



# OFF THE LANDING PAD

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2023

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

New merchandise

Recent Missions

Community Cheer



## WITHOUT A DOUBT **CYCLONE GABRIELLE** CHANGED MANY LIVES IN **HAWKES BAY.**

The weather bomb that hit Hawke's Bay and the subsequent effects on people and property will live with the community for the rest of their lives.

One such person is Peter White, Peter and his son Patrick lived on a property with two other single parents and their children. Claire, the owner of the property, had done an amazing job creating a tropical oasis with plants, ornate wooden fences and a large barn, until that fateful night and subsequent day Peter had no idea how important that barn would be to the six of them.

Peter recalled the story of how a mix of determination, quick thinking and the Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter saved himself, his son and the other families living at the property from the flood water that caused so much devastation to the homes around him.

"You guys were f'ing amazing, you saved our lives, our kids' lives and our neighbours lives, your service is hugely important, and we would not be here today without it"

It was between 3 and 4am when Peter received a call from Claire, the owner of the property, she asked where he was, he told her he was in his caravan with his son. Claire's other

flat mate who volunteered for Fire and Emergency had called her to warn her water was lapping the roof of the house down the road and she wanted to let Peter know too. Peter was already awake and watching the weather as the winds were over 70km an hour and as it was coming from the east he knew there was bound to be damage to the property. "The wind was strong, the water was starting to rise, and high tide was coming, we knew we had to get out of there" Peter said.

For a quick second we debated driving out but as I only had a 2WD ute and we had no idea whether the bridges were still standing we quickly dismissed it. One thing we were certain of is if we didn't do something, we were dead. Claire and I decided if we could get to the barn, it was the highest part of the property, we would be safer there, once there we could hunker down and wait for the water to recede or for help to come.

continued over page>>





It took me less than a minute to grab my keys, some food, get my son dressed and start on the 10m trip to the barn, by this stage the water was rising fast, I half walked, half skipped to the barn pulling my son through the water. We climbed up into the roof, in a cubby hole, holding onto the rafters for dear life, the barn was shaking from the wind and from one of the big trees outside as it smacked into the side.

We called 111 and waited for help to come. We breathed a sigh of relief as there was a calm in the weather and then it started again, and we realised it was coming back and it was going to hit us hard.

One of the most disturbing things was the silence, between wind gusts there was just quiet, no sounds of animals, of neighbours, of vehicles, just silence.

By this time the water was so high in the barn that we made the decision to punch through the roof and get the boys on the top of the barn.

It was around 10am when they heard the sound of the helicopter, Claire and the younger boys were winched up first and taken to safety, then my neighbours and then you came back for Devon and I.

“You guys are right at the top of the list of people who did amazing things, you saved countless lives without question, until this my son had never been in an airplane let alone a helicopter.

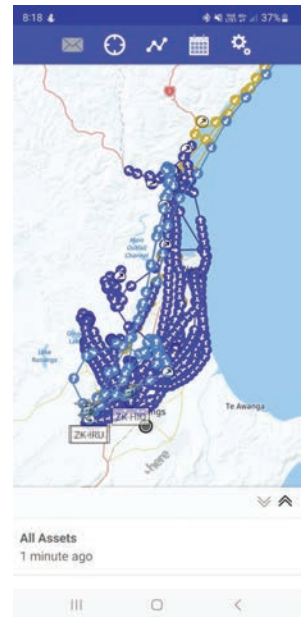
I am also extremely grateful to our neighbours and the Hawke’s Bay public who opened their homes to us. I lost my wallet in the flood water and so didn’t have any money, but strangers not only opened their homes to us to keep warm and dry, gave us items to get by, but people even gave us cash.”

The Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter was the first winch capable helicopter in the air after the cyclone, completing 15+ winch operations in the first 12 hours, winching people off rooves, from apple bins and out of life-threatening situations. The crew worked tirelessly, off duty crew helped out in the hanger and by flying private helicopters to have as much help in the air as possible, all pitching in whether they were on duty or not.

There are many stories like Peters’, people that went through unimaginable situations and they keep saying the same thing, “When we heard the Helicopter coming, we knew we were going to be ok”.

The hearts of our crew and staff break for members of the Hawke’s Bay community who lost their homes, their businesses, their belongings and their lives in Cyclone Gabrielle, but we are also thankful that we were able to help save a number of lives. With the help of other rescue helicopters that came to support us, private companies and the other emergency services we did what we could to help the Hawke’s Bay community like they have been supporting us for over 30 years.

