

Talented musician hitting all the right notes

MACKAY

ST Patrick's College, Mackay, 2015 graduate Will Anderson is making his mark on the Australian music industry with the release of his debut single Notions this year.

During his senior year he won the People's Choice Awards in Australia's largest singer-songwriter program, Telstra's Road to Discovery, and in 2016 was runner-up in Queensland Music's Most Promising Male Songwriter competition.

Since then he has performed at the Caloundra Music Festival, Caxton Street Festival and Byron Bay Bluefest Buxing as well as having supporting slots with The Cat Empire, Busby Marou and Kingswood.

Triple J Unearthed described Anderson as a talented 19-year-old musician who blended modern production with smooth vocals, didgeridoos, guitar and percussion to create a soulful one-of-a-kind sound.

His musical journey only began four years ago when he was gifted his father's guitar.

Since then he has been busy learning to play more than 10 different instruments including the didgeridoo.

Under the guidance of local Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal mentors, Mr Anderson learnt to carve his own didgeridoos from local Mackay trees.

"I have always wanted to share in the incredible Aboriginal culture and bring people together with my music; these didgeridoos have let me do that," he said.

His success comes as no surprise to his former teachers at St Patrick's College who remember him as a talented and dedicated student with a great passion for music and sharing his gifts.

Head of English-Arts Dean Andric said Anderson endeavoured to excel in every facet of college life and his musical talent was evident.

"Will and fellow student Jack Gray won the 2015 state final of the Queensland Youth Shakespeare Festival, Music Category with



Making music: St Patrick's College, Mackay, 2015 graduate Will Anderson.

their Romeo and Juliet concept," he said.

"As one of the hottest young artists in our nation, I have no doubt that we will find Will being streamed into our lounge rooms and onto our iPads in the near future."

College cultural program leader Sarah

Rozekrans said Anderson was a committed and mature student who excelled in the field of composition.

"His talent and determination deserves every bit of attention that he's gained since graduation," Ms Rozenkrans said.



Award winners: (From left) Chantel Beatson, Emma Dunrobin and Christi Chapman; and (below) Hannah Thompson.

CQU rewards Catholic community members

ROCKHAMPTON

INDIGENOUS student graduates and a staff member from Catholic secondary colleges in Rockhampton diocese were among this year's Central Queensland University Student Award recipients presented at a ceremony in Rockhampton recently.

Graduates from Emmaus College, Rockhampton, Hannah Thompson in 2014 and Chantel Beatson in 2016, received BMA Indigenous Scholarships, and St Patrick's College, Mackay, 2015 graduate Emma Dunrobin and teacher aide from Shalom College, Bundaberg, Christi Chapman were each awarded Aboriginal Community Development Fund Scholarships to assist with their studies at CQU.

Ms Thompson is studying speech therapy, Ms Dunrobin is completing a business degree, Ms Beatson is undertaking medical science studies and Ms Chapman is studying a Bachelor of Business and Account-



ing, and is set to move to Brisbane to take up a banking internship.

Ms Thompson was nominated as the student award guest speaker at the event and said she was honoured to be a scholarship recipient.

She said the award had turned her life around.

"The generosity of scholarship donors has a profound and enduring impact on

communities and has the potential to change the lives of recipients," she said.

In recent years, Ms Thompson said she had juggled her studies alongside working as a pharmacy assistant, volunteering for the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience and playing netball.

She said she pursued speech pathology due to her love of communication and science - particularly human anatomy.

"I also had a personal first-hand experience watching a speech pathologist work with my grandmother who had a stroke about two-and-a-half years ago," she said.

"My BMA Scholarship is ultimately allowing me to put myself in a position to help others who wouldn't otherwise have access to these specialty areas."

Ms Thompson is proud of her indigenous heritage and was looking forward to contributing to communities when she completes her studies.

"I have a passion to work within Aboriginal communities alongside the government to help close the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians," she said.

Ms Thompson said she was the first child from her family to go to university "and I absolutely love it".

Bundy celebrates sacramental highs

BUNDABERG

ROCKHAMPTON Bishop Michael McCarthy conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation on more than 50 children in Bundaberg parish on June 16.

Bishop McCarthy also celebrated Masses across the weekend where children received their First Communion.

Parish associate pastor Fr Andrew Hogan wrote in the parish bulletin explaining to the children at Confirmation they had received the power of the Holy Spirit.

"Now, as you receive your First Communion you receive the gift of Jesus into your life in a very special way," he wrote.

"As we celebrate Eucharist, we remember the gift that Jesus gave to us in this special meal, and the gift of his life on the cross.

"As you are now fully initiated in the Church, it is your responsibility to tell the world about the great gift that Jesus has given to us, and show the world the love that God has for each and every person by what you say and what you do."



Blessed day: Sarah Doyle, Lily Thompson and Joseph Doyle with Bishop Michael McCarthy after their First Communion at St Patrick's Church, Bundaberg, on June 17.

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