

Connellan Chooses Two Winners

Mark Coffey, Chairman of Connellan Airways, announces the 2019 E.J. Connellan Award. This year there are two winners.

The Junior Award was presented to Curtis Rayment He will receive \$20,000 over four years of his degree.

Ellen Litchfield is the Senior winner and she will receive \$10,000.

Home for Curtis is Eildon Park Station in Winton QLD and having completed a Bachelor of Health Sciences at the



University of Queensland in 2016 he received the Deans Commendation for Academic Excellence. He is now in his 2nd year of a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery at James Cook University QLD. He plays premier rugby at Teachers West Rugby where he also coaches several of the junior teams. He also coaches at Townsville's Cathedral School where he works as a Boarding School Supervisor.

resources in the isolated areas. Yes, I am some time away from becoming a doctor but I am a very young and proactive man whose dream is to make a difference. The sky is the limit and this award gives me the opportunity to reach that."

Mr Coffey said, "Curtis is committed to assisting people in the outback which is an important element of the E.J. Connellan Award. We are very happy to support Curtis given the additional costs t people from outback Australia have in accessing specialist courses such as medicine. Rural Australia needs more doctors and we hope, that by supporting Curtis, he will return to the bush and provide a much needed service to people in the outback."

CONNELLAN AIRWAYS TRUST

The Connellan Airways Trust was established to assist the people who reside in the remote areas of outback Australia with **financial support for any worthwhile project**, particularly involving education, communication, transport and health services. The trust welcomes enquiries from all those who may be eligible for assistance. If you think you may be eligible, you are encouraged to contact:

Executive Officer of the Trust

Free Call: 1800 733 810

Email: executiveofficer@connellanairwaystrust.org.au

Address: PO Box 979 Alice Springs NT 0871

Website: www.connellanairwaystrust.org.au



Curtis says "My two major passions are outback Australia and medicine. I have always loved the bush, my family's beautiful cattle property and the people that live out there. However it is only since starting my degree I have realised there are some serious inequalities regarding health when comparing those living in regional areas to those in major cities. Some of these inequalities are due to a serious lack of doctors and

The Award was established in 1988 by the Connellan Airways Trust in honour of the founder of the Trust, the pioneer Northern Territory aviator, Eddie Connellan, who was a man of strong and passionate character, with special abilities attuned to trail blazing. He was a successful pastoralist and a visionary business man; he played a prominent role in Central Australian affairs. He was a legend in his own lifetime.

The award aims is to assist people over the age of 16 years who live in the remote areas of Australia. Since the Alice Springs based Trust commenced in 1981, it has been able to provide more than \$3.5 million to the residents of the Outback.

The Connellan Airways Trust will fund the E.J Connellan Award again next year, with applications closing on 31 January 2020

The Trust welcomes donations, which are tax deductible. For further information contact the Executive Officer of the Trust, on 1800 733 810, or visit the Trust's website at

www.connellanairwaystrust.org.au

See overleaf for Ellen's story

2019 SENIOR E. J. CONNELLAN AWARD



Ellen is from Wilpoorinna Station outside of Maree, South Australia. Her primary schooling was through School of the Air and secondary as a border at Annesley College in South Australia. She attained a Bachelor of Veterinary Science and Veterinary Biology at Charles Sturt University

NSW finishing with 1st class Honours in 2012. In 2018 she received a Nuffield Scholarship to investigate the effects of climate change on red meat production in arid and semi-arid rangelands. Ellen will use her award to complete her Master of Sustainable Agriculture at CSU.

Ellen says "I am passionate about securing a sustainable future for our community in this rapidly changing

environment. I believe that great advocacy for outback communities is required to ensure that policy decisions effecting the community and livestock producers are beneficial to our area." She says outback Australia is an extremely unique environment and covers such an expanse of land but research and resources for the area are very limited. As the world population continues to rise the ability of pastoralists to produce a protein source whilst maintaining a natural ecosystem will be of utmost importance."

Mark Coffey says "The trust supports individuals in their pursuit of knowledge to support people that live in outback Australia. I am very pleased that we can assist Ellen in her research which will result in new and innovative ideas to enable pastoralists across the outback to achieve more sustainable outcomes. Research and Industry development provides new opportunities for outback Australia to continue to play a critical role in food production across the country and the Connellan Airways Trust is proud to play a role in this development".

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