It is through your generosity that we were able to be there, your donations help us to be fueled, trained and ready to go whether it is a regular day or a national emergency. Thank you for the support you provide our service and for helping us save lives whether it is a regular day or a national emergency.



## HAWKES BAY MARATHON

Are you taking part in the 2023 Hawke’s Bay Marathon? Whether you are running or walking, taking part in the 10km, the half marathon or the full marathon take your run to the next level by supporting our living saving service.

It is really easy to sign up, 1. Visit [www.hawkesbaymarathon2023.grassrootz.com/join](http://www.hawkesbaymarathon2023.grassrootz.com/join) and sign up 2. Select the Hawke’s Bay Rescue Helicopter as your chosen charity 3. Share you page to your friends, family, neighbours, work colleagues... anyone you know that might want to support your fundraising.

**Looking for a little support or resources to help with your fundraising please contact Amber – [mfm@hbhrt.org.nz](mailto:mfm@hbhrt.org.nz)**

We are currently sitting 54th of the Leader board and we would love to make it into the top 10 before the marathon in August.

## MEET THE CREW – DONNA ELDER

In March 2023 we welcomed Donna Elder to the crew as a Critical Care Paramedic. Donna has worked in the healthcare environment for many years starting as an Anaesthetic/ICU Technician, after 20 years in this field she joined St John Ambulance and trained as a Critical Care Paramedic. Outside of work she is extremely passionate about Motorsport, she currently has two New Zealand Co Driver Championship titles and when she is not working on the helicopter, she is chasing a third.

### Why did you become a Critical Care Paramedic?

After 20 years of working in the Hospital environment, it was time for a challenge and a change, so I joined St John Ambulance, where I trained as Critical Care Paramedic.

As part of my role as an Anaesthetic/ICU Technician I was involved in interhospital transfers via both fixed wing and rotary flights, this is where I developed my love of flying so when the opportunity came up to join the crew of the Rescue Helicopter as a paramedic and fly for a living I jumped at the chance.

### What do you enjoy most about the job?

There are many aspects of the job that I really enjoy, the team I work with plays a big part and I love being able to help people when they are at their most vulnerable, I know I am making a positive difference in their lives.

### Apart from the Helicopter, what is the biggest difference to being a road paramedic?

This job certainly pushes you outside your comfort zone, as we are often dealing with critically ill patients in remote locations with a very small team of people to help, this certainly differs greatly from my previous role in the Ambulance Service as there are usually other medics around to assist when you attend a call.



*Crew with our new umbrella*

## NEW MERCHANDISE

Want to show your support for our life saving organisation when you are out and about in Hawke's Bay? We are excited to launch our new branded merchandise!

We currently have branded umbrellas and reusable coffee cups available for sale and coming soon a rescue helicopter keyring.

Pickup and courier options available. Please visit [www.hawkesbayonline.co.nz/the-hawkes-bay-rescue-helicopter-trust](http://www.hawkesbayonline.co.nz/the-hawkes-bay-rescue-helicopter-trust) and click the merchandise tab to find out more.



## COMMUNITY CHEER

We are so grateful to the Hawke's Bay Community for supporting our service so we can be available 24/7 for our region. Below are a few special people who have been raising valuable funds for us recently

### DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR A FUNDRAISER?

Please contact Amber – email [mfm@hbhrt.org.nz](mailto:mfm@hbhrt.org.nz) or call 06 878 1630 to discuss how we can help you, help us!



### Joe and Otis run the Hawke's Bay Marathon

Joe and Otis are a father and son team who have set two HUGE goals, 1. To raise \$50,000 for the Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter and 2. For Joe to run the Hawke's Bay Marathon in under 3 hours, something that only 4% of male marathon runners can put on their resume.

Joe and Otis are hoping to achieve their fundraising goal before the marathon at the end of August and have created a Give-a-little page that has already raised \$8,780 – [www.givealittle.co.nz/fundraiser/otis-and-joe-run-the-hawkes-bay-marathon](http://www.givealittle.co.nz/fundraiser/otis-and-joe-run-the-hawkes-bay-marathon). Joe is also posting updates on his training and their fundraising journey on his Instagram page so you can follow their progress - [www.instagram.com/josephspayton](https://www.instagram.com/josephspayton)

"The Team at HBHRT do incredible work saving lives here in our region. Get your hands in your pockets please, Hawkes Bay needs them. Thank you Otis and Joe".

Good luck Joe and thank you to you and Otis for supporting our life saving service.



### Westpac Chopper Appeal 2023

Each May Westpac NZ raises funds for Rescue Helicopters in New Zealand through their Westpac Chopper appeal. The Appeal runs all month and includes a number of different activities throughout the country, all organised by local Westpac Staff.

