

Scholarships help realise potential

NOW in their second year, the GEO Group's Youth in Focus scholarships aim to help Junee's younger residents achieve their potential.

The grants award up to \$2500 in three distinct categories – academic excellence, sporting distinction and creative arts.

Self-taught musician Adam Whicker, 16, is a member of Junee's much loved town band and the NSW state senior wind band.

He's been selected to travel to Hong Kong to play at the International Youth Music Festival as part of the West of the NSW Divide Wind Ensemble.

To help fund the trip Adam works two jobs and said the creative arts scholarship funds would go a long way to reducing the cost of travel.

"I'd have needed a lot of extra shifts and maybe would have needed to get a third job" he said.

GEO Group human resources manager John Barnes said it was a great pleasure to support an opportunity which could lead to a life changing experience for a young Junee person. After getting early entry



YOUTH FOCUS: The GEO Group's contracts compliance manager Craig Footman (left), HR manager John Barnes (right) and Australia Day Ambassador Gary Dawson with Youth in Focus scholarship winners Annabel White, 14, Emily Butler (centre) and Adam Whicker, 16.

to the University of Wollongong's Bachelor of Laws Emily Butler has maintained a distinction average for three years.

Ms Butler's study focus is access to justice in regional communities for young people and she said the academic excellence scholarship would provide books for study.

"They're (the GEO Group) an asset to our community," she said

"We're very pleased to recognise and support someone with such an impressive educational record (as Ms Butler)," Mr Barnes said.

Swimmer Annabel White is aiming to qualify for the national championships in South Australia and the open state championships in Sydney this year.

She trains for two hours, seven times a week and is coached by Noel Poynter from Junee Swimming Club.

Annabel, 14, said the funds would help her get to the championships and provide incentive to keep training.

"It's great that (GEO) are helping us improve in what we want to achieve," she said.