

OFF THE LANDING PAD



SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2015

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Forestry rescue showcases service's life saving capabilities

Many remote rescues over the years would have been slow and painful if not for the availability of the Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter Service, but in Legeon Thompson's case it was clear cut – he would have died and left behind his partner and four children.

The 36-year-old Hastings forestry worker recalls experiencing serious chest pains while thinning pine trees in the Mohaka Forest in September. While lying on the ground trying to shake out pain which he thought must be cramp, his manager and brother-in-law began to realise the symptoms of a heart attack. Following protocol, a call was made on the emergency two way radio, and assisted by a second brother-in-law, Legeon was driven to a clear site to await rescue.

The helicopter response was rapid, but before reaching Hawke's Bay Regional Hospital, Legeon suffered cardiac arrest, meaning the helicopter had to make an emergency landing while paramedics shocked him back to life, and delivered life-saving, clot busting drugs. Legeon reached the hospital under active CPR from the paramedics. Soon after being wheeled into the emergency department, partner Jessica was considering news that there was a very real chance he wouldn't survive. "We were distraught", she says, "we thought we were losing him".

The Crew treat Legeon on site at Mohaka Forest.



A decision was quickly made to make a second flight in the Rescue Helicopter, to take Legeon to the cardiac unit at Wellington Hospital, where treatment included putting a stent in one of his arteries. To the relief of his whanau, he was able to make a gradual recovery, but is going through an enforced lifestyle change where any physical work has been ruled out for the immediate future.

With a young family, the situation has created some financial strain, but Legeon says he's keen to show appreciation to the helicopter crew, who managed to help put him at ease with the way they handled an otherwise awful event.

Jessica says the experience was a terrifying and difficult time for her and the children, but has been amazed at the level of care and attention from everyone involved in Legeon's rescue and recovery. She says considering how close he came to dying during the flight and in hospital, there is no doubt he wouldn't have survived without the vital rescue service. "I've always thought they are awesome and I want to say thank you for saving his life."



Legeon is reunited with Crewmen Brett and Geoff, Paramedic Ryan, and the defibrillator which saved his life.

Peterhead pupil re-united with Rescue Crew

When the Rescue Helicopter Crew visited Flaxmere's Peterhead School last term, they were unexpectedly reunited with year 4 pupil Unique Te Kiri, who had been helped by the Rescue Helicopter several years earlier.

As a two-year-old, Unique became tangled under another child's feet as he took a piping hot bowl of noodles out of a microwave oven. The bowl fell and its contents splashed onto Unique's shoulder, scalding and instantly blistering the toddler.

Her parents Letitia and Hohepa knew it was a serious injury, but didn't predict the extent of intensive care and recovery procedures that would follow for several months.

Initially, Unique was transported by the Rescue Helicopter to Hawke's Bay Regional Hospital, with a second transfer shortly after to Hutt Hospital's Burns Unit.

Letitia said that it was a helpless feeling seeing their daughter in so much pain, but added that Unique settled down and stopped



Unique with her teddy bear.

crying pretty quickly after the initial accident "The only time she really screamed was when they tried to give her medicine," she says.

Today, Unique still has serious scarring on her shoulder but her family are happy with the extent of the healing and take some comfort that the hot liquid missed her head and face.

Unique's parents were amazed at the level of professionalism of the emergency service from start to finish, adding that it 'helped take the pressure off at what was a difficult time'. Unique says she has no memory of the incident and shrugs off the seriousness of the injury, but still keeps in her bedroom a teddy bear given to her by a Hutt Hospital nurse.

Fun, Frocks and Fundraising at annual Cocktail Party

Thank you to everyone who came to our 24th annual Cocktail Party, organised by the Rotary Club of Hastings Karamu. Over 400 people 'dressed to impress' on Friday 19 June, for an evening of entertainment, wine, and our famous Charity Auction with the excellent Auctioneer, Simon Tremain.

Ian Wilmot, General Manager of the Trust said "This year's Cocktail Party raised a fantastic \$65,000, which will go a long way to ensuring that our life saving service is kept available 24/7 and completely free of charge to everyone in Hawkes Bay. Our heartfelt thanks go to all our guests, sponsors, and everyone who helped to support this wonderful event – especially the Rotary Club who made it all possible"

Next year is the event's 25th year, and Hastings Karamu Rotary is busy organising a special 'Silver Anniversary' Cocktail Party for Friday April 15th 2016. This prestigious event will be held



at a secret location in Hawke's Bay. Further details will be announced early in the New Year, but guests can expect to be treated to delicious drinks, mouth-watering nibbles and sparkling entertainment. Tickets are expected to sell fast, so to be the first to know about next year's event, email Laura at mfm@hbhrt.org.nz

Rescue Helicopter is 'On the Ball' with the Unison Fly-In Competition

On Friday 9 October, the Rescue Helicopter flew the Unison Networks Junior Rugby Fly-In Competition winner, Caleb Robinson, to McLean Park for the Magpies home game against Waikato.