We are very lucky in Hawke's Bay to have the support of 4 Westpac Branches who not only organise a bucket appeal, but this year they also held a Quiz Night which raised just under \$13,000 for our life saving service. The Quiz night was really well attended with tables selling out within a couple of weeks of going on sale.

As well as being very well fed and entertained there were some fantastic silent auction items donated by local/national businesses and a number of All Black, Black Caps, Hurricanes and Warriors items that were auctioned off online.

Thank you to the local Westpac staff who were part of the organising committee and to those staff who took to the street with a bucket as well.



### Tahaenui Christmas Fete

Thank you to the Tahaenui Christmas Fete who donated \$9,400 from their Christmas event. The 2023 Fete is scheduled for 19 November and we are proud to be the charity recipient once again.



### Twist MX Argyll

On Saturday the 4th of March Twist MX Argyll opened their motocross track with all of the entry fees being donated to our service. They wanted to acknowledge the Crew's work during the cyclone and the people we have airlifted from their track in the past too.



### Craigs '50km a day Challenge'

Throughout the month of March, teams of Craigs Investment Partners staff took part in the '50km A Day Challenge' to raise money for national Rescue Helicopter Services. This year Craigs matched any donations made to the local fundraising pages and \$1,150 was donated to our service.

## // RECENT MISSIONS

**12/3/23**

Roy is on the mend after a stroke a couple of months ago and wanted to come in and say thank-you to the Crew for getting him to Auckland so quickly, a trip that saved his life.

We are so happy that we were there when you needed us Roy and we wish you all the best with your continued recovery.



**13/3/23**

The crew flew to Waimarama to Jason who sustained an arm injury as a result of a mechanical failure on an excavator he was operating. Jason was flown to Hawke's Bay Hospital

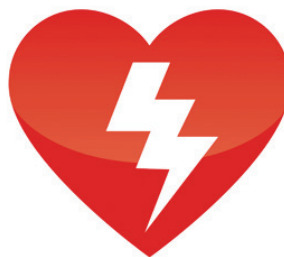
Jason (pictured with CCP Steve and Crewman Shaun) and his family are especially thankful for the support of our helicopter as we also attended a serious incident with their daughter Maizey late last year when she had a serious reaction to a bee sting.



**17/5/23**

The crew were dispatched to Waimarama beach to a report of a cardiac arrest. The patient arrested on a private fishing boat 15 minutes offshore, he was given active CPR by a fellow fisherman as the boat returned to shore, where a off-duty Critical Care Paramedic from St John, happened to be walking her dogs along the beach. The off-duty Paramedic took over the CPR and used an AED to defibrillate the patient.

Upon the arrival of the helicopter crew at the scene CPR was continued until the patient was revived and stabilised. A 77 y/o male patient was flown to Hawkes' Bay Hospital in a critical condition after suffering a heart attack.



**AED  
LOCATIONS**

Sharing community resources  
to save lives

Do you know where your nearest AED is located?  
Find out more at [www.aedlocations.co.nz](http://www.aedlocations.co.nz)

## THANK-YOU TO THE FOLLOWING GROUPS/SCHOOLS WHO HAVE DONATED TO THE TRUST RECENTLY

- Autumn Colours Open Day - **\$1,370.00**
- Cape Kidnappers Trail Run - **\$4,000**
- Craigs Investment Partners – 50km a day Challenge **\$1,150**
- Hawkes Bay Classic Motorcycle Club - **\$3,500**
- Kairakau Beach Development Club - **\$2,000**
- Lions Club of Takapau - **\$2,000**

- Queen Street Practice Quiz Night - **\$1,021.60**
- Tahaenui Fair - **\$9,400**
- Top of the Ridge Horse Treks - **\$2,500**
- Twist MX Argyll - **\$1,000**
- Waipukurau Vintage Fair - **\$2,000**
- Wairoa Veterinary Club - **\$7,500**
- Z Good in the Hood 2022 - **\$2,172**

We also appreciate the support from the following;

*Dare2Sweat Events (Spirited Woman Adventure Race) – Dominos Greenmeadows – Farmlands Hastings - Farmlands Napier – Flemington School – My Fundraiser – Napier Girls' High School Old Girls' Association – Noel Leeming Napier – Property Brokers Rural Team BBQ – St Andrew's Church – Taradale Women's Institute – Twin City 4WD Club – Waipatiki Community Association - Wairoa RSA Women's Section.*

## What is something we all need... and by purchasing it you are helping support our life saving service?

Toilet paper! Not what you were expecting right? The fabulous team at My Fundraiser are supporting our charity, 1 Roll at a time!

