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Inaugural Ansett Aviation Scholarship presented

The inaugural Sir Reginald Ansett Scholarship for Aviation at Swinburne University, for \$30,000 over three years, has been presented to Ms Jessie Brittingham.

Ms Brittingham was selected for the scholarship by Equity Trustees Limited (EQT) and Mr Keith Simpson, co-trustees of the RM Ansett Trust which was set up under the will of Sir Reginald Ansett.

Ms Tabitha Lovett, Head of Philanthropy Services at EQT, said that the scholarship is intended to assist with the costs associated with aviation studies, and enable young people to realise their dreams of an aviation career by reducing the need to work outside of university in order to finance their study costs.

“Sir Reginald Ansett, founder of Ansett Airlines, had a lifetime passion for flying and because of this, an aviation scholarship was established as part of the RM Ansett Trust to reflect his desire to help young Australians to take their place in life.

“The scholarship will help students who show real ability and love of flying to complete the very challenging Swinbourne University aviation degree.

“As part of their application, students must provide a personal statement that shows their desire for an aviation career.

“Jessie has already shown her own passion for flying and her commitment to becoming a pilot, including working part-time through school in order to pay for flying lessons,” Ms Lovett said.

A new scholarship is awarded every year.

The RM Ansett Trust was established through the Will of Sir Reginald Ansett and launched in 2010 with the aim of “helping children to take their place in life”. It is managed by Equity Trustees Limited and Mr Keith Simpson, a friend of Sir Reginald, as co-trustees.

Sir Reginald was a well-known Australian businessman, aviator, and philanthropist, best known for founding Ansett Airlines. He also established a number of other business enterprises including Ansett Pioneer, Ansett Road Freight, and the ATV-0 television station in Melbourne (now part of Network Ten).

He directed that the income from the Trust be devoted to charity in Victoria, with preference given to charities which assist children, and to Peninsula School and Toorak College. The Trust will distribute more than \$1 million in total this year.

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