

JUST BETWEEN FRIENDS

NEWSLETTER OF THE LOWE CORPORATION RESCUE HELICOPTER

SEPTEMBER 2011



HOW YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL RESCUE HELICOPTER SERVICE

Making a regular donation to the Rescue Helicopter Service is one way that you can help save lives. Your donation does make a big difference and allows our crew to help those who are in need or who require urgent medical transportation. If you would like to donate to the service, here is a list of ways you can help:

- One-off or regular monthly donations
- Bequest a donation
- Become a Corporate Friend
- Hold a fundraising event, e.g. school mufti day, casual Friday
- Encourage your employer to set up Payroll Giving or if you have staff, offer it within your workplace



Emma and Brendon Dawson show Zoe the rescue helicopter.



Image taken by the crew coming into Waimarama

Waimarama Evacuation in Storm

Having your first child in theory is meant to be a planned and rehearsed event with bags packed and a drive to the hospital. However for Emma and Brendon Dawson the timing of the birth of their first child, Zoe was an interesting adventure.

In late April, Emma and Brendon were living at Waimarama. Emma was 10 days overdue with her pregnancy when heavy flooding caused mayhem along the coastal region of Hawke's Bay with evacuations and road closures.

Civil Defence were concerned about Emma being heavily pregnant and made a decision to move her to Jarks Cafe on the other side of the Waimarama River.

Emma said it was quite scary knowing she wasn't going to get back home after she went to Jarks Cafe. Though in hindsight it was lucky they did leave as the Waimarama bridge became impassable due to surging waters shortly after they had crossed over.

After discussions with Police, Civil Defence then made the decision to evacuate Emma from the area when there was a break in the weather. The rescue helicopter was despatched at 12.55pm.

Emma was moved to the Waimarama Fire Station and waited for the rescue helicopter to arrive. Unfortunately Emma's husband, Brendon was not able to go on the flight due to an unexpected elderly dialysis patient being picked up on the way. On route the rescue helicopter crew had been waved down by people outside a house.

Emma's heart dropped when it was discovered that Brendon was not able to accompany her on the flight as she thought that he would miss the birth of their child.

"The crew made me feel at ease reassuring me that Brendon would do all he could to make it to town somehow." said Emma.

Emma didn't realise that her husband would end up having his own adventure trying to get into Hastings. Brendon managed to ride a quad bike part of the way before it was swamped in a river; he caught a ride on a farmer's tractor; walked 2km up hills and then convinced nearby road workers in a 4x4 to give him a ride to the Hospital.

After a bumpy ride in the rescue helicopter, Emma was assessed by hospital medical staff and was given the all clear in the afternoon. She then went into labour the next morning at 2am and Zoe Dawson arrived at 8am.

"In hindsight we are very lucky there was a break in the weather and we were able to be evacuated by the rescue helicopter that day. It ended up only being 12 hours before I went into labour with Zoe".

The next day the Rescue Helicopter was used to take equipment to help restore telecommunications to the area and also helped to evacuate people from Kairakau Beach in Central Hawke's Bay.

Find us on Facebook

Come On Board

The Trust has recently created a Facebook page to keep our supporters up to date on our activities. On Facebook go to our page at Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter Service and become a Friend and Like Us.

IMPORTANT TRUST INFORMATION



Friends 0800 323 111
Corporate Friends 0800 111 246
Rescue Hangar 06 878 1633
Administration 06 878 1630

For more information about the Hawke's Bay Helicopter Rescue Trust visit our website:

www.hbrescuehelicopter.org.nz



Mike Martin being carried to the rescue helicopter

Accident Report

Date: 20/03/11

Time: 1245

Location: Tikokino

Patient: Mike Martin

Age: 14 years old

Injury:

Mike had been competing in a trail bike

ride when he hit a steep dirt bump on the

track. He was uninjured from the fall but

his motorbike's foot peg embedded into his

leg when it landed.

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Mike Martin visits the rescue helicopter

A Personal Thank You

Dear all members of the Rescue Helicopter,

I would like to thank all of you for saving me after my terrible accident wrestling with my motorbike. My injury was small but incredibly deep to my right thigh. It was a terrible accident and I regret my lack of concentration. It was a huge relief when I saw a bunch of friendly faces from the helicopter team.

I have previously helped out the Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter with school fundraisers, so I was familiar with the helicopter when it landed. The amount of effort and service you do for the community is amazing.

I appreciate all your help and support with my injury. It was the most frightening thing of my life but having you there made it much better. I thank you greatly and wish you all the best.

Sincerely

Mike Martin

5 Simple Rules

With spring knocking at our doorsteps it is a good time to send out a friendly reminder to all our supporters about the importance of outdoor safety. Here is the New Zealand's Outdoor Safety Code.

For more information go to www.adventuresmart.org.nz

- 1 Plan your trip**
Seek local knowledge and plan the route you will take and the amount of time you can reasonably expect it to take.
- 2 Tell someone**
Tell someone your plans and leave a date for when to raise the alarm if you haven't returned.
- 3 Be aware of the weather**
New Zealand's weather can be highly unpredictable. Check the forecast and expect weather changes.
- 4 Know your limits**
Challenge yourself within your physical limits and experience.
- 5 Take sufficient supplies**
Make sure you have enough food, equipment, clothing and emergency rations for the worst-case scenario. Take an appropriate means of communication.