Simply purchase a box of 48 rolls (equivalent to 96 standard rolls) for \$50 (plus shipping) and my fundraiser will make a \$5 donation to the Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter Trust, you just need to select us as your charity of choice.

To find out more visit [www.myfundraiser.co.nz](http://www.myfundraiser.co.nz)



Ready to roll out!



## THANK YOU TO OUR PLATINUM, DIAMOND, GOLD AND SILVER CORPORATE SPONSORS

Who help to keep our services free of charge and available 24/7 to everyone in our Community.

### PLATINUM AND DIAMOND

Baker Tilly Staples Rodway Hawke's Bay  
Brownrigg Agriculture Ltd  
Centralines Ltd  
Central Hawke's Bay District Council  
Hastings District Council  
Hawke's Bay Regional Council  
Metalcraft Roofing/Reofab Hastings  
Napier Pine Ltd  
Vet Services (HB) Ltd  
Wairoa District Council

Black Stag Haulage  
BP Clive  
Bridgeman Concrete Limited  
Brittin Builders Ltd  
Conroy Removals Ltd  
Davmet New Zealand (2020) Ltd  
DG Glenn Logging Ltd  
Eastfield Ltd  
Forest Management NZ  
Fulton Hogan Ltd  
Hydralada Company Ltd  
Kleer Contractors HB Ltd  
Lattey Group Ltd  
LE Cooke Nurseryman Ltd  
Lee's Residential T/A G J Gardiner  
Hawke's Bay  
MCL Construction Ltd  
Motus Hydraulics  
MW Lissette Ltd  
Oceanbridge Shipping Ltd  
Panton Plumbing  
Pope Electrical

QC Engineering HB Ltd  
Rayonier NZ - Matariki Forests Ltd  
Stephenson Transport  
TLC Softwash  
Tong & Peryer 2007 Ltd  
Tribe  
Tumu Group  
Waimoe Farm  
Wassco Trading Limited

Epplert & Co Ltd  
Everfresh Ltd  
Farmer's Mutual Group  
Harris Pumps & Filtration Ltd  
Hastings Glass  
Heyhoe Engineering Ltd  
Hygiene Technologies Ltd  
Jamieson Earthworks Ltd  
Logan Stone Ltd  
Mark Pittar Transport Ltd

### SILVER

Alexander Construction  
Arataki Honey Ltd - HB Division  
ATI Engineering  
Brendan Addis Ltd  
Brookes Builders  
CHB Funeral Services Limited  
DSK Engineering Ltd  
East Coast Lumber Ltd  
East Coast Stump Grinders Ltd  
Electrical Process  
Development Ltd

Mike Kettle Contracting Ltd  
Morice Ltd  
Newstead Farm  
Oldershaw & Co Ltd  
Plan A Consulting  
Quality Roding & Service  
Redshaw Livestock Ltd  
Taradale Service Centre  
Tasman Harvester Contracting Ltd  
Walsh & Associates  
Waterforce Limited  
Websters Hydrated Lime Co Ltd

### GOLD

Advanced Plumbing HB Ltd  
Alex Hayes Log Transport  
Alive Psychology - Bhavna Nagar  
Archant  
Atkin Construction (HB) Ltd  
B R Roofing Ltd  
BDO Hawke's Bay Ltd

**Did you know that we have corporate sponsorship packages available from just \$20 a month?**

If your business would like to become a Corporate Friend of the Rescue Helicopter, please call **Amber** on **06 878 1630** or email [mfm@hbhrt.org.nz](mailto:mfm@hbhrt.org.nz)

## OUR FAMILY OF SPONSORS



Corporate Sponsors

Bay Mazda | HB Technologies | The Hits Hawke's Bay 89.5FM  
Hawke's Bay Today | COF's Hawke's Bay | Brandt NZ  
Sign Central | Matau Media | Brebner Print | HB Online  
Complex Forme | Silver Fern Farms – Takapau Staff | Einn Ulfur Design

Corporate Supporters

**DID YOU KNOW THAT THE HASTINGS DISTRICT COUNCIL FUNDS THE PRINTING OF THIS NEWSLETTER?**

They support us every year to ensure we can get our messages to the Hawke's Bay Community, and we are so appreciative!



## KEEP IN CONTACT

**Fundraising and Administration (06) 878 1630**

**Email: [mfm@hbhrt.org.nz](mailto:mfm@hbhrt.org.nz)**

[facebook.com/hbrescuehelicopter](https://facebook.com/hbrescuehelicopter)

**[www.hbhrt.org.nz](http://www.hbhrt.org.nz)**