

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

**Restoration of The Tibooburra
Bush Children's War Memorial Hostel**

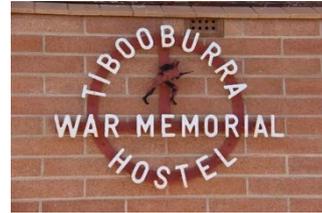
BCEF originally operated as the Bush Children's Hostels Foundation of NSW when it was founded by the Flying Doctor - Dr Charles Huxtable of the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) in Broken Hill in 1965.

In those early days, the 1960's government ran hostels providing accommodation for children so they could attend the local high school in larger country towns. Over 20 hostels existed in towns, including Tibooburra, Broken Hill, Wentworth, Forbes, Griffith, Molong, Bathurst, Cobar and Bourke.

The Hostel in Tibooburra was opened in November 1961 and has recently been restored. This hostel has great significance for BCEF as the founder Dr Huxtable attended its official opening. See below photo of Dr Huxtable in front of the Hostel with an RFDS aeroplane.



Mrs Barbara Huxtable visited the Hostel in 1963 shown below at the front entrance with the Matron and Submatron.



The Hostel now provides accommodation for travellers and workers as well as young people's camps when required. Conditions at the hostel have improved considerably due to the restoration with comparisons shown in the photos below.



Tibooburra the Children's Hostel Dormitory and Stove 1961



Tibooburra Bush Children's Hostel 2022



Bush Children's Hostel Common Room 2022

Continuing Strong Support for the Bush

This year has seen a continuation of our high level of support for young people in the Bush with our bursary recipients and a doubling of our scholarship program. We have been providing this support to families in the bush for more than 55 years and demand is getting stronger.

The main reason for families needing our help, in addition to their isolation, has been the impact of severe and prolonged droughts, bushfires, COVID-19 pandemic, plagues and floods. This is evidenced by the Board again receiving well over 100 applications for Secondary Rural Boarding Bursaries in 2022, where 67% of families owned or managed rural properties sized from 100 to 59,000 ha.

This, together with our expanded university scholarship program has increased our financial support in 2022 to well over \$200,000.

We are pleased and proud that we have been able to provide this level of support for so many young people in the Bush recognising the massive support from our donors.

The success of many of the students that we support is a clear demonstration of the success of our programs as evidenced by students like Sarah Scott.

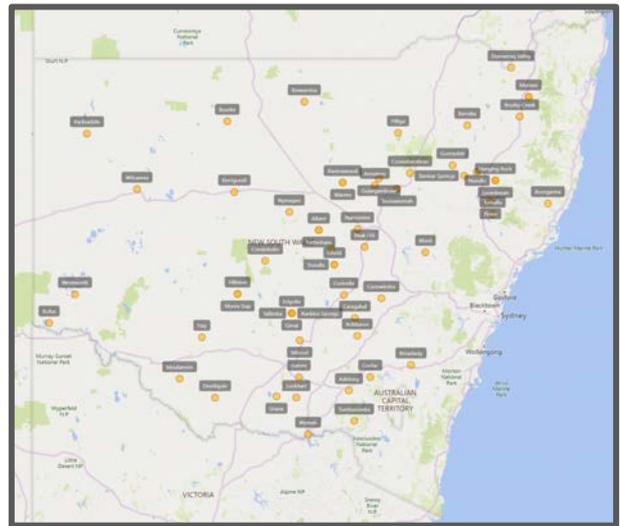
We cannot thank our very generous individual and corporate donors enough for making this possible over so many years. Thank you one and all!



Sarah Scott
Kildare Catholic College & Riverina Conservatorium of Music
2022 BCEF Bursary recipient

2022 Secondary Rural Boarding Bursaries

This year we received 118 bursary applications from families living in rural NSW, see map below. After detailed assessment of these applications, 68 bursaries have to date been awarded at a total cost of around \$130,000. These bursaries will support young people from 50 families, with the students attending 13 boarding schools throughout country NSW.