Caleb was the lucky winner of the Unison competition, which wrapped up their 'Greatest Supporter' season encompassing junior rugby, hockey and netball.

While the final score wasn't what we all hoped for, there were smiles at the helicopter hangar, as Caleb met some of his sporting heroes, including Hawke's Bay Magpies Ryan Tongia and Joe Penitito, and took his first ever ride in a helicopter.

Unison Marketing Coordinator, Anna Bowley, said, "Winning the competition was an extra special surprise to Caleb, as his Dad

Caleb with father Kenn, Crewman Ian, and Rugby heroes Ryan and Joe.



had entered him without his knowledge. He also suffered an injury earlier this year which meant he missed most of the junior rugby season, so it was wonderful to bring a smile to his face."

Caleb, Ryan, Joe and Caleb's father Kenn landed on the pitch ahead of the game in front of hundreds of avid rugby fans, bringing with them the Ranfurly Shield and the game ball.

Crewman Ian Clarke said, "From the whoops and hollers coming from the back of the helicopter I think they loved the ride. Charlie [our pilot] gave them some memories they won't forget!"

Changes to our Board



Robert Pattullo board member.



Peter Dunkerley new chairman.

At the Annual General Meeting in June, Andy Train retired by rotation from our Board and has been replaced by Robert Pattullo.

We extend special thanks to Andy for his contribution as Chairman in 2013/14 and 2014/15. The Independent Appointments Panel appointed Robert to our Board for a 3 year term, and at the first ordinary meeting of the Board after the AGM, the Trustees elected Peter Dunkerley as Chairman.

Peter has many years of experience in the health sector including the Rescue Helicopter Trust. Please join us in welcoming Peter to his new role and to Robert for joining our Board.



Are you a Natural Born Griller?

Then why not hold a Big Bay BBQ or a Super Sausage Sizzle this summer in aid of the Rescue Helicopter?

Organising your own BBQ is easy – simply invite your friends and neighbours over and ask them for a small donation towards our vital work.

Organising a Sausage Sizzle takes a little more planning, but we have prepared a handy 'how to' guide to get you started.

After your event, simply send your donation to us and we will reward you with a certificate that you can display with pride. Contact Laura in the Fundraising Team today on mfm@hbhrt.org.nz for your Natural Born Griller Information Pack which includes;

- A simple 'how to guide' to get you started
- A poster template to advertise your event
- Food safety advice

REMEMBER in an emergency dial 111

Winter Missions Snapshot



Date: 5 October 17:30

Accident: Airlifted a male who had serious injuries following a motorcycle accident near Nuhaka.

Date: 4 September 08:25

Accident: Airlifted a male with chest injuries from a bull attack at Sherenden to Hawke's Bay Regional Hospital.

Date: 27 June 12:00

Rescue: with the NZ Police to locate and airlift missing trampers near the summit of Mount Manuoha

Date: 6 June 14:00

Accident: Airlifted a male with a broken leg sustained from a horse accident on a Elsthorpe hunt to Hawke's Bay Regional Hospital.



Rescue Helicopter Open Day

You are invited to come along to the Rescue Helicopter Open Day on Sunday 13 March 2016. This will be a fun day out for all the family and your chance to get 'up close and personal' with the Rescue Helicopter! For just a gold coin donation you can;

- Meet the pilots and crew
- Have your photo taken in the Pilot's seat of our BK117 twin engine rescue helicopter
- Experience being a patient on our training winch
- Have fun on our bouncy castle
- Enjoy having your face painted
- Learn about First Aid
- Hear about the great work of the Rescue Helicopter
- Learn how to become a friend of the Rescue Helicopter

Plus there will be lots of entertainment, and delicious food and drinks to buy on the day. For more information please contact Laura at mfm@hbhrt.org.nz or call 878 1630

Volunteer with the Rescue Helicopter!

Volunteers are an essential asset to the Rescue Helicopter Trust, and we are looking for willing people to help us achieve our aims! You don't need any previous experience to volunteer with the Trust - a willing heart, enthusiasm and a 'can do' attitude are much more important to us.

Why volunteer with the Rescue Helicopter?

