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”.

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.”
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 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 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

At the Annual General Meeting in June, Andy Train retired by rotation from our Board and has been replace 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
CHARITY AUCTION with the excellent Auctioneer, evening of entertainment, wine, and our famous ‘dressed to impress’ on Friday 19 June, for an Club of Hastings Karamu. Over 400 people annual Cocktail Party, organised by the Rotary Te Kiri, who had been helped by the Rescue Flaxmere’s Peterhead School last term, they were When the Rescue Helicopter Crew visited re-united with is busy organising a special ‘Silver Anniversary’ Cocktail Party made it all possible” to support this wonderful event – especially the Rotary Club who completely free of charge to everyone in Hawkes Bay. Our heartfelt Her parents Letitia and Hohepa knew it was a serious injury, but shoulding and scalding and instantly blistering the toddler. oven. The bowl fell and its contents splashed onto Unique’s feet as he took a piping hot bowl of noodles out of a microwave As a two-year-old, Unique became tangled under another child’s The injury, but still keeps in her bedroom a teddy bear given to her comfort that the hot liquid missed her head and face. Today, Unique still has serious scarring on her shoulder but her says. "The only time she crying pretty quickly after the initial accident “The only time she unique. The Unison Marketing Coordinator, Anna Bowley, said, “Winning the smiles at the helicopter hangar, as Caleb met some of his sporting 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 Caleb with father Kenn, Crewman Ian, and Rugby heroes Ryan and Joe. From the whoops and hollers coming with them the Ranfurly Shield and the game ball. Caleb, Ryan, Joe and Caleb's father Kenn landed on the pitch with the Ranfurly Shield and the game ball. Caleb, Ryan, Joe and Caleb’s father Kenn landed on the pitch with the Ranfurly Shield and the game ball. Caleb, Ryan, Joe and Caleb’s father Kenn landed on the pitch with the Ranfurly Shield and the game ball. Caleb, Ryan, Joe and Caleb’s father Kenn landed on the pitch with the Ranfurly Shield and the game ball.
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!

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 mfm@hhrt.org.nz

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”.

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

Volunteer Crewman, Nathan, with the FLIR camera.

Happy event participants at Grape Success 2015.

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 everyone who came together as Volunteer Crewman, Nathan (pictured with the camera) said, which has enabled us to buy a new FLIR camera, which uses We had a huge response to the appeal in our Winter Newsletter, buy a Heat Seeking Camera.

Well done to everyone at Waipukurau School, we hope you all feel their favourite fancy dress costumes, and raised an incredible Helicopter. Students and teachers turned up to school wearing

Laura Hyde

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

The organisers, Planit Events, are busy setting a date for next year’s Grape Debate which was held at East Pier in Napier on 31st July. The event was a huge success, and a complete sell out,

Thank you so much to everyone who attended the Colliers Rural Fundraising and Administration – again, in aid of the Rescue Helicopter - so if you would like

The 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

Our Family of Sponsors

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