

MADISON'S MISSION TO BECOME A 'BUSH CHIROPRACTOR' SERVING PEOPLE AND ANIMALS

Published: 26 July 2016

Madison Forster's embarked on a study journey that could take the best part of a decade, with a longer-term goal of opening up chiropractic services for people and animals in rural and remote areas.

She's moved away from her family in the tiny town of Thallon, in western Queensland, to enrol in Chiropractic Science at CQUniversity Brisbane.

While there's still opportunities for the occasional polocrosse carnival in western areas, Madison is committed to becoming a city girl for a number of years to achieve her dreams. Hence, generous financial support from a Connellan Airways Trust Scholarship has been absolutely crucial.

"The Connellan Airways Trust Scholarship covers much of the cost of textbooks, transport to campus and rent, reducing the number of shifts I need to do in a conference-support job that I have in Brisbane," Madison says.

"This was a huge relief for me going into my first term of university as I was unsure if I would be able to balance a part-time job and the study load.

"Study is very full-on at the moment, with Physics, Chemistry, Anatomy and Chiropractic Science all underway in my first year at CQUniversity."



Madison Forster pictured TOP at CQUni Brisbane and BELOW enjoying horse riding and polocrosse out west.

Madison said her experience of living with her family in Thallon stimulated her interest in becoming a 'bush chiropractor'.

“Our community has limited access to health and well-being officers,” she says. “With a doctor visiting only once a fortnight, local residents have to travel a minimum of 45km to the nearest hospital located in Mungindi.

“Furthermore, if someone needs specialist treatment – for example, physiotherapy – they struggle as the demand is very high and there are few that operate in our region.

“Our community is not alone in this struggle. Growing up on cattle stations in North-West Queensland I came to realise that the availability of these health professionals is only there in dire circumstances.

“More often than not, the closest medical professionals are a minimum of two hours away and the hopes of seeing anyone other than a doctor is a great privilege.”

Madison said that, with her father having to travel up to 4.5 hours to see the 'local' chiropractor almost every month for the past four years, her pathway was set.

“Growing up in the beef industry I've always placed animals in the forefront of my mind and I have always aspired to help them.

“The Bachelor of Science Chiropractic course I am enrolled in will be the springboard for my future career aspirations to work as a human and animal chiropractor.

“I hope to continue my studies and complete the Masters of Chiropractic course at CQUniversity and then complete the study needed to become a qualified animal chiropractor.

“My ultimate goal is to help the many people and animals that suffer from chiropractic issues throughout rural Queensland by travelling between the remote regions and towns as a working animal and human chiropractor. I hope to inspire others to follow my path and increase the health professionals in these areas.”

The Connellan Airways Trust was established to commemorate all those who have lived and worked in the Outback and suffered the privations and the remoteness of the Outback.

The aim of a grant is to improve social and economic outcomes for people living in Outback Australia through financial support for educational, health, communication and transport needs. Further information for eligibility and grant applications can be found at www.connellanairwaystrust.org.au.

The objectives of the Trust are:

* To promote and encourage the advancement of knowledge of people, especially younger people, living in remote parts of that area of outback Australia formerly served by Connellan Airways, and in other parts of Australia similar in remoteness.

* To assist such people through facilitating air travel and the delivery of education needs, communication requisites and health related supplies.

* To foster education of people in outback Australia, other than those living in its remote parts, who provide service or assistance to people living in those parts.

If you're interested in partnering with CQUniversity to create additional opportunities for our students and communities, please contact the Development Team on 07 4923 2875 or via advancement@cqu.edu.au .

Weblink: <https://www.cqu.edu.au/cquninews/stories/general-category/2016/madisons-mission-to-become-a-bush-chiropractor-serving-people-and-animals>