

SPRING NEWSLETTER

Country
Education
Foundation
AUSTRALIA



2025 | COUNTRY EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The past quarter has been especially rewarding as we continue to deepen our impact and empower more young people from rural and regional Australia through the transformative power of education.

We're proud to be **supporting nearly 800 students this year – our highest number yet** and with a record level of direct financial assistance. This milestone is possible thanks to the tireless efforts of our 49 local foundations.

The power of our community-based model and the impact we are creating for rural and regional youth is evident through the responses in our recent midyear student reports. The progress shared by our 2025 grant recipients were full of gratitude, ambition and community spirit. We are thrilled to report that **93% rated CEF support as very important or important to them starting or continuing their studies or training and 86% reported that their financial pressure has been greatly reduced or reduced, thanks to their CEF support.**

The quote from Grace from CEF Far West, included right, is evidence of this impact in action.

In July, **we launched the Tim Fischer Fellowship**, a bold new initiative designed to foster leadership and innovation in regional Australia. With over 200 applications from passionate change makers nationwide, we're looking forward to announcing the inaugural Fellow at an event in October.

As we move into the final quarter of the year, I thank you for your ongoing support of CEF. **Together, we are creating brighter opportunities for regional youth, just like Grace.**

Warm regards,

Wendy Mason



“The support from CEF has been incredibly helpful in easing the financial pressure of moving away from home and starting university. I used the funds to help cover my accommodation costs, which made a huge difference. Having secure accommodation has allowed me to settle into my new environment without the constant stress or worry about how I'd afford rent. I'm truly grateful for the support. It's played a key role in helping me stay on track and pursue my goals. Now, I see my potential more clearly.”

GRACE | CEF FAR WEST
1ST YEAR, BACHELOR OF ARTS,
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

CEF network in action

Our CEF network has been well and truly in action, working hard to raise awareness and funds to support youth from across regional Australia.



LEFT: CEF Griffith alumna, Bella, with CEF Orange & Districts student, Jayden, at Charles Sturt University, for the partnership announcement between CEF and Charles Sturt.



ABOVE LEFT: CEF Grenfell's past and present recipients at the annual CEF Ball on Saturday 30th August.

ABOVE RIGHT: Mr Justin Clancy MP (NSW Member for Albury), Dr Joe McGirr MP (NSW Member for Wagga Wagga), Mayor Rick Firman OAM (Chair, Temora & District Education Fund), The Hon Chris Minns MP (NSW Premier) and The Hon Jenny Aitchison MP (NSW Minister for Regional Roads and Transport) at the Temora & District Education Fund Dinner on Wednesday 27th August.

CEF celebrates National Skills Week



We were proud to celebrate National Skills Week by announcing **seven inaugural James N. Kirby Foundation-CEF VET Scholars**; new scholarships to support vocational education and training (VET) students and celebrate the importance of VET for rural and regional communities.

The seven individuals come from different communities across NSW, VIC and SA and have each been awarded a \$3,000 scholarship to pursue training in high-demand skills areas including agricultural mechanics, mobile plant technology, individual support and animal studies.

Each scholar embodies the spirit of National Skills Week: practical, passionate and ready to make a difference.

Give now to your local foundation for greater impact

September marks the start of our Local Foundation Matched Giving campaign. Throughout September and October, total donations to any of our 49 local foundations will be matched, up to \$5,000*.

Every dollar you donate will help a local foundation increase their impact and support more regional students through the power of education.

During the campaign, our local foundations hold some creative fundraisers and ways to engage their communities – we cannot wait to share some highlights from across our network! **Donate today** to directly **support local youth to access further education and training**. *T&C's apply



CEF partners with Kennards Hire Foundation for expansion into WA

We are excited to announce a new partnership with the Kennards Hire Foundation, to support the expansion of CEF into Western Australia.

With Kennards Hire Foundation's generous backing over a three-year period, we are set to establish new local foundations in identified communities across WA, bringing our proven model of community-based support to even more locations to support young people in accessing further education and training.



Have you thought about leaving CEF a gift in will?

This week is **Include a Charity Week**; a week which serves as an annual focus for people to act on writing a will and including a charitable gift in it.

By leaving a gift in your will to CEF, you'll be creating a lasting legacy for regional youth and communities, that empowers future generations of students in regional and rural areas. You will help young people realise their dreams, foster community growth and help shape a brighter future for Australia. If you have been considering leaving a gift in will, especially to CEF to empower future generations of rural and regional youth, this week is a great time to do so.

Ready to discuss **leaving a gift in your will? Enquire with CEF today.**



**INCLUDE
A CHARITY**
Make your mark