

NEWS

FUNDING Encouraging regional study
36 scholarships on offer to study in Byron Bay

THIRTY-SIX scholarships of up to \$15,000 each are on offer to students studying in Byron Bay thanks to funding from the Federal Government.

SAE Creative Media Institute (SAE) and the Australian College of Applied Professions (ACAP) collectively secured \$1.26 million in funding as part of the Australian Government's Destination Australia program.

This investment will support 36 scholarships for new students to study at the Byron Bay campus on Ewingsdale Road, while stimulating growth in the Northern Rivers region by enhancing educational opportunities in creative media and counselling.

The program funds eligible tertiary education providers like SAE and ACAP to offer scholarships of up to \$15,000 per student per year to students to study and live in regional Australia.

Domestic students from underrepresented groups such as from low socioeconomic backgrounds, those who are first in their family to study at a tertiary level, those living with a disability, and First Nations people will be given priority.

The study areas that qualify at SAE include animation, audio, film, games and music.

At ACAP, the one-year Diploma of Counselling Skills and three-year Bachelor of Counselling courses are eligible under the program.

ACAP CEO, George Garrop, highlighted the importance of the funding and the expected opportunities within the counselling industry.

"This investment will financially assist new domestic counselling students who wish to live and study in the Northern Rivers region," he said. "In addition, these funds will support the growing counselling sector, which is expected to expand by 14 per cent until 2026."

SAE General Manager, Dr Luke McMillan said the announcement was a testament to the exceptional education experience and support provided at the Byron Bay campus.

"SAE is delighted to be providing new international and domestic students with financial support to pursue their dreams, while contributing to the growth of the Northern Rivers creative media industry."

SAE graduate and former Destination Australia scholarship recipient, Fernanda Gerdes, shared her success story.

"Receiving the Destination Australia scholarship was life-changing for me," Fernanda said. "It not only allowed me to relocate from my home in Brazil to Byron Bay, but since graduating I've been able to build a successful art business locally."

Scholarships are available for new students commencing studies in February 2024. To apply, visit the SAE and ACAP websites.



Clubhouse Lismore is running holiday workshops for 12- to 18-year-olds in January.

Take a peek into the world of VR

CLUBHOUSE Lismore - a free tech learning space - is running holiday workshops for 12- to 18-year-olds in January, but you need to book as places are limited.

At the Clubhouse workshops young people can try: 3D printing, digital design, virtual reality, electronic music production, and podcasting.

Children, Youth and Families Program Manager Kiara McBeath said the holiday workshops will give

teenagers the chance to turn ideas into creations.

The Clubhouse will host everything from 3D printing experience, creating mini-characters or nameplates to virtual reality Beat Saber Tournaments, virtual reality mini golf tournament, and a virtual reality dance-off.

"And Clubhouse also offers electronic music production and DJ-ing. You can create a hip hop song." "Then there are our digital canvases allowing you to

bring your visions to life with digital art and design. Create your own emojis for social media. Make avatars and turn them into badges. Produce photo creations on the greenscreen and print them on the photo printer."

The programs run until January 25. To register visit the website socialfutures.org.au/clubhouse, phone Clubhouse on 1800 719 625, or email clubhouse@socialfutures.org.au

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