Student in Focus: Jordan Kilcoyne

Meet Jordan Kilcoyne – one of our newest Indigenous Scholarship students who has just finished the first semester of his Diploma of Legal Studies.
Late last year, Jordan Kilcoyne was in his maths class at TSS when a message came through on his phone.

“I said to my teacher: ‘I think this might be really important’; so she let me go outside to return the call.

“It was Bond University, telling me I’d been granted an Indigenous Scholarship to study a Diploma of Legal Studies. I walked back into the room with the biggest smile on my face and told the whole class. I couldn’t keep it in – it was just one of those moments.”

Jordan has had quite a few of ‘those moments’ since he started at Bond in January.

Like when he travelled up to Abergowrie with the Bond Indigenous Awareness Society to work with the boys at St Teresa’s College.

“There were a lot of kids there from the Torres Strait Islands and some from Saibai Island where my grandfather’s family came from.

“As soon as I said my granddad’s name, all these kids from Saibai came up to me – it was almost like meeting family.

“They have a dance group at the college so I got to sing and play music with them and to make these cool traditional costumes and to learn the moves.

“I remembered these songs from when I was really young and would visit my grandparents when they were living at Seisia near Cape York.

“It was just the best experience – like getting back in touch with my roots.”

Then there’s been the opportunities Jordan has had to meet successful Indigenous professionals through the Nyombil Centre.

“Growing up in Townsville, I didn’t really have any Indigenous role models apart from football players,” he said.

“I told myself I just had to be my own role model – I was the first in my family to get a scholarship to go to a private school; the first one to go to university.

“But here at Bond, I’m meeting Indigenous people who are making a difference in business, law, health and other areas.

“It motivates me to follow in their footsteps; knowing that I can aim to be that successful as well.”

With his first semester exams completed, it seems Jordan is certainly on the right path to emulating his new role models.

“I reckon I killed it,” he says of his first exam experience. “I achieved greats marks, so I was stoked!”

Jordan hasn’t yet decided which branch of law he’ll pursue but he lists Business Law and Contemporary Law as his favourite subjects so far.

“It’s really interesting to see how law works in business and that your case relies on how well you can argue it,” he said.

“Contemporary law is more about how the law was formed so those two subjects have been like looking at two sides of the coin.”

When he’s not in class or joining in with the Indigenous Awareness Society activities, you’ll most likely find Jordan on the rugby field or out in the surf.

“I love my sport! I’m not a real star or anything but, after a full day of classes, it’s a good balance to get outside and run around at training.”

As part of Bond’s first-ever team to enter the Indigenous University Games, Jordan had a go at a few other sports as well – touch football, volleyball, basketball and netball.

And he tries to get out for a surf every morning.

Jordan was hooked on the idea of studying Law at Bond from the moment he stepped inside the moot court on a campus tour last year.

“I’d checked out a few other universities and they didn’t have anything that came close to this,” he said.

“I was determined to do whatever I could to get to Bond but, financially, I knew we couldn’t afford it.

“The scholarship was my passport and I think it’s fantastic that Bond has all these partners who are giving Indigenous kids like me the opportunity to study at a prestige university.

“I want to say a huge thank you to all of the supporters who made it possible for me - if I was there in person, I’d give them a big hug!

“I also want to say: Please keep on doing what you’re doing because it is making a huge difference in our lives.”
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Bond University would like to thank Dr Patrick Corrigan AM and the following companies for their generous contributions.

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