



Education
Changes lives.
And families.
And communities.

From the CEO's desk...



With many of our students having now completed their first study periods for the year, we are hearing about the importance of our support and the difference it makes. This edition includes how CEF is helping Jada Hogg fulfill her dreams.

Our End of Financial Year matched giving campaign is now in full swing, and I am asking you to donate to CEF today. You will double your impact and help us deliver our national programs and resources which empower our students and communities.

Congratulations to the newest member of the CEF family, CEF Port Lincoln, which launched in May. It's so exciting that youth in Port Lincoln now have access to our support and services.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our longstanding board member, Katie Walker, who stood down at our AGM in May after 20 years of service.

Finally, our Boot Bash campaign was a huge success, with over 30 events being held across the country. I'd like to thank everyone that got involved to help us "kick it for education equality."

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Wendy Mason

Wendy Mason, CEO



Open roads for rural and regional youth with donations **MATCHED** this End of Financial Year.

DONATE NOW TO DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT THIS EOFY

Gifts made during the campaign will support our national programs and resources to empower regional youth to unlock their full potential, with all donations to CEF matched up to a total of \$500,000 until 30th June.



CEF alumni and students, from left to right, Isaac Barrett, Claire Miller, Groove Brindley, Eliza Dampney and Lachie Barrett, at the CEF Friends event in Sydney in May.

HOW TO DONATE TODAY

Direct deposit details:
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CEF Principal Partners: Audi Foundation



WELCOME CEF PORT LINCOLN!



CEF Port Lincoln Committee Members Rob Donaldson, Susan Hooker, Greg Barry and Brian Gabb.

Youth in Port Lincoln will now have access to much needed support to help them achieve their career aspirations through post high school education and training, with the launch of Country Education Foundation of Port Lincoln (CEF Port Lincoln) on Thursday 16th May.

CEF Port Lincoln is the newest local foundation of our network and will now deliver CEF's support in the Port Lincoln area.

CEF is a national for-purpose organisation, made up of 46 local foundations across rural and regional Australia, that help local youth access post-school education, training and employment through grants, scholarships, support services and resources.

Students aged 16-25 who live in or attended school in the Port Lincoln area will be eligible to apply for a grant they can use to reimburse expenses related to their education, such as accommodation and equipment.

From apprentice electricians and hairdressers needing tools for their trade, to university students needing to travel long distances to study teaching or medicine, for example, any student aged 16-25 is encouraged to apply for grants to help them cover their costs.

The committee of CEF Port Lincoln

is made up of local volunteers, each having worked with local youth in a diverse range of educational roles, including principals and teachers. One member is also a former CEO of Port Lincoln Council.

CEF Port Lincoln Chair, Greg Barry, said its scholarships would provide a range of support from tools, resources and travel costs to improve the success of its regional students, and it was keen to talk to local industry to create named scholarships targeted to their interests.

"There is great support within the community to ensure local students can aspire to further study and have mentoring support. The committee hopes these students are inspired upon completion to return and work in Port Lincoln or another regional area," he said.

CEF Port Lincoln carries forward the work of the Eyre Peninsula Community Foundation's (EPCF) scholarship program and thanks EPCF for a generous donation to help start its work.

Applications for CEF Port Lincoln student grants for 2025 will open on 1st August 2024 and close on 30th September 2024.

For more information on how you can support them visit www.portlincoln.cef.org.au.

OUT AND ABOUT



CEF Manager of Partnerships, Hilary Matchett, second from the left, with CEF alumni, from left to right, Matthew Moore, Kadee Gerhard-Scali and Laura Mannes, who are studying at Charles Sturt University Wagga Wagga.



CEF Manager of Partnerships, Hilary Matchett and CEF CEO, Wendy Mason, back left, with representatives from Audi at the annual Audi Foundation-CEF Morning Tea.



CEF CEO Wendy Mason, with 2024 St Andrews scholars Imogen Taylor, Isaac Barrett, Sophie Yabsley, and Dr Robert Leach (St Andrews Principal) and Dr Daniel Taylor (St Andrews Director of Education) at the St Andrew's College Scholarship Presentation Dinner.



CEF CEO Wendy Mason with 2024 UNE Foundation scholar Emma Holmes and UNE Manager Alumni Relations and Student Scholarships Lisa Rice at the UNE Donor Lunch.

LONGSTANDING BOARD MEMBER KATIE WALKER OAM STANDS DOWN AFTER 20 YEARS



Katie Walker OAM.