Rural Boarding Schools Supported in 2022

School	Students
Calrossy Anglican School, Tamworth	7
Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School, Tamworth	14
Hurlstone Agricultural College	1
Kildare Catholic College, Wagga Wagga	4
Kinross Wolaroi School, Orange	3
Macquarie Anglican Grammar School, Dubbo	2
Presbyterian Ladies College Armidale	1
Red Bend Catholic College, Forbes	15
Scots All Saints, Bathurst	10
Snowy Mountains Grammar School, Jindabyne	2
St Francis de Sales Regional College, Leeton	1
St Paul's College, Walla Walla	3
Yanco Agricultural High School, Yanco	5

This year we conducted more radio interviews and advertised in The Land (print and digital editions) to let people in the bush know about the availability of our support. The BCEF Chairman was interviewed by ABC Riverina, ABC Western Districts, ABC Dubbo, Community Radio Network (national) and ABC National on Australia All Over with Ian McNamara.

We asked our bursary applicants, "How did they hear about BCEF?" The responses received from the applications identified many sources. The table below summarises these sources of information.

Source	Applicants
School	75.78%
Word Of Mouth	11.72%
Radio	4.69%
Facebook	4.69%
Boarding House	1.56%
The Land	1.56%
ICPA	0.78%
Website	0.78%

While this has been another year of high demand for our Scholarships and Bursaries the available funding has provided an outstanding result in helping families to educate their children at Rural Boarding Schools.

If you know anyone who needs help, please let us know, or have them contact us, or download an application for support from the BCEF website.
<http://bcef.org.au/>

2022 University Scholarship Programs University of New England

This year we are proud to announce that we have been able to expand our university scholarship program with the inclusion of two, three-year Bachelor of Agriculture scholarships at the University of New England (UNE), Armidale valued at \$30,000. ICPA NSW Branch asked us several years ago if we could consider awarding scholarships in Agriculture at UNE and we are delighted to have achieved this extension to our rural university scholarship programs.

BCEF has a strong link with Armidale as BCEF founder, Dr Charles Huxtable was a GP in Armidale for some years.

Charles Sturt University Scholarships

In addition we have expanded our scholarship program at CSU to include the following scholarships, in addition to our existing two BCEF Veterinary Science scholarships.

- ☀ 2 x 5-year BCEF Future Regional Doctors Scholarships, Total Value \$35,000.
- ☀ 1 x 5-year BCEF Yim Family Foundation Veterinary Science Scholarship, Total Value \$17,500.
- ☀ 3 x 3-year BCEF/Order of St Lazarus General Degree Scholarships, Total Value \$30,000.
- ☀ 2 x 3-year BCEF General Degree Scholarships, Total Value \$21,000.

The total value of our current Scholarship Programs is \$134,000.



BCEF Chairman with the BCEF Scholars at the Wagga Wagga Campus Awards Ceremony June 2022

We are delighted with the academic performance of all our scholars studying at Charles Sturt University and we wish those who have completed their scholarships great success in their chosen careers.



Cara Earlam Year V Vet. Sc. BCEF Scholar since 2018

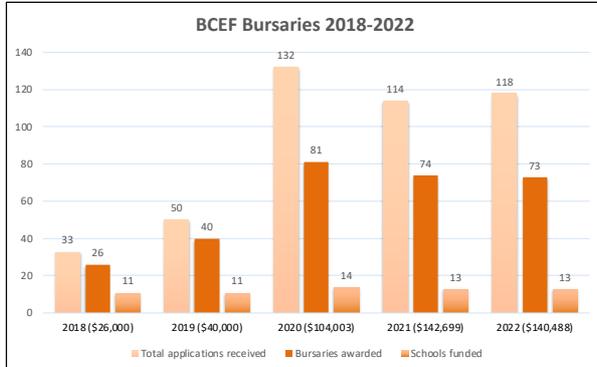
Post-Secondary Non-Tertiary/TAFE Programs

In addition, we are recommending support of our Post-Secondary Non-Tertiary/TAFE Programs and hope to have significant progress with this in 2022 with funding already allocated.

The BCEF Education Committee selection panel was again privileged to interview outstanding candidates for the BCEF CSU and UNE Scholarships. We would be delighted to award further scholarships when more funds are available. This would help mitigate the severe financial hardship experienced by many country students from isolated areas as they undertake tertiary studies.

