

# Just between... friends

NEWSLETTER OF THE LOWE CORPORATION RESCUE HELICOPTER



AUGUST 2009



## School's Come on Board

Hawke's Bay schools are getting behind the Rescue Helicopter Trust with the 'adopt a charity' initiative and the resource learning kit.

The Trust has recently established two separate programmes to educate school pupils on the vital work carried out by the rescue helicopter service.

The school initiatives have a special place for Rescue Helicopter Trust CEO, Tony Robinson, who had been the Principal of Hereworth School for ten years.

For the 'adopt a charity' concept schools have been asked to adopt the Rescue Helicopter Trust as their preferred charity for fundraising activities during the year. The initiative was recently launched with the schools coming up with a fun range of creative fundraising ideas.

"It also gives pupils an appreciation of the charitable work carried out by essential community organisations. It will give them an understanding of the valuable work undertaken by the rescue helicopter across the Hawke's Bay region", said Tony.

Examples of the fundraising initiatives undertaken by schools include: fun hair days, discos, bagging pine cones, washing parent's cars, funds from rubbish collection at McLean Park, chapel collections and wrist band sales.

"All the schools contacted to date have taken on the initiative with great vigour and enthusiasm and the whole process has successfully been a further catalyst for student leadership," said Tony.

### School Resource Kit

The school resource kit will give children a strong understanding of the work carried out by the rescue helicopter in the community.

"The kit has been written for primary and intermediate school pupils from years 4 to 8. We are really pleased to see it all come together. The kits will see pupils undertaking a range of thought-provoking exercises from writing rescue helicopter newspapers articles to creating paper cut out helicopters", said Tony.

A special thank you to Leonie Egan, Principal of Sherenden and Districts School who wrote the resource kit for the Trust. Leonie's efforts have been outstanding and greatly appreciated!

If your school would like to be involved please contact Louise Harvey, Community Liaison Manager on 0800 111 246 or email [louise@hbrescuehelicopter.org.nz](mailto:louise@hbrescuehelicopter.org.nz).

So come on board Hawke's Bay Schools – follow the excellent lead taken by some of your peers this year and make it a goal to be involved in 2010!

### Special thank you to the following schools:

Flemington School	Frimley School
Hereworth School	Lindisfarne College
Iona College	Maraekakaho School
Poukawa School	Woodford House
Richmond School	Sherenden School
Sherwood School	Twyford School
Pukehomoamo School	



Rebecca Cody and Crewman Brett Howe are all smiles before being winched off Woodford's main field by the Rescue Helicopter. The Woodford girls raised over \$4,000 by selling wrist bands that said 'challenge the future'. (Photo courtesy of HB Today)

Top Left: Luke Fitzsimons, Frimley School teacher, discusses the rescue helicopter with his Year 4 class. Top Right: Frimley School pupils work on the rescue helicopter resource kit.

# Thank You

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

- BP Oil – donation of petrol vouchers for pilots vehicle
- Brown Webb Richardson – proceeds from a 'Casual Friday'
- Cook Island Christian Church
- Dannevirke Hunt
- Dannevirke & Hawke's Bay Combined Hunt
- DM Palmer NZ Ltd – proceeds from 'punters club' at race day
- Eskdale War Memorial Church
- Farmlands – proceeds from fishing competition
- Heretaunga Tramping Club – proceeds from an auction evening
- Hereworth School – proceeds from their chapel services
- J & J Atchinson – proceeds from home made wooden money box sales
- Lighthouse Lions Club of Wairoa
- Lioness Club of Havelock North
- Motoere Charitable Trust
- Onga Onga School – proceeds from a trial bike ride
- Pakowhai Spinning Club
- Pam Torbett Charitable Trust – donation for winch training mats
- Porangahau Fire Brigade Social Club
- Sherenden & Districts School – proceeds from their 'Crazy Hair Day'
- Spirit of Napier Lions Club
- Te Mata Trampers
- Twin City Riding Club
- Twyford Women's Institute
- Women's Section RSA
- Woodford House – proceeds from a wrist band fundraiser

Please note the above donations were received from January to July 2009.

