

Newsletter June 2017

The Foundation remains firmly committed to assisting in the education of isolated and disadvantaged young people from remote areas of NSW and the border areas of adjoining states. Our support this year has again been in providing bursaries to assist with school boarding fees, bursaries and equipment grants for students moving towards apprenticeships while still at school with the Through to TAFE program and scholarships for undergraduates at Charles Sturt University.








The need for our support varies greatly. The impact on and demand for our scholarships and bursaries when climatic conditions are unfavourable in the bush is extraordinary. As a consequence of the changing demands for our support we need to maintain and expand our fundraising efforts to ensure that we can always support our bursary and scholarship programs.

AGM and Board Meetings

The Foundation's AGM was held in October 2016 and the office bearers for 2017 were reappointed with Richard Dougan, Chairman, Rod Cowdroy, Deputy Chairman and John McRae, Treasurer. No changes to the Directors have been made at this time.

Bursaries

This year we have awarded 24 *Secondary Boarding Bursaries* and rejected a number of applications which did not meet our funding requirements. The bursaries are for students attending:

-  Calrossy Anglican School, Tamworth
-  Farrer Agricultural High School, Calala
-  Kildare Catholic College, Wagga Wagga
-  Kinross Wolaroi School, Orange
-  PLC, Armidale
-  Red Bend Catholic College, Forbes
-  The Scots School, Bathurst
-  The Armidale School, Armidale
-  Yanco Agricultural High School, Yanco

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

Newsletter - June 2017

Scholarships at Charles Sturt University

Our support for Scholarships at Charles Sturt University has been maintained at five this year with three undergraduates funded by BCEF and two funded for the third and final year of their degree through family bequests from the Gaudry and Pockley families. All of our scholarship recipients have again achieved very high academic levels with a grade point average of 5.65 out of 7.0.



Caitlin Bonnici being presented with her BCEF Scholarship on our behalf by Executive Dean of the Faculty of Science Professor Tim Wess

Caitlin Bonnici is a new BCEF scholar at CSU in 2017. She has informed us that she is "thrilled with winning the Scholarship and will put it towards her accommodation fees and hopes one day to be able to donate to a scholarship which supports a student in a similar way".

Other University Scholarships - UNE

The Board is actively working towards supporting particularly agricultural degree scholarships at the University of New England. This is an initiative which we strongly believe is worthwhile and look forward to your support for BCEF Scholarships at UNE.

BCEF and Social Media

The BCEF website <http://bcef.org.au/> is a great place to learn about us while also providing a way for applicants to apply for scholarships and bursaries on-line. Other social media we are using includes Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Access to BCEF on these media is available through the following links.

<https://twitter.com/BCEFAustralia>

https://www.instagram.com/bcef_australia/

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



BCEF Strategic Plan 2016-2021

The Strategic Plan setting directions, goals, strategies and implementation is on track assisting each committee to achieve its objectives. Our Board Committee Chairs are:

- ✚ Finance, Administration & Investment Committee – John McRae
- ✚ Education Scholarships & Bursaries Committee – Margaret Malone
- ✚ Fundraising & Marketing Committee – Jenetta Russell

Donations

Once again we salute all our supporters and donors for your greatly valued assistance. The results achieved by those we have supported in the last year have been outstanding.

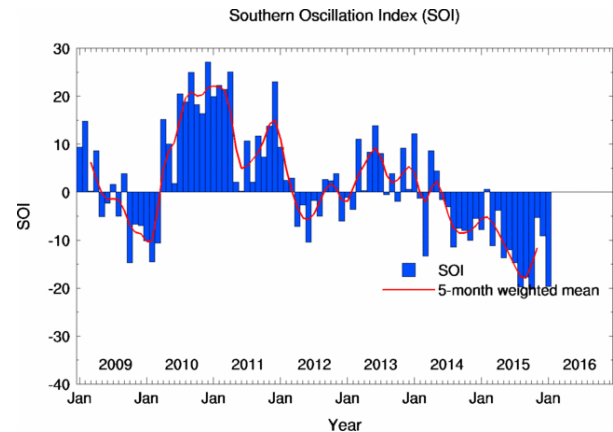
Your support is critical to the delivery of scholarships and bursaries to applicants for assistance. Corporate donations have been received this year from the Thyne Reid Foundation and the Order of St Lazarus with ongoing support from NRMA. We warmly thank them for their continuing support.

Individual donors have again been very generous and we thank them all for their generosity and kindness in caring about people in the bush.

Weather and Climate Change in the Bush

We appreciate and continue to rely heavily on your support for young people in outback NSW. Many areas have had relieving rainfall however the chances of sustained negative values of the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) shown below (-7) often indicates the potential for a return of El Niño episodes. These negative values are usually accompanied by sustained warming of the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, a decrease in the strength of the Pacific Trade Winds, and a reduction in winter and spring rainfall over much of eastern Australia and the Top End.

Newsletter - June 2017



This is a very strong reminder of just how close we appear to be to adverse climate which affects our farmers and graziers so greatly.

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

With Best Wishes

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20th June 2017
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Please feel free to contact us in relation to any of our fundraising and support activities.