



2024 Summer Newsletter



As Christmas draws near, I find myself reflecting on the incredible year we've had at CEF. Having now been at the CEO's desk for a year, I have cherished every opportunity to connect with our community of volunteers, students, alumni, donors and partners. The passion for seeing youth from regional Australia succeed in pursuing further education, coupled with the unwavering dedication of our local foundations and volunteers, is nothing short of inspiring. In 2024, your support helped us provide over \$2.2 million in direct financial assistance to more than 700 students and together, we've achieved so much, including:

- Running our inaugural Boot Bash campaign, providing more than \$170,000 for cost-of-living top-ups.
- Launching our Student Placement Assistance, providing more than \$45,000 to students completing their compulsory, unpaid work placement.
- Rolling out our dedicated student mentoring program.
- Launching new local foundations in Port Lincoln, Bendigo and Narromine, with all of them awarding their first grants in 2025.
- Extending existing partnerships and welcoming new partners to expand our reach and impact in 2025 and beyond.

This quarter has been particularly busy and highly rewarding. We brought our community together in Canberra for our biannual conference and celebrated the inaugural CEF Awards, alongside holding another successful local foundations' matched giving campaign.

On behalf of the team at CEF, we wish you and your loved ones a joyful, safe and merry Christmas. We thank you for your support and contributions throughout the year and look forward to working with you in 2025.



Kind regards

Wendy Mason

Chief Executive Officer

Record amount raised during local Foundations Matched Giving Campaign



CEF Grenfell students and alumni at Grenfell Spring Ball

Photo courtesy of Jenny Armstrong—CEF Grenfell

Throughout September and October, a record **\$488,569** was raised in the local Foundations' Matched Giving Campaign. For every dollar raised by our local foundations, their efforts were matched up to \$5,000, significantly boosting the funds available for student grants in 2025.

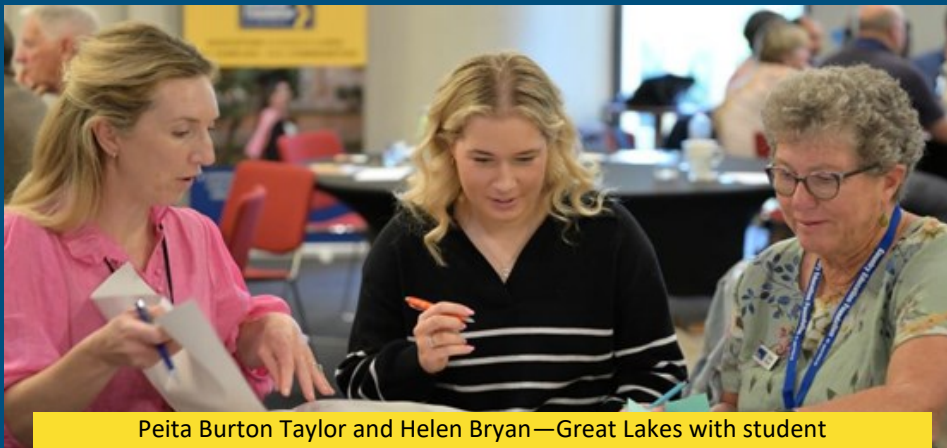
Our local foundations got creative in their fundraising initiatives—committees hosted spring balls, soirees with orchestra performances and even had involvement in the Deni Ute Muster!

We are extremely grateful for the unwavering support from donors from across the country with these funds directly benefitting students to open doors to their educational pursuits in 2025.



Edward River committee members at the Deni Ute Muster with the award winning entry in the Tradie's Challenge

CEF Community comes together for National Conference



Peita Burton Taylor and Helen Bryan—Great Lakes with student

Every two years, our national conference brings together the CEF community - passionate volunteers, board members, staff, students and alumni - to connect, learn and grow.

This year's theme "Stronger Together", focused on building sustainable committees, effective governance and powerful fundraising strategies. We were inspired by keynote speaker, Grace Brennan, founder of #buyfromthebush, who shared her insights for thriving regional communities. Dan Geaves from Marlin Communications led a workshop on storytelling in fundraising to help our volunteers improve their fundraising capabilities for years to come.

The energy and insights shared will empower our committees to continue their great work and achieve even greater impact for regional youth.



In front—Kim Mannes, Elaine Clarke and Penny Shepherd—Coleambally and in back Clemence Matchett—Grenfell, Mary Brown—Great Lakes and Marg Carey—Grenfell

Inaugural CEF Awards celebrates remarkable achievements

As part of the National Conference, we hosted the inaugural CEF Awards; a heartfelt celebration of our students, alumni and volunteers. The event honoured those who demonstrate exceptional dedication to their studies, careers, local foundations and communities.

This year, we combined the Audi Foundation-CEF Alumni Awards with the Katie Walker Outstanding Service Award, recognising individuals whose work not only changes lives but transforms entire communities.

We extend our congratulations to the Alumni Award winners and Katrina Norwood from Shoalhaven Education Fund for their outstanding achievements and contributions.



Zanna Christian—National Office, Emma McMahon (Rising Star) - Shoalhaven, Brooke Kinsela (Alumna of the Year) - Canowindra, Harry Tiernan (Launching Star) - Cootamundra and Katrina Bosco—Audi Foundation



Katrina Norwood and Katie Walker



National Conference attendees



Mary Skuthorp
Coonamble



Greg Barry
Port Lincoln



Doug Arnott—Coolah, Donna Roberts—
National Office & Pierre Gregory—KI

A few more
of the
dedicated
CEF Team
captured
at the
National
Conference



Nick & Julia Burton Taylor
with CEO, Wendy Mason



Hilary Matchett—National
Office with Grace Brennan



Justin Fleming—Boorowa &
Tony Grant—Canowindra



Joan Staggs—Gilgandra &
Naomi Barrett—National Office



Juliet Petersen—Orange &
Prue Sinclair—Walgett



Lyndall Harrison
Orange



Clarissa Barwick
Gywdir



Cara Stoltenberg
Namoi



Mardi Chartres
Edward River

Snow Foundation backs more regional youth by extending partnership



Teesha Jones
Goulburn



Makayla Cameron
Yass



Axel Nurdin
Shoalhaven



Kiara Henderson
Snowy Monaro



Michelle Guinane
Braidwood

We were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Terry Snow AM, founder of the Snow Foundation, in August. Terry's dedication to supporting scholarships has helped countless rural and regional students achieve their educational dreams.

His legacy lives on with [Snow Foundation extending their partnership with CEF for another five years](#). This superseded partnership provides 29 scholarships to students from identified Southern NSW foundations from 2025 and will also support the establishment of a new foundation in Eurobodalla

The annual scholarships will be awarded to students from Shoalhaven, Snowy Monaro, Yass, Goulburn and Braidwood, along with Eurobodalla from 2025.

Give the gift of EDUCATION this Christmas



“

Support from organisations like CEF can transform obstacles into opportunities for growth.

Lachie
CEF Alumnus
Coonamble & District Education Foundation
CEF Orange & Districts Volunteer

Without the help of CEF, Lachie would not be a teacher in regional Australia.

Thanks to the support, he was able to live in Sydney and complete a Bachelor degree with First Class Honours in Education from the University of Sydney.

This festive season, [you can give the gift of education](#) and help empower more young people, like Lachie, from across rural and regional Australia to achieve their educational dreams.

With your generosity, we can continue to make a meaningful impact to individuals, families and communities.



Copyright © 2024 Country Education Foundation of Australia (CEF), All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you are a valued supporter and have subscribed to communications from CEF.