

# Gifted Isabella has IQ of 129



Clifton Beach 13 year old Isabella Burton-Clark.

Clifton Beach school girl Isabella Burton-Clark has proven her mental prowess by winning a scholarship to the Scientia Challenge program in Sydney.

The program is designed for academically gifted and talented high school students in Years 7-10 with an IQ of 120 or more. McDonald's sponsors the program with a scholarship that covers program fees and is allocated on the basis of financial hardship or geographical isolation.

Isabella, 13, has an IQ of 129 and was one of 17 students throughout Australia to receive the scholarship.

Isabella said she loved a challenge that would see her learn alongside the brightest minds in Australia.

Isabella will come away from the program knowing a lot more about "Genes and the Mystery of Life".

McDonald's Cairns Central licensee Christine Vincent said she was proud to see the St Monica's College Year Nine student experience this wonderful opportunity.

Isabella's mother said her eldest daughter was noticeably bright from the age of three when she could point to the letters of the alphabet.

"She was always questioning and wanting to

learn," Kathy Burton-Clark said. "She read the first Harry Potter book just after her seventh birthday."

Isabella has two younger sisters Sophia and Charlotte and hopes to be a doctor when she finishes school. She is very good in maths and is interested in environmental issues.

"It is challenging as a parent to ensure children's interests are pursued and I have always tried to encourage her to follow and maintain these interests," Kathy said.

"We have been in contact with Geric at the UNSW for a number of years and applied for the scholarship."

Kathy said if these sort of courses could be held in regional centres throughout Queensland it would be beneficial for gifted children in the state.

The Scientia Challenge program features a range of workshops from a number of academic disciplines developed and presented by academics of the University of New South Wales considered to be leaders in their field.

The level of difficulty in the courses is aimed at Years 11 and 12, providing a rigorous and challenging program for gifted students and the opportunity for these individuals to socialise with like-minded children of similar interests.

# Tree poison vandalism



The poisoning of seven casuarina trees at the southern end of O'Shea Esplanade has become more routine, than a one-off incident in childish vandalism. The trees were planted in 2003 by Old Bert who died last year.

Machans Beach Community Association's Deryck Thompson said the matter was given serious consideration at the community meeting.

"Given all the tree poisoning and cutting we have had in recent years, in Port Douglas, Clifton Beach, Yorkeys, maybe, it is time Council showed some tenacity with the problem," Mr Thompson said.

"Other councils have devised novel ideas to combat environmental vandalism."

Because the poisoning was detected early, council officers have tried to revive the trees by fertilising them and putting them on 24-hour watering.

Meanwhile council has planted 10 new ones to replace the poisoned ones.



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