It is undoubtedly clear that Katie Walker has had a remarkable influence on the educational outcomes of regional youth over the past two decades.

Since 2003, Katie has witnessed thousands of students from across rural and regional Australia access post school education and employment through grants and scholarships from Country Education Foundation of Australia (CEF).

This not only includes in her capacity as a Founding Director on the CEF Australia Board since 2003, but also her efforts across the countryside to advocate for CEF in its very early days.



Katie Walker with husband Michael Walker at the Hand to the Land fundraiser, March 2024.

She was a founder of the Country Education Foundation of Yass Valley, in her hometown of Yass, NSW, in 1998. Over the last 26 years, Katie, along with other volunteers from across the years, has worked tirelessly to support hundreds of young people in their area.

In 2016, CEF recognised her outstanding contribution by naming its annual volunteer award, the Katie Walker Outstanding Service Award, in her honour; an award presented each year to recognise the outstanding contribution and commitment of a CEF volunteer.

Her commitment to regional youth was formally recognised on Australia Day in 2024 with her inclusion in the Australia Day Honours List and an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for her longstanding service to education and the community.

In late 2023, she made the decision to resign from the CEF Board, with her resignation becoming official at the CEF AGM on 2nd May, 2024.

Although she has stepped down from the Board, she still remains part of the CEF family, and plans to continue supporting local youth as the Secretary of CEF Yass Valley.

She said it was a privilege to have served on the CEF Board, and it was now time for the next generation of Board members to continue the work started by her longtime friends and CEF Founders, Nick Burton Taylor AM and Julia Burton Taylor OAM.

“What started in Boorowa (CEF’s first local foundation in 1993) is now in 46 communities across Australia,” she said.

“**It’s been a wonderful thing to be involved with and see the growth, and it’s very gratifying to see students return to their communities to bring their skills back with them.**

Katie Walker

She spent much of the early 2000s on the road with Julia travelling across NSW to visit other

communities to spread the word about CEF and help establish local foundations in Harden, Goulburn, Braidwood, Snowy Monaro (Cooma), Young, Namoi (Narrabri), Merriwa, Gilgandra, Coonamble, Gulargambone and Cowra. In 2004 they travelled to South Australia to help form the first local foundations outside of NSW in Eudunda and Clare Valley.

Alongside Nick Carmody in their roles on the CEF Yass committee, she was involved in brokering CEF’s first university partnership, with the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra. This kickstarted CEF’s education partnership portfolio, which now includes universities and accommodation providers, giving extra financial support to CEF students.



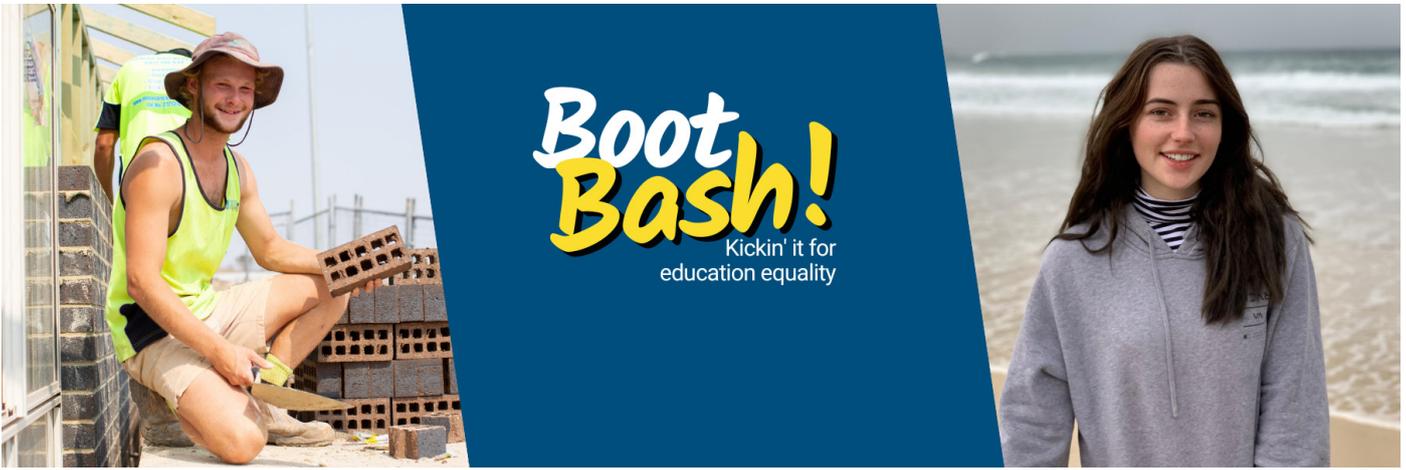
Katie Walker, who was then President of CEF Yass Valley, with then Vice President, Norm Bolitho, at an event in Yass in 2006.

