

12 April 2011

Oak Park student wins inaugural Ansett Aviation Scholarship

Ms Jessie Brittingham of Oak Park, who graduated from Pascoe Vale Girls Secondary College at the end of last year, has been awarded the inaugural Sir Reginald Ansett Scholarship for Aviation at Swinburne University, for \$30,000 over three years.

She was selected for the scholarship by Equity Trustees Limited (EQT) and Mr Keith Simpson, co-trustees of the R.M. Ansett Trust which was established under the will of Sir Reginald Ansett, founder of Ansett Airlines.

Ms Brittingham said she has always dreamed of becoming a pilot and worked part-time during high school to pay for flying lessons before deciding to undertake a Bachelor of Aviation degree when she left school.

"The aviation degree is a very expensive course because of the equipment that needs to be purchased or hired – such as renting aircraft for training.

"The scholarship is a huge relief in reducing much of the financial pressure and helping pay for my degree. It means that I can totally focus on my studies.

"It's particularly gratifying to win the inaugural scholarship, made possible by one of Australia's pioneers in aviation.

"My goal is to become a commercial airline pilot and this scholarship will help me achieve that aim," Ms Brittingham said.

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 R.M. 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 Swinburne University aviation degree," she said.

Ms Brittingham started her Bachelor of Aviation degree this year at Swinburne and expects to complete it in 2013. A new scholarship is awarded every year.

EQT RELEASE

The R.M. Ansett Trust was established through the will of Sir Reginald Ansett and launched in 2010 with the aim of “assisting 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 his Trust be devoted to charity in Victoria, with preference given to charities which assist “children to take their place in life”, and to Peninsula School and Toorak College. The Trust will distribute more than \$1 million in total this year.

For more information please contact:

Tabitha Lovett
Phone: 03 8623 5379
Email: tlovett@eqt.com.au

Jessie Brittingham
Phone: 03 9306 8200

This media release was prepared by Equity Trustees Limited and is only provided for information purposes. It does not contain investment recommendations nor provide investment advice.