



**For Immediate Release**

**12 May 2026**

**HEAD: From Australia to the world: KTA Alumni wins global award at The King's Trust Awards**

*"Our systems eliminate the plastic waste, diesel deliveries and supply-chain footprint associated with bottled water."*

The King's Trust Australia alumni and defence veteran Shannon Lemanski is the first Australian ever to win a global award at the prestigious King's Trust Awards.

Shannon was presented with the 2026 Global Sustainability Award for his impressive water cooler that generates water from air.

Held at the Royal Albert Hall on 11 May, this extraordinary event celebrates the impact of The King's Trust and highlights truly exceptional young people whose journeys are a powerful testament to the life-changing impact of The Trust's programmes.

Shannon's mission is to provide clean drinking water for anyone, anywhere. His business, Aqua Ubique, creates water from air, eliminating plastic waste and bringing safe drinking water to remote rural communities.

Aqua Ubique's 'business buddy' unit uses atmospheric water generation – condensing humidity in the air, then purifying and mineralising it - to deliver safe, fresh drinking water.

By replacing office water coolers with onsite water generators, every unit saves hundreds of plastic bottles each year, and cuts ongoing emissions from bottle delivery and collection.

Previously, this kind of technology has not been affordable for those communities who would benefit from it the most. Shannon's business model solves that problem. For every five commercial installations, the company funds a water generator for a First Nations community.

"In many remote communities across Australia, safe tap water is unavailable, and bottled water often costs more than soft drink. As a result, families are forced into impossible choices: give

babies Coke instead of formula, or risk unsafe tap water. Aqua Unique provides the solution.”

Since in installation of the Aqua Ubique water coolers in Cherbourg, a First Nations community in Queensland, cases of gastroenteritis have dropped and attendance at day care has increased.

Shannon, now 35, first saw the problems caused by unsafe water during an army deployment in Papua New Guinea, and later discovered that similar challenges persist among remote communities within Australia itself. He wanted to find a practical way to help. After leaving the army, The King’s Trust Australia’s Enterprise Accelerator programme helped him to transform his idea into a business.

“I still wanted to serve in a way that mattered, I just had no idea how to turn that into a business,” Shannon explains.

The programme supported him to develop a customer-led strategy, and redesign the company’s messaging, pricing and sales processes, enabling them to secure their first customers.

“The King’s Trust Enterprise programme didn’t just sharpen our thinking - it backed us to take action,” explained Shannon

“More than anything, it reminded us we weren’t alone. It gave us capability, credibility, and connections at a stage where those three things were hard to come by - and it continues to shape how we grow.”

By turning an everyday office choice into an environmental and social benefit, Shannon has created a model that is practical, scalable and globally replicable, combining environmental responsibility, workplace wellness and community development.

Founded by His Majesty King Charles III in 1976, The King’s Trust is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2026. The Trust has been operating in Australia for 13 years, supporting young Australians to build confidence, develop skills, and create brighter futures.

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## **INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Available for interview in London:**

- **The King's Trust Australia CEO Michelle Endacott**
- Interviews with **Shannon Lemanski** will be arranged as requested. He is in London until Friday 15 May.

**Available for interview in Sydney, Australia**

- The King's Trust Australia trustee and royal correspondent Juliet Rieden

**Available footage:**

Photos and interview footage of Shannon Lemanski will be available from a Google Photo Drive and will be regularly updated as photos are released - <https://bit.ly/3QS1cc2>

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**In London from 9 May 2026**

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