

Patron: His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) Governor of New South Wales

The Foundation has had another successful year assisting in the education of isolated and disadvantaged young people from remote areas of NSW and the border areas of adjoining states. Again this has involved providing bursaries to assist with school boarding fees, and scholarships for undergraduates at Charles Sturt University.

We have seen a significant increase in the number of secondary bursary applications in 2018 which can be directly attributed to the increasing spread of drought conditions in western NSW.

AGM and Board Meetings

The Foundation's AGM was held on 19th October 2017. All office bearer positions were declared vacant as is the normal procedure with the following elected for the coming year.

- ☀ Richard Dougan, Chair
- ☀ Gerald Naughton, Deputy Chair
- ☀ John Mcrae, Treasurer
- ☀ Andrew Heaven, Public Officer

I would like to extend the Board's thanks to Rod Cowdroy who stepped down from the Deputy position due to the pressure of work at Tobruk Station. Rod has remained on the Board and will assist as much as possible. No other changes to Directors have been made at this time.

Our Committee Chairs have remained unchanged with: Margaret Malone - Education, Scholarships and Bursaries; John Mcrae - Finance, Administration and Investments; and Jenetta Russell - Fundraising, Marketing and Partnerships.

The Auditor's Report was presented to the Board and subsequently approved.

Regular Board meetings have been held throughout the year.

Secondary Bursaries 2018

This year we have received 33 applications for secondary bursaries and of these 19 were new applicants. We awarded 28 *Secondary Boarding Bursaries* that met our strict evaluation and selection criteria.

Bursary recipients this year are attending the following country boarding schools.

- ☀ The Scots School ASC, Bathurst
- ☀ Calrossy Anglican School, Tamworth
- ☀ Farrer Memorial Ag High School, Tamworth
- ☀ Kildare Catholic College, Wagga
- ☀ Kinross Wolaroi College, Orange
- ☀ Mater Dei Catholic College, Wagga
- ☀ PLC Armidale, Armidale
- ☀ Red Bend Catholic College, Forbes
- ☀ St Paul's College, Walla Walla
- ☀ St Stanislaus College, Bathurst
- ☀ The Scots School, Bathurst
- ☀ The Armidale School, Armidale
- ☀ Yanco Ag High School, Yanco

Preliminary reports from the schools where our bursary students are placed indicate that our standards for performance are being maintained.

Scholarships at Charles Sturt University

Our support for Scholarships at Charles Sturt University has been maintained at four this year with all students funded by BCEF. All of our scholarship recipients have again achieved very high academic levels with a grade point average of 5.65 out of 7.0.

This year's BCEF Scholar is Cara Earlam who is studying Veterinary Science at the CSU Wagga campus. She has an excellent ATAR mark and should prove a very worthy BCEF Scholar.

Isolated Children's Parents Association Annual Conference (ICPA)

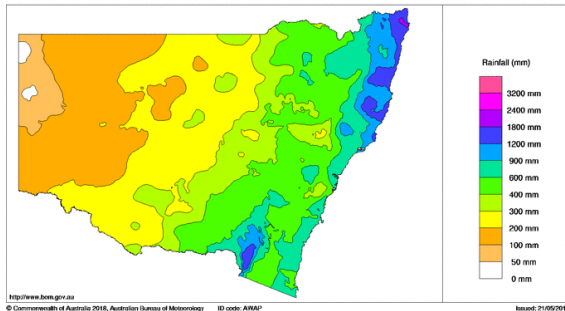
I attended the ICPA Annual Conference in Mudgee in March where I was able to hear first-hand, information in relation to the hardship so many parents suffer in obtaining education for their children.

Drought and Climatic Conditions

Requests for support from the BCEF are always higher in drought times and today is no exception with the NSW Department of Primary Industries declaring the central-west and central tablelands as being under drought watch. The ABC Central West has reported farmers across the central-west are battling what is being described as the driest period in at least a decade. Some areas have received around only a third of their average rainfall, with Orange recording just 99 millimetres of rain so far in 2018.

Rainfall in NSW for the past 12 months is shown in the chart below ranging from 1200mm on the East Coast to 0mm on the NSW/SA border.

New South Wales Rainfall totals (mm) 1 May 2017 to 30 April 2018
Australian Bureau of Meteorology



Donations

We wish to thank all of our supporters and donors for assisting the Foundation. All donations both large and small enable us to provide support in the Bush and the results achieved by those we have assisted in previous years have been outstanding.

Your support is critical to the delivery of scholarships and bursaries to applicants for assistance. Individual donors and corporate donors have again been very generous and we thank them all for this and their kindness in caring about people in the bush.

Testimonials From BCEF Recipients

"Please accept my thanks to you and the Board of Trustees, for the accommodation bursary granted to our son, John. This drought has set us back considerably and we're not out of the woods yet..."

"Being a single mum, and living in a remote location, boarding school was the best option for both of my high school aged children but it comes at a cost. People ask how I manage it, and in truth I budget, scrimp, and save - and yet there are ALWAYS additional costs that 'surprise' me. Being awarded the BCEF Boarding Bursary for both of the kids will mean that this year is more manageable. So from the bottom of my heart THANK YOU to the BCEF, I am ever so grateful."

Funding Packages for our Donors

Many of our donors both individuals and corporates have indicated a desire to fund packages. Accordingly we have developed several packages so that specific

contributions can be made in areas where donors wish to concentrate their support. These include:

- ☀️ **Secondary boarding bursaries** – for one or more students and for multiple years to attend a country boarding school.
- ☀️ **Three-year university scholarships** - for study in medical sciences, vet science or agriculture at CSU or UNE which would subsequently benefit remote or isolated communities.
- ☀️ **Support for students moving towards apprenticeships** - while still at school under a TAFE program.

Please contact us if you would like to discuss the level of commitment required in any of these areas.

Like us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

Apart from the BCEF website <http://bcef.org.au/> you can also view and follow our activities through social media. Access to BCEF on social media is available through the following links.

<https://twitter.com/BCEFAustralia>
https://www.instagram.com/bcef_australia/
<https://www.facebook.com/BCEFAustralia/>

We really appreciate your support in the good times and the bad so that our work matches the special needs of disadvantaged young people in the bush in the short and long term.

With best wishes



Richard Dougan - Chairman

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Please feel free to contact us in relation to any of our fundraising and support activities.