

Patron: Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley
AO QC Governor of New South Wales

The Foundation has experienced a very positive year with tremendous support from our benefactors, donors and supporters. We have managed our financial performance to support our secondary boarding bursaries and university scholarship programs.

We continue 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 who are suffering great hardship due to the current drought.

The Worst Drought Ever

The financial year July 2018 to June 2019 was drier than average over much of Australia, leading to an intensification of drought conditions over many parts of the country, especially in the northern half of the Murray-Darling Basin. Northwest Australia was also dry, with a delayed monsoon onset contributing to below average rainfall for the period as a whole. Extremely warm temperatures—it was the second-warmest financial year on record, with record-warm daytime temperatures—created additional water stress for many areas.

Recent trips in outback NSW in January and July/August show very clear evidence that the drought and water shortages are having massive effects on families in outback NSW.



Darling River below the Tilpa Pub



Packers Crossing near Kinchega Station Menindee



Darling River SE of Menindee looking East



Darling River SE of Menindee looking West

Directors Annual Report 2018 - 2019



Drought country with dead and dying trees and no vegetation near the Darling River



Trilby Station Louth, front paddock

The photos above taken in July/August this year clearly demonstrate that NSW is in the grip of a very severe drought which is hurting families in the bush.

A recent survey conducted by the Isolated Children's Parents' Association of NSW has shown that:

1. 95% of respondents are struggling with the enormity of the drought and education costs;
2. 17% of respondents have not sent their children to boarding school;
3. 5% of respondents have removed their children from boarding school;
4. 36% of respondents are already on boarding school payment plans, increasing overdrafts, borrowing from family or working second jobs;
5. 70% of families are not participating in extracurricular school activities.

Secondary Schools Bursaries Program

To help families get young people to school during the drought we have recently increased the value of our Secondary Bursaries by 150%. We have also embarked on a marketing and promotion program to ensure that

the neediest families in outback NSW are aware of the availability of BCEF bursaries.

A copy of the advertising poster is included with this report.

Our Secondary Bursaries Program continues our commitment to assist isolated and economically disadvantaged young people in the bush. 2019 sees us supporting 43 students at nine different rural boarding schools but we would like to do more to help out in the bush.

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

- ☀ Calrossy Anglican School, Tamworth
- ☀ Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School, Tamworth
- ☀ Kildare Catholic College, Wagga Wagga
- ☀ Kinross Walaroi College, Orange
- ☀ Presbyterian Ladies College, Armidale
- ☀ Red Bend College, Forbes
- ☀ Scots All Saints College, Bathurst
- ☀ The Scots School, Albury
- ☀ 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 with exemplary ratings. It is very pleasing to have the students that we support performing in line with their cohort.

If you know people who need help then please let us know about them or get them to contact us or download an application for support from the BCEF website.

Your donations large or small are also critical in providing assistance to isolated and economically disadvantaged young people in the bush and we thank you all for this.

University Scholarships

This year we are funding four university scholarships with three at Charles Sturt University and one at University of Newcastle. We are pleased to announce that the Military and Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem is assisting with two of the BCEF scholarships at CSU, one at the Dubbo campus and one at the Bathurst campus. Our scholars have acquitted

themselves very well in First Semester with Grade Point Averages out of 7.0 of 6.5, 5.75 and 4.9.

In 2020 while we are expecting a significant number of applications for our *Secondary Bursaries* due to the continuing drought. We are using a publicity and marketing campaign to ensure that people in need in the Bush are aware of our support. The Board is committed to funding as many qualifying applications as our resources permit.

Board Meetings

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.

There have been no changes to the composition of the Board since our last communication.

Financial Analysis

The BCEF is always concerned that all funds donated to support Secondary Bursaries and University Scholarships are applied for this purpose.

Between 2012 - 2018, we have raised over \$300,000 and paid out \$330,000 in bursaries and scholarships. Where ever possible 100% of donations go to Bursaries and Scholarships.

Our operational expenses have been kept to a minimum and are covered by one-off specific grants or from investment income.

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

Funding Packages for our Donors

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

- 🌻 **Secondary Rural Schools Boarding Bursaries**
- 🌻 **University Scholarships at Charles Sturt, Newcastle and New England Universities**

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

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).

Recent Testimonial

My eldest daughter a recipient of a BCEF bursary for the last four years, recently travelled to Point Wolstoncroft, Lake Macquarie, for a UNICEF sponsored Youth in Drought Summit for 14 to 24 year old young people who are living with the current drought situation.

She was chosen to be one of the 100 young people who attended the three day summit. She is an example of benefiting from having opportunities presented to her at the school she attends (Yanco Agricultural High School) thanks to the bursary that she very generously receives from your Foundation.

As ever, my husband and I are grateful for the assistance that we receive to be able to continue our daughter's education at Yanco, so that she continues to benefit from the advantages that she might not otherwise receive.

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.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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We've been helping bush children get their secondary school education since 1965

Bursaries are now available

Founded in 1965 from the inspiration of the Royal Flying Doctor Medical Officer in Broken Hill, the Bush Children's Education Foundation of NSW Inc. is committed to assisting in the education of isolated and economically disadvantaged young people from remote areas of NSW and the border areas of adjoining states.

The main type of support we provide is through secondary school boarding bursaries - to assist with the costs of student boarding accommodation to cover the gap in State and Federal funding.

For more information about bursaries and the other assistance programs we offer, or to download an application form, visit our website at www.bcef.org.au

Testimonials

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

Please accept my thanks to you and the Board, 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...

It certainly humbles us.... the generosity of BCEF contributors and the Board, help us with what is most important - the education of our kids! Both are doing well and we are delighted with opportunities they are experiencing at boarding



BCEF
Bush Children's Education
Foundation of NSW

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