Return Address: FREEPOST 101385, Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter, PO Box 2500, Stortford Lodge, Hastings

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NEWSLETTER OF THE
LOWE CORPORATION
RESCUE HELICOPTER

New Zealand
Permit No. 101364



Flying with the General Manager

The last few weeks have been reasonably quiet for the rescue helicopter though looking back on previous years winter is traditionally a quieter time of year. However spring is almost upon us and based on history we can expect the work load to start to increase.



Our BK-117 rescue helicopter has recently returned from Auckland where further work was carried out as part of the fit out. The two most visual aspects are the windows that have been fitted to the rear clamshell doors and a wet floor liner in the cabin.

The rear windows will mean the cabin is not so claustrophobic for patients and crew and the wet floor liner will allow the cabin to be easily hosed down, if required to remove salt water, dirt and any medical fluids.

The BK-117 rescue helicopter fit out is currently complete with no impending plans but as future technology evolves there may be projects still to be done.

Another major change is the new Ambulance standard that requires that we despatch the rescue helicopter with two clinical personnel on a rescue mission – one being an Advanced Care Paramedic (provided by St John) and a second crewperson with minimum Basic Life Support qualification. The Trust has been working with St John to have the second volunteer paramedic to fulfill the position.

Over the years the Trust has been extremely fortunate to have core group of long standing volunteer crewman. They are now helping with the transition and training the volunteer paramedics in the crewman duties and responsibilities. In this newsletter we introduce our new crew and farewell Leon Pryce as one of our longstanding volunteer crewmen.

Ian

Ian Wilmot General Manager

Hanging Up Overalls

After 10 years as a volunteer crewman, Leon Pryce is hanging up his rescue overalls and stay with one foot on the ground.

The Trust would like to acknowledge the tremendous amount of time and effort that Leon has given to the service and community. Here is an insight into Leon's rescue helicopter moments.

What got you started as a rescue helicopter crewman?

I was always interested in helicopters and a friend of mine was an engineer working on them at the time. One day a pilot walked into my workshop and I asked the question about how to become a crewman. The next thing you know I was flying.

What are your most memorial moments?

Well where do you start... the feeling that you get when you see the relief on peoples faces when you arrive to help. Or flying in 40 knots of wind going into ranges getting hammered from all sides saying to myself what the hell am I doing? Or going to a job when you know kids are involved hoping its not going to be too bad. It never used to worry me until I had my own kids.

What was your most interesting mission?

One of the better missions was in winter searching for two men that went fishing in 2m high seas with 25 knot winds at 5pm in their 8ft dingy with no life jackets. They had been dumped out of their dingy and drifted 15 miles out to sea. We found them the next day and they were cold, wet and hungry. I think they were pretty pleased to see us.

What did you enjoy about the role?

Working with a well oiled team and giving a little back to the community. And of course being able to see the country side from the best vantage point.

What are you going to do with your spare time now?

SPARE time what is that? I will be spending a bit more time with the family and probably a spot of fishing here and there. Lastly, I'd like to say a special thanks to my family - Lisa, Libby, Luca and to all the people that keep the helicopter flying by donating to the service. PS: If you ever need any profile cutting or component manufacturing – call Axis Routed Innovations (our little leaving plug for Leon's company)



Pilot Dean Herrick looks at the new windows.

Rescue Helicopter Final Touches

The final touches are now complete on the capital fit out project for the BK117 rescue helicopter. The project was started with the arrival of the helicopter in December 2009. Since then the helicopter has gone through an extensive transformation to become an emergency rescue helicopter.

Trust General Manager, Ian Wilmot, said the Trust staggered the fit out to minimise the time the rescue helicopter was out of the air at one time. A decision was made to complete the final stage in the winter months when it is historically a quieter time of the year for the rescue helicopter.

The final stage has involved:

- Windows being installed in the rear clamshell doors to help reduce nausea symptoms for patients and medical staff who may get motion sickness from travelling in the back of the helicopter. The windows will make passengers not feel so enclosed and claustrophobic. They will also assist the crew during take off and landings by being able to provide the pilot with clearance information.
- Bear Paws to help reduce the rescue helicopter skids sinking into soft ground and snow during landing.
- Water proof floor liner installed in the rear cabin to eliminate the likelihood of corrosion from salt water and medical fluids. The water proof floor liner allows the cabin floor to be easily washed out after missions, such as a sea winning emergency mission.
- The total cost of the capital project fit out has been \$770,000. Project funds were generously donated by gaming and private charitable trusts as well as donations received from the community.

Your Helping Hand

The Trust is now able to offer 'Regular Giving' as a way you can help others who need the rescue helicopter service.

The Regular Giving programme allows you to give easily with a monthly donation by automatic payment. Your donation will make a big difference and allows our crew to help those who are in need of urgent medical transportation.

