

## **Introduction**

It is with great pleasure that AAAA is partnering with Air Tractor to recognise innovation in the Australian aerial application industry by establishing the Leland Snow Innovation Award.

Leland Snow was an American aircraft designer who single-handedly revolutionised aerial application by designing and then producing Aircraft that were tailored to the task, were safer than earlier versions and which were based on the pursuit of excellence through innovation.

Leland often visited Australia to get feedback on his designs and to ensure his customers had a direct line to the top of the Air Tractor company.

Leland was a good friend to the Australian aerial application industry and garnered great respect with his interest in pilot safety and productivity.

While Leland passed away in 2011, his company—Air Tractor—continues to support the efforts of AAAA in Australia to improve aerial application, safety and the professionalism of all those involved with the industry. This award is aimed at encouraging, recognising and promoting innovation in an Australian industry that has always been an early adopter of improvements to provide a better service to clients.

## **What is Innovation?**

Innovation is about finding a better way of doing something, about working towards the realisation of the future, Innovation should not just conjure thoughts of new and novel technologies, but rather it should be something that contributes to the community and society in which we live.

## **The Award**

This Inaugural award is being presented to a company that has been quietly making this sort of contributions. What this company does benefits their local community, the aerial application industry and the wider aviation industry.

It is a reflection of their love of aviation, their belief in the next generation as well as the future of Aviation in Australia.

Over the last three years this company has established a local scholarship program open to youth in the community with a passion for aviation. Through the local Aero Club flight training is provided to the value of \$10 000.

This has been award to a student each year for the last three years and while the scholarship is for flight training generally and without a bias for aerial application it has produced 3 pilots of whom 2 have a keen interest in pursuing a career in aerial application.

This Inaugural award is proudly presented to Judy and Peter Middlebrook of Middlebrook Air Operations, Gunnedah.