The increased level of financial support for our Rural Secondary School Boarding Bursaries since 2020, 2021 and 2022 has continued as shown in the table on Page 4. This together with the expansion of CSU Scholarships and new UNE Scholarships has provided a great result in utilising the funds donated for these purposes. The

Board is always concerned that funds donated for Bursaries and Scholarships are used for this purpose.



We continue to manage our operational expenses keeping them to a minimum and covering them by one-off specific grants and investment income.

ICPA Conference, Bourke - March 2022

This year marked the 50th Anniversary of the founding of that wonderful support group for parents of young people in the bush, the Isolated Children's Parents Association of NSW. The Conference was opened by Her Excellency the Governor of NSW. BCEF Chairman Richard Dougan attended the Conference to help celebrate a magnificent milestone.

We offer our warmest congratulations and best wishes to the ICPA, fresh from this year's conference in Bourke, where it all began five decades ago. This year's conference celebrating "50 years on, 50 years strong" highlights the shared passionate goals of providing access and equitable education for bush students.

Our commitment and dedication to ICPA and economically disadvantaged and isolated young people and their families in the Bush will continue.



The Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC Governor of New South Wales seen here with ICPA's 50th Birthday Cake
Photo Courtesy of ICPA

CWA of NSW

We also offer our warmest congratulations and best wishes to the Country Women's Association of NSW which has been supporting women, children, and their communities in NSW for 100 years.

CWA of NSW was set up in April 1922 when country women were fighting isolation and a lack of health facilities. Members worked tirelessly to set up baby health care centres, fund bush nurses, build and staff maternity wards, hospitals, schools, rest homes, seaside and mountain holiday cottages, and much more.

The women of the CWA have been initiators, fighters and lobbyists. They have made localities into communities by providing social activities and educational, recreational, and medical facilities.

Economic and Environmental Factors

The climate outlook for much of NSW is very positive and should assist people to get back on their feet after the drought. Unfortunately, it takes years for farming communities suffering from the drought to reduce debt and to restock their farms. It is also generally agreed that farms have one good year in seven to ten years. We can expect more drought as a part of our Australian climate, but this may be exacerbated by climate change.

The uncertainty around our export of agricultural commodities to major trading countries is largely unresolved and may have major economic ramifications for the primary industry sector.

The long-term Bureau of Meteorology forecast for winter rainfall is likely to be above average for much of northern, central, and eastern Australia extending into South Australia.

Maximum temperatures for winter are likely to be above average for northern, south-western, and south-eastern Australia. June maximum temperatures are likely to be above average for northern and eastern Australia. Minimum temperatures for winter are also likely to be above average for most of Australia.

A stark example of the changes in climate are shown by the photographs below taken 24 months apart at the Tilpa Pub between Louth and White Cliffs, the Bogan River, Nyngan and a flooded creek in Tibooburra.



Darling River, Tilpa Pub October 2020



Bogan River, Nyngan March 2022



Flooded creek in Tibooburra (local car wash?) March 2022

Board Meetings

The Board and its Standing Committees meet regularly throughout the year to manage the affairs of the Foundation and to provide support for the bush as much as possible.

In November 2021 we elected **Joy Dodds** as a Director taking the Board to a full complement of nine. While Joy was raised in Sydney, she spent time in the state's north-west from where her grandmother hailed, observing first-hand the effects of drought, flood, fire - and inner strength. After completing an Honours Economics degree at Sydney University, she joined the ABC working in their Sydney and London offices.

Completion of a post-graduate degree in Media corresponded with the birth of the first of four offspring and husband's, media career promotions to Brisbane, Perth and later Darwin. Joining NewsCorp, Joy worked

in the Darwin newsroom at the "N.T. News" until the Dodds family returned to Sydney with four children.

Joy enjoyed working as a journalist with News Corp, "The North Shore Times" and "The Mosman Daily" and as a journalist and sub-editor with "The Australian Financial Review". She subsequently became Editor of a Fairfax travel magazine, which she greatly enjoyed, writing travel pieces with a distinctly country feel and outlook.

