

# Foundation helps realise dreams

**G**ROWING up in regional Australia has its challenges, but the biggest stress for families out west is the affordability of a higher education.

Dreams of careers in science, medicine, teaching and veterinarian can seem far away when you live hundreds of kilometres from a major city.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics shows that the participation rate of rural and regional youth in tertiary education is only 17 per cent, compared to 26 per cent for young people in metropolitan areas.

Geographic isolation, lack of understanding about choices available and financial hardship are just some of the factors that prevent many young people from pursuing an education.

The Winchester Foundation, established by Beryl Neilsen in 2011, is an organisation dedicated to helping young people achieve



The Winchester Foundation's Judy Harris, founder Beryl Neilsen and Ruth Bethel.

their education goals.

Major sponsors of this year's Isolated Children's Parents Association conference, the Winchester Foundation aims to see rural and regional families given the same opportunities as those living in the cities.

Scholarships are awarded to successful recipients to assist with their study costs.

The foundation's alliance with Whitsunday Voices offers students from out west the opportunity to attend creative seminars.

Mrs Neilsen said the Winchester Foundation acted as lasting mementos to her and her late husband John, as well as their property known as Winchester.