Volunteering can help you:

- Build social networks by making new friends
- Increase self-confidence
- Gain new skills and valuable experience

I'm interested, how can I volunteer?

Event volunteering: Help to make a difference by volunteering at one of our events. Our volunteers play a vital role in making events a success by promoting events locally, helping to serve refreshments, or forming a cheer squad.

Community Fundraising: Support the Rescue Helicopter by helping us to organise social events, such as coffee mornings, afternoon teas, collection days, or sausage sizzles. We'll provide you with training and advice, and every dollar you raise will enable us to continue our vital services.

Administrative Support: Work alongside our staff providing administrative support on a wide range of tasks - answering and making telephone calls, editing photographs or film, inputting data, or helping with mail outs.

Find out more by emailing mfm@hbhrt.org.nz or call 878 1630.

COMMUNITY CHEER

School Children 'Dress to Impress' for the Rescue Helicopter

Waipukurau School ran a successful mufti day in aid of the Rescue Helicopter. Students and teachers turned up to school wearing their favourite fancy dress costumes, and raised an incredible \$317 to support the work of the Rescue Helicopter.

Well done to everyone at Waipukurau School, we hope you all feel very proud!



Waipukurau School students raised \$317 to support the Rescue Helicopter with a fancy dress mufti day.

Welcome to Laura Hyde

We'd like to give a warm welcome to Laura Hyde who joins us as our new Marketing and Fundraising Manager.



Laura has over 12 years' experience of working with charities in the UK, and has recently moved to NZ for better weather and a better rugby team. If you have any questions about fundraising for the Rescue Helicopter please contact Laura directly on **021 0887 1577** or email **mf@hbhrt.org.nz**

Fundraising Event a 'Grape' Success!

Thank you so much to everyone who attended the Colliers Rural Grape Debate which was held at East Pier in Napier on 31st July. The event was a huge success, and a complete sell out, raising an amazing \$10,000 in aid of the Rescue Helicopter. The organisers, Planit Events, are busy setting a date for next year's event – again, in aid of the Rescue Helicopter - so if you would like to find out more please email **rebecca@planiteventorganisers.com**



Happy event participants at Grape Success 2015.



Volunteer Crewman, Nathan, with the FLIR camera.

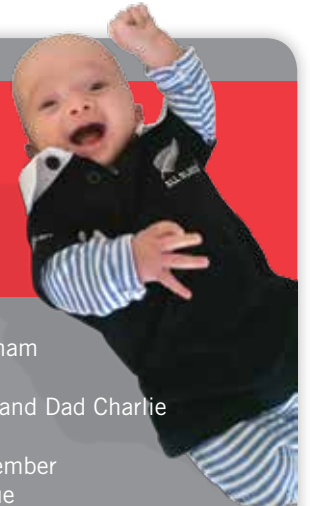
You did it!

Thank you to everyone who donated to help us buy a Heat Seeking Camera.

We had a huge response to the appeal in our Winter Newsletter, which has enabled us to buy a new FLIR camera, which uses thermal imaging technology to help the Rescue Helicopter to locate missing or injured people at night time or in dark areas.

Volunteer Crewman, Nathan (pictured with the camera) said, "This camera will make a huge difference to our work, and can potentially save lives. Thank you to everyone who came together as a community and donated to buy this piece of equipment".

CREW PROFILE



Name:	Archie Beetham
Family:	Mum Sarah and Dad Charlie
Position:	Youngest member of the Rescue Helicopter family!
Length of Service:	3 months
Best part of role:	knowing that my daddy, Chief Pilot Charlie Beetham, is helping to save lives in Hawke's Bay
Fulltime Work:	sleeping, feeding
Spare time activities:	playing, laughing
Quote:	"My dad is the best"

Thank you to Hawke's Bay Businesses

Thank you to all of the following businesses who are helping to keep our service free of charge and available 24/7 to everyone who may need it, in Hawke's Bay.

Platinum Friends

Bernard Chambers Charitable Trust
Brownrigg Agriculture
Centralines
Farmlands Co-operative Society
Hawke's Bay Regional Council
Veterinary Services (HB)

Gold Friends

Advanced Plumbing HB
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The Gintrap Cafe & Bar
Tong & Peryer
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John Harding
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Neville Earthworks
Ongaonga General Store
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Rocky Hawkins Livestock
Snow Wilkins
Souness Stone
The Physio
VJ Distributors
Wright Wool
Wrightson Contracting

This list is correct as of 12 November 2015. If your organisation would like to become a Friend of the Rescue Helicopter please call Laura on **878 1630**

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Rescue Hangar (06) 878 1633

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