

Connellan Award Winner Announced

The Chairman of the Connellan Airways Trust, Mr Gavin Carpenter OAM announced Andi-Claire Killeen Pegler to be the winner of the 2015 E.J. Connellan Award. She will receive \$20,000.00.

Andi-Claire has grown up on Navarra Station, a sheep and cattle property near Isisford, a small town in Central West Queensland, located on the Barcoo River. She attended Yaraka State Primary School, a one teacher multi level school 220kms south of Longreach, and completed her secondary schooling at Wilderness School in South Australia. Andi-Claire began her tertiary education in 2014 at Flinders University in South Australia studying for a dual degree in Early Childhood Education and the Arts, majoring in Visual Arts and minoring in Philosophy.

Andi-Claire says "successful and effective teachers provide fundamental assistance to students, allowing them to flourish. This in turn contributes to a vibrant and productive nation. I intend to return to Outback Australia and work as an educator in the bush. The field of music education as a developmental tool for the brain fascinates me, and I believe that people in rural and remote areas deserve to access this resource for their children". She adds that hopefully by providing a high level of education in the bush it will contribute to the revitalization of bush communities which are facing ever-diminishing numbers due in part to the lack of services.

Mr Carpenter says "Andi-Claire has a proven record as a responsible and energetic community member being involved with numerous organizations. This award will enable her to continue her dual degree specialising in early brain development, specifically neural development in young children through creativity and music. The Trust is pleased to be able to support Andi-Claire as her vision sits with the Trust's objective to promote and encourage the advancement of knowledge of people, especially younger people, living on remote stations and in small settlements in outback parts of Australia. We look forward to following her progress".

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.



Andi-Claire Killeen Peglar

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 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 2016.

The Trust welcomes donations, which are tax deductible.

For further information contact Kaye Clapin, Executive Officer of the Trust, on

1800 733 810, or visit the Trust's website at www.connellanairwaystrust.org.au

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