligible to apply for one of the bursaries.

Information on how to apply for the Sancta Sophia – CEF Bursary will be available on our website from 1st July.

SANCTA LACES UP FOR BOOT BASH



Some Sancta students laced up for Boot Bash early on Monday 4th March. Pictured are CEF Alumnus Josie Kearney with Niamh Wood, Edwina Barton, Tatyana Ludwig, and Anna Falepau.



STUDENT IMPACT REPORT 2023

Country Education Foundation of Australia (CEF) is a community-driven national charity helping rural and regional youth access post-school education, training and jobs through grants, scholarships, resources and social support.



**Final numbers subject to audit*



Peer connection



Online Inspiration Hub



University Experiences



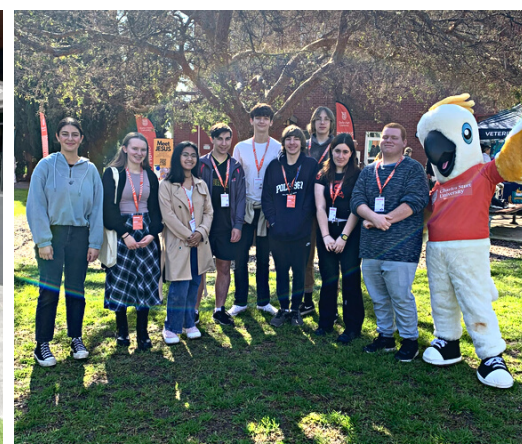
Scholarships Guide



Mentor Program

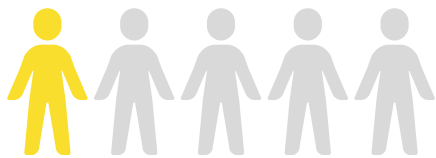


Mental Health Support

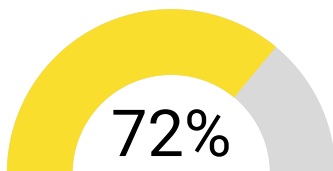


SINCE 1993...

CEF has awarded 8045 individual grants and scholarships and \$17,472,349 in direct financial support.
In 2023, we celebrate 30 years supporting rural and regional youth when they need it most.



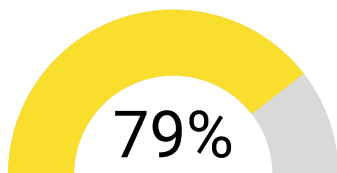
1 out of 5 students report financial assistance from family



Of students hope to take their education back to a regional area



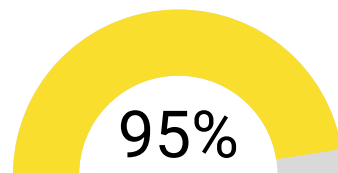
2 out of 5 students are eligible for or receive government support



Of students leave home to access education or employment



1/2 recipients are interested in becoming involved with CEF



Of students have a GREAT or GOOD relationship with their local foundation



Help rural and regional students fulfil their potential by becoming a partner, donor or volunteer.

cef.org.au



The funds have been a great asset, relieving a great deal of financial pressure off my shoulders. This support is an absolute privilege and has allowed me to focus on my studies without bearing the pressure of work and rent.

*Yusuf Goss, Far West NSW
Bachelor of Medical Sciences
Macquarie University*



The funds have helped me this year immensely to pay for my accommodation. CEF support has meant that I was able to find a safe, clean and secure apartment not far from my university. I am so grateful I have this support to study in Melbourne.

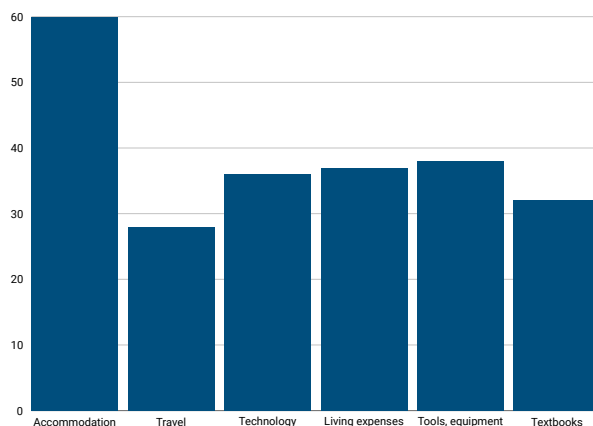
*Niamh Corcoran, Central Australia
Bachelor of Fine Arts (Acting)
University of Melbourne*



Not only do the funds aid me financially and allow me to only work a few hours weekly, but they also add fuel to the fire that keeps me motivated. Knowing I have even more support from back home makes me want to try even harder!

*Bronsun Walters, Great Lakes
Bachelor of Mechatronics
Australian Catholic University*

What our students spend funding on



Where our students live while studying

