

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

The Foundation continues to operate as efficiently as possible in providing support for our bursary and scholarship recipients. Our funding which assists with the education of isolated and disadvantaged young people from the bush in NSW is valued by many families.

This year, while from demand by highly qualified and needy students for our *University Scholarships* exceeds our capacity to give, we have funded all qualified applicants for our *Secondary Bursaries Program*.

In 2019 we expect a big increase in applications for our *Secondary Bursaries* due to the continuing drought. The Board is committed to funding as many qualifying applications as our resources permit.

The Board has met regularly throughout the year to manage the affairs of the BCEF and to provide support for the bush as much as possible.

Over the past five years the Board has achieved payments to our bursary and scholarship recipients in excess of 100% of all donations and grants that we have received. While this may change in any given year it is our aim to maintain this performance goal.

### Secondary Bursaries 2018

This year we received over 35 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.

Application forms and criteria for our bursaries are available on our website. If you know anyone who needs a hand please let them know that we may be able to help.

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

-  Kildare Catholic College, Wagga Wagga
-  Kinross Walaroi College, Orange
-  Presbyterian Ladies College, Armidale
-  Red Bend College, Forbes
-  Scots All Saints College, Bathurst
-  St Stanislaus College, Bathurst
-  St Paul's College, Walla Walla
-  The Armidale School, Armidale
-  Yanco Agricultural High School, Yanco

Reports from the schools which have placements of our bursary recipients indicate that they are performing with above average or exemplary ratings. It is very pleasing to have the students that we support performing inline with their cohort.

### Scholarships at Charles Sturt University

BCEF Scholarships at CSU has been maintained at three this year. All of our scholarship recipients have again achieved very high grade point academic levels.

This year's BCEF Scholar is Cara Earlam who is studying Vet Science at the CSU Wagga campus. She has an excellent ATAR mark and should prove a very worthy recipient. She has said "receiving the Scholarship is a huge honour that will help me apply to my studies to the best of my abilities and work towards my dream of becoming a rural veterinarian".



Professor Megan Smith, Deputy Dean Faculty of Science and Richard Dougan, Chairman BCEF presenting Cara Earlam with her 2018 BCEF Scholarship at CSU Awards Ceremony



Richard Dougan, Cara Earlam and Lesley Dougan at the CSU Awards Ceremony Reception in Wagga Wagga

### Scholarship at the University of Newcastle

Due to the relocation of our 2017 BCEF Scholar from CSU to the University of Newcastle to follow her specialisation of Radiation Therapy we are delighted that Newcastle have accepted BCEF into its scholarship program.

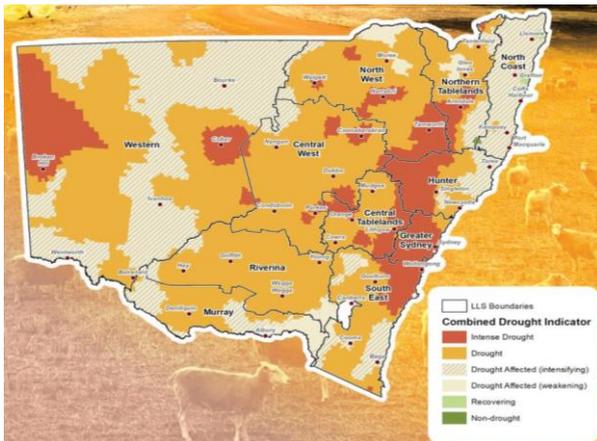
### Isolated Children's Parents Association (ICPA)

Following attendance at the ICPA Annual Conference at Mudgee earlier in the year members of the Board will meet with ICPA Executive Committee members later this year to discuss mutual areas of interest for support and development of isolated young people.

### Drought and Climatic Conditions

Requests for support from the BCEF are always higher in drought times and we are now experiencing one of the severest droughts in NSW for a very long time. The NSW Department of Primary Industries has declared all of NSW drought affected. While some rain has fallen it is not enough or and is not soon enough to assist farmers and rural operations to get back on any sort of strong financial or operational footing next year.

The map of NSW below highlights the severity of the drought and how widespread it is.



### 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. The results achieved by those we have assisted in previous years have been outstanding. The Military and Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem have generously supported us again this year.

### Funding Packages for our Donors

We can tailor funding packages for individual and corporate donors enabling them to support specific areas including:

- ☀️ **Secondary boarding bursaries**
- ☀️ **Three-year university scholarships at CSU, UON, UNE**
- ☀️ **TAFE students moving towards apprenticeships**

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

**Remember that in times of drought there is a greater call for our support to help families in the bush get their young people to school.**

BCEF is of course a Registered Charity with tax deductible status as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR).

### Testimonials from BCEF Recipients

*"Thank you once again for your kindness and generosity towards our son's boarding fee. So many people apply and I know that not everyone is successful. For this I am very grateful."*

*"We are very grateful for the support and finance the Bush Childrens Education Foundation has provided to us in the last four years. Because of such support our daughter attends a leading country boarding school in NSW. It's great to see a community of people who are obviously passionate about the education of isolated bush children."*

**Don't forget to like us on the Web, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram**

Apart from the BCEF website <http://bcef.org.au/> you can also view and follow our activities through social media.

<https://twitter.com/BCEFAustralia>

[https://www.instagram.com/bcef\\_australia/](https://www.instagram.com/bcef_australia/)

<https://www.facebook.com/BCEFAustralia/>

We really appreciate your support at all times and especially in times of extreme drought for the special needs of disadvantaged young people in the bush.

With best wishes



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