

MEDIA RELEASE

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World class film studios give students reason to call Byron home

The global film industry has its eye on Byron Bay. With shows like *Nine Perfect Strangers* (Nicole Kidman), Stan's *Eden*, and comedy, *God's Favourite Idiot* (Melissa McCarthy) being filmed in the region recently; the development of Byron Studios to meet demand was inevitable as the local film industry continues to boom. For creative students dreaming of a future in the industry, it also means there's a clear pathway for a career in their hometown, which wasn't previously possible.

Cumulus Visual Effects was founded by William Gammon, who's also the brains behind Byron Studios, and has gone on to provide premium effects for an array of international television shows and films including *Peter Rabbit*, National Geographic's *Mars*, and *Lambs of God*; right here in Byron Bay. "The Byron film industry is renowned around the world for the quality of its talent and the passion for filmmaking," William said.

"The local industry is responding to the global demand, and excitingly this means that the industry professionals of tomorrow don't need to move abroad to make it as filmmakers; they can hone their craft right here in Byron."

One up-and-coming visual effects professional is SAE Creative Media Institute's Phoenix Batchelor, who was recently selected to sharpen his skills at Cumulus, as part of his Bachelor of Animation degree at SAE's Byron Bay campus. "The experience at Cumulus really opened my mind. I love film, and getting the chance to do what I love made me really excited to learn more," Phoenix said.

"Knowing I may have the opportunity to work on huge international films and shows right here in Byron when I graduate, is awesome."



ANIMATION

AUDIO
& MUSICCREATIVE
INDUSTRIES

DESIGN



FILM



GAMES

WEB &
MOBILE

SAE National Manager Careers and Enterprise, Lisa O'Meara remarked that studios like Cumulus provide valuable opportunities for students.

"Film studios like Cumulus offer SAE students the chance to learn at an exemplary film studio, as well as connect with industry professionals which in turn increases students' understanding of the industry and enhances their employability," Lisa said.

"With the Federal Government investing \$400 million in the screen industry, and Byron Studios planning to offer 1,000 new jobs in the region over the next five years, the tools and skills that SAE students learn through industry placements like Cumulus will get them real-world-ready; hopefully with the option to stay locally."

SAE is the place for creators and innovators; the leaders in creative media education across seven disciplines – animation, audio and music, creative industries, design, film, games, web and mobile. Find out more at sae.edu.au

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Imagery

Up-and-coming visual effects artist, Phoenix Batchelor is studying animation at SAE Byron Bay



About SAE

SAE Creative Media Institute is the place for creatives and innovators. Since 1976 we've been the leaders in creative media education across animation, audio, creative industries, design, film, games, web and mobile. Every year, we support more than 10,000 students globally to develop the skills and experience needed to carve successful careers. Students enjoy access to the latest technology and are taught by industry-experienced faculty, while putting their skills to the test in small class environments. Our graduates become part of a highly-respected global community of creatives that's been around for over 40 years. We pride ourselves on being technically explorative, transformative and brave through our range of creative media programs, from short courses and professional training through to bachelor and postgraduate degrees. In Australia, our programs are delivered at campuses in Sydney, Brisbane, Byron Bay, Melbourne, Perth and Adelaide. SAE is a part of Navitas Pty Ltd. More information about SAE is available at sae.edu.au.

About Navitas

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