“The highlight for me has been seeing the growth and expansion of CEF, and the help it provides its students; giving them opportunities they wouldn’t otherwise have had,” she said.

CEF Chairman, Nick Burton Taylor paid tribute to Katie, saying CEF would not be where it is today without her efforts.

“Youth in so many regional and rural locations may not have had the opportunity to access post school education and employment if Katie hadn’t made the commitment to spread the CEF concept,” he said.

“I would like to thank Katie for her incredible service on the national Board over the last 20 years and wish her all the best for her future.”



COMMUNITIES ACROSS AUSTRALIA KICK IT FOR EDUCATION EQUALITY



Students at Orange High School show off their boots during its Boot Bash event, a mufti day, on Friday 15th March.

Over 30 events were held by workplaces, schools and universities during the inaugural CEF 'Boot Bash' campaign, raising much needed awareness of the work CEF does in addressing the post-school education participation gap that exists between rural and regional youth and their metropolitan peers.

Event holders encouraged participants to make a donation, with \$30,000 raised from the campaign. Along with a donation from an anonymous donor, a 15% top-up on local funds allocated is being made available to 2024 CEF recipients.

Orange High School held a mufti day to support the initiative, with students and staff pulling on their favourite pair of boots to raise awareness of CEF.

Country Education Foundation of Orange and District committee member, and Careers Advisor at Orange High School, Glen Pearson, who organised the mufti day, said he believed in the importance of supporting students to achieve their post-school aspirations.

"For us, and our students, we need to promote that the CEF is there to really support them in their journey post-school, and what better way than to slip on some boots, put on some country clothes and support such a tremendous charity," he said.

Thank you to the many others who held successful Boot Bash events, including CEF education partners as well as many schools across regional Australia.



Staff at the AuctionsPlus office in Sydney.



Sancta Sophia College got behind CEF by wearing their boots for a formal dinner.



CEF alumnus and Aspirational Influencer, Ben Luck, with University of Canberra representatives.

HOW CEF IS HELPING JADA HOGG FULFILL HER DREAMS



2024 McLean Foundation - CEF scholarship recipient, Jada Hogg from Menindee.

Menindee is a small town in far west New South Wales, with a population of just 551 people, sitting on a sandhill on the bank of the Darling River. Like most remote areas of Australia, access to quality healthcare is a concern for its residents.

Noticing the challenges locals face to adequate and reliable healthcare, Menindee local, Jada Hogg, wants to be part of the solution. Jada always dreamed of going to university to study nursing, however, the opportunity seemed a far stretch, given how far universities are from her hometown.

No one in her family had ever been to university, and it had been several

years since any student at Menindee Central School, where she attended, had achieved an ATAR to get to university. But Jada never gave up on her dream and worked hard to secure an early offer at the University of Wollongong studying a Bachelor of Nursing, finding herself over 1000km from home.

Without the help of the CEF it may not have been possible.

Jada is the 2024 recipient of The McLean Foundation – CEF Scholarship, which will support her with \$21,000 over the next three years.

She said the funding was a major help for her in having to relocate so far away from home to study.

“With the help and support of CEF, I have been greatly assisted financially,” she said.

“

It allowed me to make a smooth transition and settle into university life in Wollongong without the anxiety and stress of finding a job instantly. CEF has definitely made it easier for me.

Jada Hogg

”

She said her funding would help her cover costs with rent, uniform and transportation when she starts placements, along with education resources such as textbooks.

“The scholarship funds have also helped ease my family's stress surrounding the costs that come with moving out of home and going to university. By getting the funding from CEF it has allowed me to fully concentrate on my classes this semester,” she said.

When she completes her degree, she said she plans to return to rural and remote areas of Australia to work as a registered nurse and in doing so, help fill a critical skills shortage in those areas.

“I plan to eventually return home to Menindee as a qualified nurse. But I would like to explore other rural and remote areas in Australia to gain plenty of experiences before returning home,” she said.

The McLean Foundation Trustee, Paula McLean, said Jada was the first student from Menindee to be awarded the scholarship.

“It is a pleasure to celebrate our 2024 McLean Foundation Scholarship recipient, Jada Hogg. Jada is a delightful young woman and such a worthy recipient, showing maturity and determination to achieve her goal of studying nursing”, she said.

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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