

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

This newsletter highlights the Foundation's activities in supporting young people in the bush by obtaining funding for our Secondary School Boarding Bursaries at regional schools in NSW and our University Scholarships at Charles Sturt and Newcastle Universities. Identifying appropriate economically disadvantaged and isolated young people in the bush to be supported is a core part of our activities.

The Foundation has experienced a significant increase in the number of secondary bursary applications in 2019. The continuation of the drought and subsequently the disastrous floods which were experienced in many areas have brought great hardship to many people in the bush including rural workers and farmers.

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

His Excellency and Mrs Hurley are moving to Canberra to become the Governor General of Australia. The Board would like to thank His Excellency and Mrs Hurley for their wonderful support of bush causes and in particular the terrific support of the Bush Children's Education Foundation of NSW.

His Excellency and Mrs Hurley hosted a Cocktail Party at Government House for friends and supporters of BCEF and we are most grateful for their support.

We were also able to participate in the 2019 Government House Australia Day Celebrations.



Mrs Linda Hurley presenting BCEF Director Jenetta Russell and Chairman Richard Dugan with funds raised during the Australia Day activities at Government House

We provided information about the BCEF to many visitors to Government House and showed visitors sheep dog exhibitions and stockwhip cracking. We are grateful for the support of BCEF Director Rod Cowdroy and his wife Leanne and the Tobruk Station gun sheepdog Boof.

We wish His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) and Mrs Hurley well with their new roles.

Secondary Bursaries 2019

This year we received 47 applications for secondary bursaries and of these 17 were new applicants. We have approved 33 that met our strict evaluation and selection criteria while there are 9 provisionally approved pending receipt of additional supporting documentation.

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

- ☀ Calrossy Anglican School, Tamworth 1
- ☀ Farrer Agricultural High School 9
- ☀ Kildare Catholic College, Wagga Wagga 4
- ☀ Kinross Walaroi College, Orange 2
- ☀ Presbyterian Ladies College, Armidale 2
- ☀ Red Bend College, Forbes 11
- ☀ St Pauls College, Walla Walla 1
- ☀ St Stanislaus College, Bathurst 1
- ☀ The Scots All Saints College, Bathurst 4
- ☀ The Scots School, Albury 1
- ☀ The Armidale School, Armidale 2
- ☀ Yanco Agricultural High School, Yanco 3

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

University Scholarship Program 2019

Our support for Scholarships at Charles Sturt and Newcastle Universities has continued with two new Scholarships awarded.

This year we have been supported in funding CSU scholarships by the very generous assistance of the **Military and Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem**. The Order has agreed to fund two scholarships for three years in conjunction with BCEF at CSU and we are very appreciative of this.

This year's BCEF/Order of St Lazarus students include: Ellie West from Mt Canobolas near Orange who is studying Early Childhood and Primary Teaching at CSU Bathurst and Hayley Grimson from Dubbo who is studying Early Childhood and Primary Teaching at CSU Dubbo.



The West family and BCEF Director Jenetta Russell, at CSU Awards Ceremony in Bathurst



Hayley Grimson and BCEF Director Jenetta Russell at the CSU Awards Ceremony in Dubbo

Both of these students should prove very worthy BCEF/Order of St Lazarus Scholars.

BCEF and the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme

In September, 2018 BCEF formed a collaboration with the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme a not-for-profit organisation which manages the Young Endeavour youth development voyage program. YEYS were seeking to find a way in which they could support drought-stricken farmers. An offer was put forward for three BCEF beneficiaries to take a 10-day leadership training voyage off the Queensland coast on STS Young Endeavour. BCEF funded travel and incidental costs, with YEYS providing 100% scholarships for the voyage.

An article written for Monaro Post on BCEF recipients Maddy Kirshner, Molly McCrone and William Swales voyages on "Young Endeavour" sums up what all voyagers expressed after the voyage:

"Going on the Young Endeavour was a once in a lifetime opportunity and I am so thankful that I had the chance to participate", Maddy said. "The lessons I learnt and the friendships I made I will take with me through my life. If you are aged 16-23 I encourage you to apply because I can guarantee you won't regret it." [and a] Quote from Captain Adam, "Start by doing what's necessary, then doing what's possible...pretty soon you're doing the impossible." This sailing trip taught Maddy all about the 'impossible'.



