

SWETMAN AVIATION EDUCATION FELLOWSHIP

Information Sheet 2022

Establishment of Fund

The Swetman Aviation Education Fellowship Fund was established in 1989 by Flight Lieutenant Ronald Charles Swetman DFC DFM, RAFVR (Retd) and is financed through the Ron Swetman Trust, which is administered by the Air Force Association (WA Division) Incorporated (RAAFA). The object of the Fellowship is to foster aviation education and interest among youth in Western Australia.

Flight Lieutenant Ron Swetman DFC DFM

Ron Swetman served in 97 Squadron RAF between September 1942 and December 1943 as a Lancaster flight engineer. As part of Bomber Command, the squadron took part in a low-level daylight attack on the MAN diesel engine works in Augsburg, and in the 1,000 bomber raids on Cologne, Essen and Bremen. In April 1943 the squadron joined Bomber Command's Pathfinder Force as a 'target marker' squadron for the main bomber force.

Ron completed 61 operations, the highest number in 97 Squadron during WWII. He was promoted to Flight Lieutenant and awarded both the Distinguished Flying Cross and Distinguished Flying Medal.

After the war he maintained a passionate interest in aviation, and generously encouraged young people with similar interests. In retirement, he resided at RAAFA's Air Force Memorial Estate in Bull Creek, and continued to administer the Swetman Aviation Education Fellowship until he died in 2001. The Fellowship was then taken over by RAAFA.



Value of the Fellowship

One (1) Fellowship of \$5,000 will be awarded in 2022 to a candidate chosen by the Fellowship Selection Panel.

Other Prizes

Three (3) early bird prizes of a Macchi VR session at the RAAFA Aviation Heritage Museum, Bull Creek. In these flights you fly with an instructor, using the Macchi controls, and enjoy the VR scenery. Additional Macchi VR session prizes will be awarded to shortlisted applicants.

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Intention of the Fellowship

The Selection Panel shall be guided in its selection by the intentions of the benefactor, who envisaged that the award would be made for such purposes as:

- An individual undertaking flying training; or
- An individual attending an aviation event or facility for the purpose of his or her own professional development in the sphere of aviation education; or
- Any other purpose which furthers an interest in aviation.

Eligibility

The applicant must be a student aged between 16-20 years, an Australian citizen or resident, residing in Western Australia, and undergoing or about to undergo an approved Western Australian aviation education program.

Applications

Applications are to be made using the [Swetman Aviation Education Fellowship Application Form](#) (also accessible via QR code) and need to be completed and signed by the applicant and parent or guardian (if applicant is under 18 years of age). References and supporting documentation can be attached/uploaded, and should be no more than one page, with a maximum of three references.



Selection Process

Applications for the Fellowship close **Friday, 21 October 2022**. The initial assessment for interviews will take place shortly thereafter, and it is expected that, subject to candidate availability, the selection and presentation process would be completed in November 2022. The selection is at the absolute discretion of the Selection Panel appointed by RAAFA.

Enquiries

Any enquiries may be directed to the Executive Assistant on (08) 9288 8400, between 9am and 4pm, Monday to Friday or via email to enquiries@raafawa.org.au.

Confidentiality

All information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Application Submission

Please complete the [Swetman Aviation Education Fellowship Application Form](#) (or via QR code above). On submission of the form, the application will be automatically forwarded to the Executive Assistant.

RAAFA Central Support Office

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RAAFA WA