In addition, Joy and David run cattle at their farm near Yass to ensure that their children enjoy a similar country link and experience to them, David having been born and raised in Gundagai.

Ensuring that rural children and young people are not disadvantaged by being raised in isolated country areas is an issue dear to Joy's heart.

Our Directors are always involved with the bush. At the recent Mundi Mundi Festival outside Broken Hill, **Rod Cowdroy** and his wife **Leann** attended the Mad Max judging.

Fundraising & Marketing Committee



The Committee has again done a fantastic job in raising sufficient funds to support the required increase in our Secondary Rural Boarding Bursaries in the last two years and increased University Scholarship funding this year. Major donations from Corporate Organisations and Foundations have helped this enormously as well as our individual and social organisation donors. We do anticipate continuing high demand for our Bursary Program, and we are incredibly grateful for your ongoing support. We particularly look forward to gaining support from some of the state and national agribusiness companies which are flourishing in the Bush these good times.

Your support is greatly appreciated in making bursaries and scholarships available.

View and follow our activities through the BCEF website <http://bcef.org.au/> and social media:



Twitter



Facebook



LinkedIn



Instagram

Recent Testimonials



"Thank you very much to the BCEF Board for selecting Sarah as a recipient of the 2022 BCEF Boarding Bursary. This will provide a great financial support for our family and allow Sarah to continue the extracurricular music activities which she enjoys whilst boarding at Mt Erin in Wagga. Sarah attends the Riverina Conservatorium of Music two afternoons a week for flute lessons and rehearsals with the RCM Youth Orchestra and RCM Student Concert Band. She recently performed in a concert at the Wagga Civic Theatre, a fantastic opportunity for young musicians to play on stage and allowed the community to enjoy the local musical talent in our region.

Thanks again for your generosity in providing rural families financial support, so that our children can enjoy a better education and be exposed to extra opportunities in the larger regional centres where they are boarding."



"We first heard about BCEF on the ABC radio in the raw weeks after the 2020 fires. Amazing support from so many angles and very favourable seasons has helped our farm and business recover. You were part of this support, and we thank you.

Thank you also for considering the applications attached for Spedding and Hunter as they begin to settle into their school year. Spedding this week was awarded the 2022 Jindabyne Lions Youth of the Year. His work for Rural Aid and the program Bottles for the Bush which he facilitated at Snowy Mountains Grammar School was a key feature of his application as well as public speaking.

We make sure both of our boys are aware of any support they have received and are so pleased that they are willing to give back when they can."

For all our supporters and stakeholders, thank you for your ongoing support. It does not take much for our climate conditions to change. We expect to maintain similar funding requirements for our Bursary and Scholarship Programs into the future and will always need your generous support to achieve this.

Kind regards

Richard Dougan – Chairman
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rdougan@bcef.org.au

Bush Children's Education Foundation of NSW Inc



Directors as at 31st May 2022

Chairman

Richard Dougan; BA, CMC, FIMC, Cert IV & Dip Proj Mgmt

Vice Chairman & Chair Fundraising/Marketing Committee

Gerald Naughton; BCA, FCA, SF Fin, GAICD

Treasurer & Chair Finance & Investment Committee

John McRae; BA, MComm, FCPA, FCA, AICD, JP

Chair Education, Scholarships & Bursaries Committee

Kerry Blight; Med, BA, Dip Ed, Ltt B

Public Officer

Andrew Heaven; BA Dip FP CFP JP

Jenetta Russell; OAM GAICD CCEO

The Hon. Duncan Gay

Rod Cowdroy; BBus

Joy Dodds; BEc (Hons), Post Grad Dip AFTVS

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

BCEF Contact Details

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Phone: 0492 878 622

Email: info@bcef.org.au

Direct Deposit

Name: Bush Children's Education Foundation

BSB: 062-195 Account Number: 10104674

Reference: Your Name

PayPal

Visit www.bcef.org.au and click the yellow donate button to access the PayPal BCEF donation page.

Cheque

Payable to Bush Children's Education Foundation of NSW. Post to PO Box 138, Lindfield, NSW, 2070.