



# The world's her oyster

## Three-year \$115,000 scholarship for Patryce



PATRYCE Nona, has begun studying at Bond University, on the Gold Coast, after being named as the inaugural

recipient of the Indigenous Land Corporation Tourism Scholarship.

The scholarship, worth more than \$115,000 over three years and jointly funded by the ILC and Bond University, will cover the full tuition fees of Patryce's Bachelor of International Hotel and Resort Management.

It will also provide her with the opportunity to undertake an internship at an Indigenous tourism business operated by the ILC.

The 17-year-old grew up in

Innisfail, north Queensland, before moving with her family to the Gold Coast in 2004 in search of better educational and employment opportunities.

She enrolled at Benowa State High School, where she studied hospitality and became part of a select group of Indigenous students in south east Queensland to complete a Hospitality Certificate through the Sea World Resort and Water Park.

"It was during this time that I discovered my drive and passion to further my career in the hospitality and tourism industry," Patryce said.

### Follow dream

Having graduated from high school last year, she said winning the scholarship had given her the opportunity to pursue her dream of working in the tourism industry.

"This scholarship is a unique opportunity for Indigenous people like myself to study at an elite university and become role models for other Indigenous students who are interested in the tourism industry," she said.

"My goal is to build on my existing knowledge and gain a recognised qualification that will allow me to travel and work in hotels around the world."

Patryce's scholarship is the first of three to be provided by the ILC in partnership with Bond University, with two more scholarships available to students wishing to commence next year.

ILC general manager David Galvin said it was the first time the ILC had joined with a university to offer scholarships.

"We are excited about the opportunity this will provide to Indigenous students, like Patryce, who are wanting to study tourism," Mr Galvin said.

"The ILC board strongly believes that tourism offers long-term and sustainable benefits for Indigenous communities, particularly in relation to training and employment opportunities."

Bond University Head of School of Hotel, Resort and Tourism Management Professor Elizabeth Roberts, said partnering with the ILC was a long-term vision for the future of the tourism industry.



**The sky's the limit for Patryce.**