

SOVEREIGN HILLS UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO TWO LOCALS

Sovereign Hills announced it has awarded two individual scholarships valued at \$4,500 each to Port Macquarie students through 'The Lewis Land Group Sovereign Hills Scholarship Program'.

Julie McCoy and David Portelli will both study the Bachelor of Applied Information Technology at the University of Newcastle's Port Macquarie campus, with the assistance of the scholarships.

Funds for the scholarships have been provided by the Sovereign Hills development, a 350 hectare land parcel located on part of Area 13 on the corner of Oxley and Pacific Highways that is set to become a vibrant new community to the west of Port Macquarie.

Sovereign Hills Scholarship winner Julie McCoy aged 19 of Laurieton is the only female enrolled in the course at the Port Macquarie campus and believes this has increased her dedication to succeeding in the industry.

"It makes me more determined to be a successful graduate and future businessperson", she said.

Julie works part-time at Camden Haven Fruit & Veg and said that the Sovereign Hills scholarship will assist her to effectively balance her time between working and studying.

"The scholarship will be a huge help for me and enable me to plan my working hours around my study. It will really ease the pressure," she said.

David Portelli is 29 years old and married with two young children. While he has worked as a carpenter for the last four years and operated his own handyman business for almost 10 years – he has always been interested in IT.

"IT has always been a hobby of mine and something I am interested to learn more about. Full-time study with a family is difficult enough - and more so when the financial considerations come into it – like text books, travel costs and time spent studying rather than earning income," he said.

The Sovereign Hills scholarship will enable David to spend more time studying to ensure he succeeds in completing his degree.

“I am looking forward to building a career in IT – and more than that, I am looking forward to being able to provide a good education for my children,” he said.

Mr Robert Yandell, Director of the Lewis Land Group, said that the Sovereign Hills team is delighted with the diversity the selected students portray.

“Education is all about creating opportunity for interested people to learn and grow – and it is fantastic that we can help do this for David and Julie. It is remarkable that our students are a young father with his own business and the only girl in the IT course,” Mr Yandell said.

“We are proud to be active in supporting Port Macquarie’s talent and committed to further education,” he said.

It is expected that Sovereign Hills will include a range of residential dwelling types, a commercial precinct, town centre with convenience retail, an aged care centre of excellence and educational and recreational facilities to support the new community.