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Applications for the 2026 **Beryl Neilsen Winchester Scholarships** are now open.

The Winchester Foundation recognises the significant challenges faced by rural and regional families when their children leave home to attend **boarding school, university, or trade facilities**. The Beryl Neilsen Winchester Scholarships are specifically designed to assist **financially challenged rural and regional students in Queensland and the Northern Territory** with the cost of education and the additional expenses inevitably incurred by country students living away from home.

These Scholarships are awarded through an ongoing program and are **reviewed annually**. When granted, the Scholarship is **paid in two instalments** – one in **Semester One (February)** and the other in **Semester Two (July)**.

To learn more about the program and how to apply, please visit our website:

www.winchesterfoundation.org

If you wish to proceed with an application, the following documents will be required:

- A letter of introduction from the applicant
- The applicant's proposed educational path for 2026
- 2025 school reports and any additional achievements or certificates
- A breakdown of costs associated with Boarding School, University, or Trade Facility, including details of any Government Assistance, Bursaries, or other Scholarships the applicant may receive. If successful, a confirmation of enrolment from the institution may be required.
- Financial information:
 - **Copies of current Individual Income Tax Returns and Notice of Assessments**
 - If you operate a business or have an interest in a partnership, trust, or company, please also include current **Business Financial Statements** and related tax documents, or a **financial letter from your accountant**.

The Winchester Foundation exists to support students and families who are experiencing financial stress. If you have any questions or require further assistance, please contact our office on **07 4953 3378** or email us at scholarship@winchesterfoundation.org.

We look forward to supporting another generation of country students as they take the next steps in their educational journey.

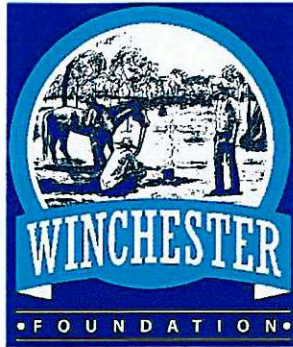
Kind Regards,

Judy Harris

Manager.

Empowering Country Children Through Education

The John and Beryl Neilsen Winchester Foundation is an Australian Registered Charity, ABN 12 266 546 778



The *Beryl Neilsen* Winchester Scholarships Story

Beryl Neilsen OAM and her late husband John saw firsthand the gap and difficulties experienced by country children in the field of education when compared with their city counterparts. They often discussed this and the seed was planted on how they could help, but as we all know, life is not always easy in the country with droughts, floods, pest activities, capital demands, setbacks, bank pressure, Mining Companies, Government Laws etc., etc., but the plan was always present.

Despite many setbacks, the work and activities on “Winchester”, we were blessed to the extent that in 2010 together with Beryl’s fellow founding Trustees, Cliff Flor and John Formosa, Beryl was able to fulfil their dream and the “John & Beryl Neilsen Winchester Foundation” was finally registered as a Public Foundation in 2011.

From a slow start in 2012, the Foundation has been gaining momentum.

- **2012 – 4** Inaugural Tertiary Scholarships Awarded
To
- **2025 – 357** Scholarships Awarded - 195 Secondary; 162 Tertiary

All Recipients and Parents become “Winchester Ambassadors” to help promote the Foundation.

Scholarships range from Secondary and Primary School Studies, through to University Studies and TAFE studies. In total 1970 Scholarships have been granted from the inception of the Foundation to 725 Students.

To date 108 Recipients have graduated from Universities Studies and 142 Recipients have graduated from Year 12.

In 2013 the “Winchester Foundation” organised and funded 93 Students and 14 Teachers from Brigalow District Schools – Mistake Creek, Kilcummin, Coppabella, Valkyrie, Nebo MacKenzie River & Clarke Creek to attend the Whitsunday Voices Youth Literature Festival held at Whitsunday Anglican School Mackay.

In 2024 - 434 Students – 68 teachers – 22 schools attended the festival by way of the Winchester Foundation. Thanks to the voluntary efforts of many, over the last 11 years a total 5,274 students have attended this wonderful Festival.

Beryl’s support has also extended to supporting the Annual ICPA State Conference each year. 2019 Beryl was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation at Charters Towers Conference for her continued support.

Beryl was honoured by the Isaac Regional Council in January, 2018 being awarded Isaac Regional Council’s Citizen of the Year Award for her amazing work in Creating Education Opportunities for Country Children.

In September, 2021 Beryl was awarded an Order of Australia Medal by Governor of Queensland, His Excellency The Honourable Paul De Jersey at a special ceremony at Government House in Brisbane. Beryl received this award for service to the community through charitable organisations, for her support to education of children in remote and isolated areas.

Beryl sadly passed away on 3rd July, 2023.

Winchester Scholarships is a lasting tribute to Beryl’s legacy.

Her dream lives on