If you are interested in becoming a Regular Giver please call 0800 323 111 or go to www.hbrescuehelicopter.org.nz



From Left: Hamish Davis and Mike van Workum of Fern Ridge Produce

Fern Ridge and Growers Help Support Service

Over \$6,000 was raised from the voluntary giving scheme initiated by Fern Ridge Produce to deduct two cents per apple carton from orchardists. Fern Ridge Produce then matched the orchardists contribution.

Louise Harvey, Trust Marketing & Fundraising Manager said it is really exciting to see companies, like Fern Ridge Produce thinking outside the square on how to help charities. It can be a positive and rewarding experience for the people who are involved.



From left: Shane Bergman, Dave Russell, Donna Elder (back), Emma Hubbard

Introducing Our New Volunteer Crew

The Trust would like to introduce our four new ambulance qualified crew who have generously stepped forward to help the service. You can check out their profiles on the Trust website www.hbrescuehelicopter.org.nz

Changing of the Guard

The Trust is pleased to announce Michael Jackson of PKF Carr and Stanton has come on board as a volunteer Trustee on the Board. Michael will play a pivotal role as the Chief Financial Officer for the Trust.

On the other side... the Trust is sad to see Tony Mossman of Barnes Mossman step down after 8 years of service as a Trustee. As a Trustee, Tony took on the role of Chief Financial Officer and helped to ensure the Trust was financially sound and heading in the right direction. Tony notes working with such a dedicated crew of volunteers and the move to the BK117 service as the highlights of his time as a Trustee. We will all greatly miss Tony's passion and enthusiasm for the service.



Westpac's Chopper Appeal

The annual Westpac Chopper Appeal month has seen people dig deep to help rescue helicopters across New Zealand. The total amount raised in Hawke's Bay was over \$27,000.



Beamish Charity Adventure Event

The 3rd Beamish Charity Adventure Event for the benefit of the Rescue Helicopter Trust took place in April.

Over 150 competitors attended with a mixture of horse riders, mountain bike riders and walkers who all set off in different directions over the stunning Crownthorpe farm.

The event raised \$2,500 for the Rescue Helicopter Trust - a great effort! A big thank you to Simon and Josi Beamish and their team as well as Lawrence Yule and the Hospital Doctors for taking a lead from the front of the event.

Make sure you are there next year!



Cocktail Party Success

Over \$70,000 was raised for the Rescue Helicopter Trust from this years Annual Hastings Karamu Rotary Club's cocktail party fundraiser at the Hawke's Bay Opera House held on Friday 27th May.

Barry Lambert, Hastings Karamu Rotary Club's committee organiser, said the fundraising event had again been a great success. It takes a lot of hard work but our members believe it is well worth the effort for the Rescue Helicopter Service.

The Trust would like to say a very big thank you to the Hastings Karamu Rotary Club members, the events major sponsors - IMS Payroll Partners and Advintage - as well as all Hawke's Bay businesses and individuals who sponsored the event and donated auction items, Hastings Boys' High and Hastings Girls' High students who helped during the evening and to everyone who bought tickets and attended the event.

Next year will be the 20th year for the Cocktail Party Fundraiser. A huge achievement! A little bit of planning has taken place already to make the event extra special. We will keep you up to date...

Thank You!

A special thank you to the following groups and organisations that have gone the extra mile to help the service:

Bay Motorcycle Club
Bernard Chambers Charitable Trust
Boniface Investments – Kiddie Rides HB
Farmlands – 2011 Golf Day and Fishing Competition
Friends of Charity
Gaz Brown – Patient Story Donation
Havelock North Cub Pack
Hastings Karamu Rotary Club
Kidnappers Country Music – 2011 Festival
Knox Op Shop

Lioness Club of Havelock North
Lindisfarne Gala
Mrs E Clare
Mr Apple Staff Fund
M S Holt Charitable Trust
Napier Cosmopolitan Centennial Charitable Trust
NZ Forest & Bird Protection Society Inc
NZMCA Hawke's Bay – Easter Rally
Onga Onga School – 2011 Trail Bike Ride
Ray & Leslie Thompson – Horse Trek

Rotary Club of Taradale
Simon & Josie Beamish – 2011 Adventure Race
Tait Drive Social Club
Te Mata Trampers
Twin City Riding Club (HB)
Waipawa Districts Lions Club
Waipukurau School – Wacky Hair Day
Wairoa Lighthouse Lions – 'The Royal Wedding' Proceeds
Whetukura Trail Ride

Crew Profile

Name: Shane Bergman
Position: Volunteer Crewman
Length of Service: May 2011

Family: Married with two children (twins)

Spare time activities: Enjoys fishing, golf, family time and watching TV cooking shows in an attempt to improve my culinary skills (we are still waiting for morning tea...)



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www.capechallenge.co.nz
For information and registration

The annual Staples Rodway Cape Kidnappers Challenge is being held on Saturday 5th November 2011. The course is over 30km of mainly private land and includes windswept beaches, native forests, waterfalls and stunning coastal farmland. You can either compete as an individual or in a relay team of three. Walk and run options are available. The Rescue Helicopter Trust is pleased to be the nominated charity for the event.

To enter go to www.capechallenge.co.nz for information and registration.