

EDITION 708

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2019

Scholarship winners gather to celebrate



THE completion of secondary education by 60 Year 12 students on an Australian Indigenous Education Foundation (AIEF) Scholarship has been celebrated this month.

Students from AIEF partner schools in NSW, Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia travelled to Sydney to attend the graduation ceremony on August 9.

The students came from communities across Australia – from Mabuag Island in the north, to Warrnambool in the south and Camarvon in the west.

Student and alumni speakers from Normanton, Cairns and Bowen in Qld, Roebourne in WA, and Redfern in Sydney took to the stage to celebrate the achievements of the Class of 2019.

The graduating students are planning to pursue career pathways at university, in training and employment including medicine and nursing, education, business, and the police force.

The AIEF says many

students are passionate about social justice, keen to work to improve the lives of Indigenous communities across Australia, or hoping to learn new skills that they can take back to their home communities.

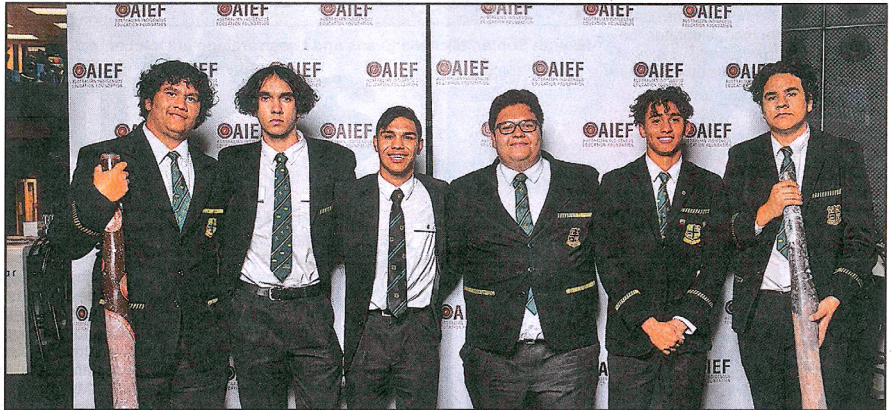
AIEF executive director Andrew Penfold said the graduating students and their achievements were a "tremendous source of pride for AIEF".

"The Australian Indigenous Education Foundation was established in response to community demand from Indigenous families who choose to enrol their children in boarding schools," Mr Penfold said.

"The success of the program is driven by the students who want to change their lives, and the families and communities that support them to achieve their goals.

"Nobody gives you an education. You earn it yourself and that's why it is so powerful."

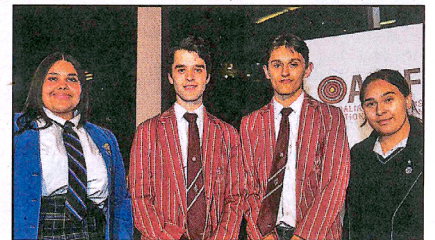
Backed by some of Australia's most influential business, government and community leaders, AIEF has grown from one scholarship student to now having around 450 students on scholarships.



Jonas Bennell, Flynn Mallard, Cordell Green, Jordan Churnside, Cameron Anderson and Angus Lane.



Pymble Ladies College students Onyinye Nwamadi, Libby Cook-Black, Xhana Tishler and Shakira Tyson.



Angeline Raggett, Liam Barlow, Jack Ramsay and Eliza Shaw.