The STS Young Endeavour Captain and Crew

Governor of NSW Cocktail Party for BCEF

BCEF have been delighted to have a close working relationship with our Patron, the Governor of NSW, His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) and Mrs Hurley. In that time, we have had the honour of Government House Cocktail Parties in 2015 and 2018 as well as other warmly supported events.

25th September, 2018 saw 80 BCEF supporters and stakeholders attend Government House with wonderful and inspiring speeches by His Excellency Governor Hurley and BCEF Chairman Richard Dougan.

One of the highlights of the evening was a cameo interview of BCEF recipient Maddy Kirshner who had, only a few days before, come ashore from STS Young Endeavour where she had spent 10 days sailing the Queensland coast as recipient of a Young Endeavour Youth Scheme scholarship in partnership with BCEF.

Maddy explained why the support from BCEF and YEYS had changed her life and created so many opportunities. Many of those in the room listening to her, commented that it was great proof of the good BCEF was doing for young isolated students in the bush. This cocktail party was particularly special, given the fact that His Excellency and Mrs Hurley have completed their time as NSW Governor and will soon move to act as Governor General of Australia.



His Excellency David Hurley, STS Young Endeavour sailor Maddie Kirshner, BCEF Director Jenetta Russell, Mrs Linda Hurley and YEYS CEO Stephen Moss



BCEF Chairman Richard Dougan thanking the Governor for his support of BCEF and young people in the bush

Drought and Climatic Conditions

Regional NSW continues to feel the impacts of drought, with the situation worsening in both the Northern and increasingly the Southern valleys.

Recent rainfall events have not improved the overall outlook but have produced small flows in the Barwon-Darling. There have been extremely low inflows (the amount of water entering the river and its storages), the past six months have seen the lowest recorded inflows in history.

Requests for support from the BCEF are always higher in drought times and the current drought conditions have caused an increase in application for assistance.

Donations

We wish to thank all of our supporters and donors for assisting the Foundation this year. 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 and we thank all donors for their kindness and generosity of spirit in caring about young people in the bush.

NOVUS/Rotary Club of Wahroonga

On 13th February BCEF Directors, Gerald Naughton, Rod Cowdroy, Kerry Blight, and Jenetta Russell and "Bouff" the sheep dog visited the Rotary Club of Wahroonga to receive a cheque for \$30,000.

\$15,000 was raised from the Novus Foundation represented by its Chairman, Phil McCarroll. Novus is a combination of San Hospital Foundation, McCarroll Automotive Group and Rotary Club of Wahroonga and has a very synergistic purpose to that of BCEF. The \$15,000 Novus contribution allowed for an application by The Rotary Club of Wahroonga for a matching grant from Rotary's Dick Smith Fund.

BCEF are extremely grateful for this donation which is being used for Secondary Boarding Bursaries and Young Endeavour Youth Scheme programs.



BCEF Directors Gerald Naughton and Rod Cowdroy, with NOVUS Chairman Phil McCarroll AM and sheep dog Boof at Rotary Novus Presentation

Board Meetings and Directors

Quarterly Board and Committee meetings have been held throughout the year to manage the affairs of the Foundation. Our emphasis is very much on raising funds to meet our bursary and scholarship requirements and in selecting the most appropriate recipients.

We have accepted with great regret the resignation of Margaret Malone from the Board due to family reasons. Margaret ably chaired the Education, Scholarships and Bursaries Committee and her experience as a primary school Principal greatly assisted us. We thank her and husband Terry for the great service and support that they have provided to BCEF over many years.

We welcome a new Director to the Board in Kerry Blight. Kerry has extensive education experience as a rural teacher, headmistress, managing special projects for the NSW Department of Education and the NSW Board of Studies. She has accepted the role of Chair of the Education, Scholarships and Bursaries Committee and will be a great asset in identifying new areas where our support is required and can be delivered.

Testimonials From BCEF Recipients

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

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

Funding Packages for our Donors

Many of our donors both individual and corporate have indicated a desire to fund packages including:

- ☀ **Secondary boarding bursaries** – for one or more students and for multiple years to attend a country boarding school.
- ☀ **Three-year university scholarships** - for students study in teaching, medical sciences, vet science or agriculture at CSU, UoN or UNE who may subsequently provide benefits and support to 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 economically disadvantaged and isolated young people in the bush.

With best wishes



Richard Dougan - Chairman

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