Jean & John Atchinson with money boxes



# Top Cover Project

When the crew head out to sea on a mission they will shortly be able to rely on the new 'top cover' converted aircraft.

'Top cover' is a term given to an aircraft suitably equipped to provide essential tasks during offshore rescue helicopter operations. The aircraft that will be equipped is currently in use for air ambulance transfers around the country.

Brent Williams, Chief Pilot, said "we are really pleased the top cover project is going ahead. It has been a real concern for some time that we needed an aircraft suitably kitted out to support the rescue helicopter in off shore work".

"The main concerns were if the rescuers needed rescuing, who would help if the need arose and if there were multiple people who needed help in the sea at one time, especially if a boat was sinking miles off shore? How would we help them?"

"Now we will be able to drop a lift raft off to the survivors. The top cover will also give an extra set of eyes for offshore rescue operations when people are lost at sea," said Brent.

The closest top cover aircraft at present is located in Hamilton.

The project is underway thanks to the generous donation of \$60,000 from a local gaming organisation, the Endeavour Community Foundation.

Mark Sowman, Endeavour Community Foundation Executive Trustee, said the Trustees were very pleased to support a vital community service. It is good to see the funds from gaming foundations making a real difference.



## Milestone for Crew

You will find it hard to come across a more dedicated bunch than our volunteer rescue helicopter crew.

Two volunteer crew members, Craig Parsons and Geoff Taylor, have recently reached a milestone of ten years service. A brilliant achievement!

The Rescue Helicopter Trust is truly indebted to the crew who perform an integral role for the service. The crewman's role is wide ranging from helping the pilot during flight to ground support for the St John Advanced Paramedic to weekly equipment checks at the hangar.

## Farmlands to the Rescue

Hastings Farmlands staff ready to support the service



Farmlands are showing their support by holding an appeal month to benefit the Rescue Helicopter service.

During the month of September Farmlands' shareholders will be asked if they would like to support the service at their local Farmlands branch.

Noel Houston, Farmlands Hastings Branch Manager, said it is a great way for Farmlands

and our shareholders to make a collective contribution to a vital service for the rural community.

"When we started to look at charities to support, the Rescue Helicopter was a natural fit for Farmlands. We both look after the same group of people so it made sense to show our support", said Noel.

Thanks Farmlands!

### Our family of sponsors...



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# Flying with the CEO

## Regional Support for the Rescue Helicopter as Strong as Ever

Each year we are required to raise well in excess of one million dollars to keep the Rescue Helicopter in the skies and in 2009 the loyalty and generosity of the Hawke's Bay region have once again been a huge feature allowing us to remain in operation. The people of Hawke's Bay continue to make the statement that having a 24/7 dedicated Air Rescue Service is essential to our province. I never cease to be amazed at just how many people contribute to this vital cause, and even though for some it may only be a few dollars, every single donation helps us get one step closer to our target and for that we are extremely grateful. As the helicopter has flown 389 and 367 missions in the last two years, it is clear that the service remains consistently in demand.

A recent highlight covered in this newsletter is our new Schools Programme which has involved 20 being in a pilot programme through 2009. Schools have devised many fun ways to raise money for the Rescue Helicopter, the most challenging of which has been Woodford House who raised over four thousand dollars by arranging to have their departing headmistress winched into the skies off their top field. We have devised a study unit on the work of the Rescue Helicopter so this term over 700 students will be deliberating over all aspects of the service in the classroom. It is great to have the youngest generation so closely involved and taking some form of ownership in this way.

Support comes in so many ways and I often feel like tooting my car horn to say 'thank you' to those who proudly display their Rescue Helicopter sticker to the world!

We will be working harder than ever in the future to ensure the necessary funding, but thank you Hawke's Bay for your incredible support-it is humbling to say the least.



Tony Robinson  
Chief Executive Officer



## Cocktail Party Success

This year's cocktail party fundraiser again lived up to expectations with over 700 people attending the annual Hastings Karamu Rotary Club fundraiser.

