

# E.J. Connellan Award 2016



Nikki Hill is the winner of the 2016 Junior E.J. Connellan Award. She will receive \$20,000.

Nikki grew up on 'Tooolombilla' a cattle property in remote Queensland 90kms north of Mitchell. She completed her primary education through Charleville School of the Air/ Toowoomba Preparatory School and her secondary schooling at St Margaret's Anglican Girls School in Brisbane. Nikki has a Bachelor of Music majoring in Operatic Voice from The Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University. She has commenced studying a Master of Speech Pathology at Griffith University on the Gold Coast. Her aim is to combine her training as a singer and speech pathologist and return to the Outback to provide much needed healthcare in geographically disadvantaged areas.

Nikki says "although a career as an opera singer is stimulating, rewarding and fulfilling I have realised that ultimately I would like to be in an industry that would allow me to live in outback Australia and make a significant difference to the people who don't have access to specialised health services".

The Chairman of the Connellan Airways Trust, Mr. Gavin Carpenter



Nikki Hill Junior Winner

OAM, said the award will allow Nikki to extend her training and education to areas of modern technology not previously available to her. Plans to extend her education and knowledge and in turn assist outback people are to be applauded and in time will no doubt be recognized over a wide area.

Kirsty Williams was selected as the 2016 Senior E.J. Connellan Award winner and will also receive \$20 000

Kirsty grew up on a station and completed her early schooling via correspondence, her middle years face to face in Port Augusta and her secondary years at Seymour College. She completed a 4 year Bachelor of Education at the University of South Australia and is now studying a Graduate Diploma of Psychology online at Monash University. She lives with her family on Mount Sarah Station, via Oodnadatta, in South Australia.

Kirsty says, "the field of Psychology has always been of interest to me but living and working on a station in a remote area has given me a deeper understanding and awareness of the ups and downs that isolation can cause. The town of Oodnadatta faces many challenges and is always seeking health professionals so by living in the area I would add value rather than people having to wait until city help arrived. My study will not only enable me to challenge myself and use skills outside of station life it will also help others in the community and afar".

Mr Carpenter said "the quality of applicants this year was excellent. Kirsty will no doubt excel in her field and in line with the Trust's Vision outback people will gain the benefit of her knowledge and learning. It is a pleasure to assist someone who is passionate about helping others living away from the main population areas.'

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 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 2017.

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](http://www.connellanairwaystrust.org.au)



Kirsty Williams Senior Winner