

13 May 2015

Childhood Dream Becomes Sky High Reality Student Wins Sir Reginald Ansett Scholarship for Aviation at Swinburne University

Somerville student Jaryd Wetzel's aim to fly F-35's for the Royal Australian Air Force has been boosted by winning the Sir Reginald Ansett Scholarship for Aviation at Swinburne University.

The scholarship, established to honour the legacy of aviation pioneer Sir Reginald Ansett, is worth \$30,000 over three years of study and awarded each year to a student undertaking a Bachelor of Aviation.

Jaryd Wetzel said: "Winning the Sir Reginald Ansett scholarship removes the financial stress so I can focus on my flying and give it my very best. It gives me the best opportunity for success".

His love for flying started from the age of five when his father took him to the Tyabb airport most weekends where he watched the planes take off and land. It propelled him to make model planes and decorate his bedroom with airplane posters.

"My father was in the Navy and was interested in becoming a pilot but didn't have the same opportunity as my generation. His ship was stationed with an aircraft carrier which had regular flybys of Navy fighters," said Jaryd.

Jaryd went to Bayside Christian College in Langwarrin and received his VCE in 2013. In 2014 he had a gap year and worked full time to earn money towards his further education as a pilot. In 2015 he started the Bachelor of Aviation course at Swinburne University of Technology.

So far Jaryd has logged 60 hours dual and solo on a range of aircraft from Oxford's C172 to the Air Force's CT4-B at Tamworth. After the Bachelor of Aviation, his goal is to join the Royal Australian Air Force and fly F-35's.

Tabitha Lovett, General Manager, Philanthropy at Equity Trustees, said: "Jaryd's enthusiasm for flying from a young age as well as his determination to become a pilot make him a standout choice as the winner of this year's Ansett Aviation scholarship".

"His commitment to work during his VCE and gap year to fund his studies demonstrated impressive focus and drive. We are pleased Sir Reginald's scholarship will lessen the financial pressure on Jaryd and his family to see him through his studies," she added.

The scholarship is administered by Equity Trustees, through its role as trustee of the R.M. Ansett Trust, and is awarded to students undertaking the Swinburne University aviation degree who have outstanding academic achievements, show real aptitude for aviation and can demonstrate financial need.

The R.M. Ansett Trust was established under Sir Reginald's will with the aim of "helping children to take their place in life". The Ansett Trust distributes over \$1 million annually through social equity scholarships at secondary and tertiary schools, and grants to charities supporting children in Victoria.

Equity Trustees Media Release



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