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Alice Springs resident awarded 2012 Sir Reginald Ansett aviation scholarship

Mr Cruz Vida of Alice Springs, Northern Territory has been selected as the 2012 recipient of the Sir Reginald Ansett Scholarship for Aviation at Swinburne University. The scholarship provides Mr Vida with \$30,000 over three years of his course of study.

The Scholarship was established by the trustees of the R M Ansett Trust to honour the legacy of aviation pioneer Sir Reginald Ansett.

It is administered by Equity Trustees Limited (EQT), through its role as manager of the R M Ansett Trust, and is awarded to students who are undertaking the Swinburne University aviation degree and who show real aptitude for aviation, together with a love of flying

A former student at Alice Springs' St Philip's College, Mr Vida started flying four years ago at the Alice Springs Aero Club when he was 16 years old, earning his Sport Pilot License and passing the General Flying Progress Test.

He said that his ambition from childhood has been to learn to fly, and ultimately become a commercial pilot.

“One of my earliest memories as a young child is going into the cockpit during a long haul flight, talking to the pilots and seeing the controls.

“Then on my 16th birthday my father surprised me with a flying lesson for a birthday present, and that really confirmed my ambitions.

“I hope to become a commercial pilot once I've completed the aviation degree, and am delighted I am able to study at Swinburne University, which is regarded in the aviation industry as offering the very best university aviation course.

“Receiving the Ansett Aviation Scholarship will make an enormous difference to my time at university as it will help me continue flying on a regular basis which, in turn, will help me build up the hours I need to become a commercial pilot,” Mr Vida said.

Ms Tabitha Lovett, head of philanthropy at EQT, said that Mr Vida's self-evident passion for aviation and the commitment he has shown to pursue a career as a pilot made him the standout candidate for the scholarship.

“The way he took on work as a teenager to earn enough to take flying lessons, as well as gaining the grades to qualify for the aviation degree at Swinburne University, is very impressive.

“The scholarship will help meet some of the additional costs associated with aviation studies while he is at university. These additional costs include pilot's equipment such as headsets and uniforms, as well as other study and living costs,” Ms Lovett said.

EQT Media Release

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Sir Reginald Ansett 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).

The R M Ansett Trust was established under Sir Reginald's will and launched in 2010 with the aim of "helping children to take their place in life." It is managed by Equity Trustees Limited. Sir Reginald directed that the income from the Trust be devoted to charities in Victoria, with preference given to charities which assist children, to Peninsula School and to Toorak College. Since its inception, the Ansett Trust has distributed over \$1 million in the form of scholarships to financially disadvantaged secondary and tertiary school students, signature projects and grants to charities throughout Victoria.

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