Over \$75,000 was raised during the evening for the Rescue Helicopter Trust. Guests were able to enjoy great Hawke's Bay food and wine, as well as participate in the charity auction and raffle. There was strong bidding again in the auction with the highlight being the Flight Centre trip for two to Italy.

Nick Story, Hastings Karamu Rotary Club's committee organiser, said the fundraising evening had been a great success from the amount raised for the Service, the number of people who attended the event and the great atmosphere on the night. It was wonderful to see the event all come together.

The Hastings Karamu Rotary Club has organised the fundraiser for the past 18 years with over \$620,000 raised for the Rescue Helicopter Trust.

Louise Harvey, Rescue Helicopter Trust Community Liaison Manager, said the Trust is extremely grateful for Hastings Karamu Rotary Club's contribution as well as all the sponsors for the evening and of course the people who attended.

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, Advintage, HB Opera House 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 brought tickets and attended the event.

In recent years the Hastings Karamu Rotary Club's annual cocktail party has evolved to become one of Hawke's Bay's most popular social events. Make sure you don't miss it in 2010!

*The auction begins with Paul Holmes & Laurence Redshaw*



## Westpac's Chopper Appeal

The annual Westpac Chopper Appeal month has seen people dig deep to help the rescue helicopters across New Zealand. The total amount raised in Hawke's Bay was over \$25,000 which was a 25% increase on the 2008 fundraising activities.

A very big thank you to the Westpac team and the customers who generously donated funds to the appeal.

*Left: Grant Brodie, Westpac Manager helps Brent Williams, Chief Pilot at the Westpac branch in Hastings.*



Trevor Thomas visits the rescue helicopter hangar to find out about the service.

It was during the helicopter ride to the hospital that Trevor became aware of his situation.

"I remember opening my eyes and seeing a knee and then another knee. I realised there was a female paramedic squatting over me and that I was in the rescue helicopter. Being a gentleman, I closed my eyes for the rest of the trip!"

Fortunately Trevor did not suffer any broken bones during the trampling, however he still has a way to go in the recovery process.

Trevor is extremely grateful for his co-workers, the Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter and pilot Dean Herrick and says the service and support was brilliant.

"The chopper crew were quick and efficient; it was all done in no time. If the chopper hadn't arrived I'd have been lying there for a lot longer waiting for the ambulance to arrive. Then there would have been a long ambulance trip to the hospital."

Trevor has nothing but praise for the Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter and feels all farmers and those living in a rural environment need to help support the service as you never know when you might need it.

"You know they are there but you tend to take it for granted until something happens."

Special thanks to Trevor Thomas and Lisa Windsor, HB Country Scene for providing the article material.

## Rescue Service Appreciated

Every farmer knows the great service offered by the rescue helicopters across New Zealand but it takes a personal experience to fully appreciate how vital it is.

Hawke's Bay deer farmer, Trevor Thomas, never expected to need the services of the Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter, and while he makes regular donations, he admits to taking the service for granted. That all changed after an accident on the farm resulted in Trevor being airlifted to Hawke's Bay hospital.

On a cold and wet day in May, Trevor and two co-workers were weaning deer on Trevor's farm west of Tikokino in Central Hawke's Bay.

Trevor says the trio had used a system successfully in the past where the fawns would be separated from the hinds. However this particular day the system broke down and Trevor didn't get back

into the shed before the hinds came down the ramp.

"I'd just latched the gate and when I turned around there was a deer flying at me. That was the last thing I saw. I landed on my tailbone and being on a ramp I flew quite a way down and smacked the back of my head. That was it. I was out like a light", said Trevor.

When Trevor's co-workers found him they immediately dialled 111 and the rescue helicopter was activated.

## Your Helping Hand

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 of urgent medical transportation. The continued support of the community and sponsors enables the service to operate 24/7 and provide a high quality service to the region.

Thanks again for your ongoing support of the service.

If you would like information on regular monthly donations or bequest donations please call Louise Harvey on 0800 111 246 or email [louise@hbrescuehelicopter.org.nz](mailto:louise@hbrescuehelicopter.org.nz)

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*friends*  
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