

9 November 2010

## **Ansett Trust launches with grants totalling \$1.25 million**

The RM Ansett Trust this evening (Wednesday, November 10) announced its inaugural grants. The Trust was launched by Equity Trustees' director Mr Jeff Kennett, charity supporter and former Victorian Premier.

It will be one of the most substantial perpetual philanthropic trusts in Victoria and has been established with a significant portion of Sir Reginald Ansett's estate. When finalised it is expected to have a capital value of approximately \$40 million, and will make grants annually.

Over \$1,250,000 is being committed by the Trust in its inaugural grants, with the key aim of helping Victorian children and young people to "take their place in life". As directed in Sir Reginald's will, special consideration is given to The Peninsula School and Toorak College – representing his close association with the Mornington Peninsula.

There will be 32 beneficiaries of the inaugural grants and scholarships. (For a full list of scholarships, grants and recipients, see attached).

The biggest grant, of \$150,000, has been made to the Community Connections alternative child education and mentoring program.

Inaugural grants include \$122,000 to the Mirabel Foundation (assisting children orphaned or abandoned) and to charities supporting disadvantaged children (Western Chances), young people suffering mental health problems (Back into Life), short-term care for children in need (Cottage by the Sea), numeracy and literacy support (LiveWires), autistic children (CountryLink), mentoring for young women (Cara Friendship Program), and children needing help with mobility (Scope (Vic)), among others.

A number of scholarships were also granted, including full scholarships to three schools, ten other secondary school part-scholarships, and a scholarship for a Bachelor of Aviation at Swinburne University. The three full scholarships are for The Peninsula School, Toorak College, and The Hamilton & Alexandra College, and are awarded for academic excellence to students who would not otherwise be able to attend the schools. They cover all costs of participating fully in school life, and will continue for the children's entire secondary education.

The Toorak College scholarship was awarded to Lydia Sullivan, who now attends Mornington Secondary College. The Peninsula School scholarship goes to Kiani Devis-Scott, school captain at Mornington Park Primary School. Sean Barnes, school captain at Gray Street Primary School in Hamilton, will now attend The Hamilton & Alexandra College.

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Mr Lachlan Wraith, head of personal estates and trusts at Equity Trustees, which is co-trustee and manager of the RM Ansett Trust, said that the range of donations made in the inaugural grants indicated the level of support needed for disadvantaged children and young people in Victoria, as well as the number of organisations and volunteers prepared to work for them.

“Without these organisations, and the generosity of philanthropists such as Sir Reginald, our community would be much the poorer, and the level of real suffering and social strain would be greater.

“Sir Reginald has continued the tradition that first gathered momentum in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, of wealthy Victorian families and individuals seeking to help those less fortunate in society.

“The range of trusts managed by Equity Trustees since those days, and the organisations that many of them support, is testament to the continuing commitment by Victorians who wish to help others,” he said.

Mr Keith Simpson, co-trustee and a close colleague and associate of Sir Reginald for 32 years, said that Sir Reginald would have been impressed with the professionalism shown in selecting worthwhile grants, especially as some of his specific interests, including education and the aviation industry, are reflected in them.

“In particular, Sir Reginald had a strong affinity with the Mornington Peninsula. He loved living there and was proud of his role as Chairman of the Mornington Racing Club.

“Sir Reginald was anxious to see young people get a good education and to help those whose circumstances might prevent them getting the start in life that their talents deserved. He also had a particular interest in the work of The Peninsula School and Toorak College.”

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