



LOWE CORPORATION
**RESCUE
HELICOPTER
SERVICE**

OFF THE LANDING PAD

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2022

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CELEBRATING 30 YEARS AS A DEDICATED RESCUE SERVICE IN HAWKE'S BAY



2022 marks 30 years of the Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter being a dedicated service in Hawke's Bay, it also marks 30 years of Lowe Corporation being our principal sponsor.

We are extremely grateful to Lowe Corporation for their support over this time as well as our other corporate sponsors, donors and supporters. Your support allows our crew to help those in need of urgent medical transportation 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

To celebrate our 30-year milestone we have included in this newsletter a fantastic story from 2011 and an update on how the patients are doing 11 years on. Also as part of our regular "Meet the Crew" section we interviewed

Greg Harman who was a volunteer crewman from 1992 to 2010.

The Crew have been involved in so many amazing rescues over the last 30 years across three different helicopters so as a walk down memory lane we have included some of our favourite mission photos in the collage below.

Thank-you for your support yesterday, today and tomorrow! It has and will help keep our life-saving service free and available 24/7 for the Hawke's Bay community.

PHOTO GALLERY OVER THE YEARS (2018 - 2021 Photos courtesy of Hawkes Bay Today)



Search for missing person off Cape Kidnappers
October 2005



Winching in the snow
May 2006



Winch exercise at Te Mata Peak
March 2006



Maclean Park
October 2014



Waimarama Road Car accident
Sept 2018



Missing persons beach search
Jan 2018



MVA - Springhill Road
Dec 2021



Tractor Rollover Maraetotara
May 2022

WAIMARAMA EVACUATION IN STORM... WHERE ARE THEY NOW

In 2011 we told you the story of Emma and her husband Brendon who were expecting their first child and the adventure that they went on because of the flooding in Waimarama.

11 years on we had the pleasure of meeting the Dawson family and talking to Zoe who was born shortly after Emma was evacuated via helicopter... but first here is how the Dawson's journey with the Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter started.

September 2011 – 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 decided 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 pickup on the way. On route the rescue helicopter crew had been waved down by people outside a house.

Hawke's Bay flooding in 2011



Emma, Zoe and Brendon Dawson in 2011

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 into giving 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.

FOUR FAVOURITES *interview with Zoe*

What is your favourite colour? *Pink*

What is your favourite subject as school? *Art*

What do you like to do in your spare time? *Play and go to the beach to go surfing and farming with my Papa and Kui*

What do you want to be when you grow up? *Marine Biologist*

Pictured: Brendon, Sophia, Emma, Katie and Zoe Dawson, 11 years after Emma (and Zoe) were evacuated from Waimarama.



THE HITS
89.5FM

Hawke's Bay
TODAY
PART OF THE NZ HERALD NETWORK

We are thrilled to announce that we are now the official charity partner of the Hits Hawke's Bay and Hawke's Bay Today. We are excited to be working with the team at NZME and across both of these brands to keep you updated on our service, missions, events and more.

// RE-MEET THE CREW – GREG HARMAN

To celebrate 30 years of being a dedicated service we spoke to Greg Harman, Greg volunteered as a Crewman for 18 years, from 1992 through to 2010. He spoke to us about his time with the service and some memories that he had of his time on the helicopter.

// How did you get involved with the service

I was working in deer recovery at the time and was asked to join the team as a Crewman due to my experience and knowledge of the Hawke's Bay countryside. Originally, I wasn't keen but said I would give them a hand until they got organised, I stayed for 18 years.

// What did you enjoy about your time with the service

There was nowhere we wouldn't go, day or night and just when you thought you had seen everything then you would get a call to something you hadn't seen before or ever imagined. But every time I finished a shift I knew that we had done our best to save as many lives as possible.

// Do you have any missions that you completed that you will always remember

There are a couple that stick with me, the first was a young man on a dairy farm that had flipped his 4-Wheeler and he was in a really bad way.

Myself and the Paramedic Cheryl didn't think he was going to make it, but 6 days later we heard that he had made a full recovery and was back on the farm. We knew on that day the speed of getting help to him had made the difference.

Another rescue that will stick with me is when a truck carrying 36 beehives crashed on New Year's Day. The driver had so many stings he was basically unconscious and when we arrived there was just a yellow swarm surrounding the truck. We winched our paramedic down to collect a beekeeping suit to wear, then they winched the driver and paramedic up to the helicopter to manage the patient while another beekeeper. The driver had so many stings he never worked with bees again.

We were also called to a job that was 128 miles out to sea. We had all the information to know exactly where we were going, but by the time we reached where we needed to be we had very limited fuel remaining. We literally winched the patient up, flew back to land, refuelled and then carried on getting the patient to the hospital for treatment. By the time we reached land we had just 8 minutes of fuel remaining, it was a close call that day, but it all worked out for the best.



// What do you think the biggest differences are in the service today

We were the first Rescue helicopter in NZ to operate with night vision goggles. These days the technology onboard the helicopter has come a long way, as well as the training for the crew. Having a dedicated paramedic onboard helps the crew to get away on jobs quicker as we had to wait for a paramedic or doctor to arrive from Napier. Winching has also come a long way with the current BK helicopter having the ability to winch without reconfiguring.

// Do you miss it?

It was exhilarating and satisfying while it was happening. I have to admit I don't miss the 3am callouts or being picked up from a paddock at short notice, but I am so proud to have been able to help my community and save lives in Hawkes Bay for 18 years.

Good in the Hood is back for 2022 and we are excited to have been chosen as one of the four participant charities for the Z Karamu Road station and the Z Taradale station.

The campaign runs from Monday the 26th of September to Monday 24th of October so if you are filling up from Z Karamu Road or Z Taradale during that time please pop your orange token in the Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter box.

Thank-you to the staff of both Z stations that selected us as one of the recipient charities as the staff make the final decision on which charities to support.



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. Here are just a few special people who have done some fundraising for us recently.

DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR A FUNDRAISER?

Please contact Amber – email mfm@hbhrt.org.nz or call **06 878 1630** to discuss how we can help you, help us!



Ballin' for a cause 3.0

Olivia Ellis has just hosted her third charity ball. Last year's ball was held at Terrace View Winery, Maraekakaho and raised \$8,000 for the Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter to help support our life-saving missions. This year's venue was Hygge Café Clifton Bay and raised \$8,500.

The support shown for this year's event was huge with the tickets selling out in the space of 2 days, leaving a large wait list.

Olivia's first ball was held in 2018 at The Cuban in Christchurch. \$7,200 was donated to the Canterbury Westpac Rescue Helicopter.

"I started organising the charity balls as I wanted to be able to give back to this crucial service. The Rescue Helicopters are extremely close to my family's heart after sadly losing my brother, George, in an accident in 2014 at the age of 22. We are extremely thankful for the team that transported him between hospitals, so he was able to have the best care possible. My goal with subsequent balls has been to raise the cost of a mission, knowing that the money raised has gone towards helping save at least one life.

Throughout the process, I have realised that charities like The Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter could not continue without the support from the local community. The Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter Trust must raise around \$1.3 million every year to keep their life saving services completely free of charge, and available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to everyone in the community.

After organising a ball or two, I soon realised that running events like these aren't as hard as you think. I want to encourage other people to run a fun event and help raise funds for a local charity that it is close to their heart. Just go for it!

I want to thank everyone I've worked with on this event and the two previous events. A good event is made great by the people who support it, and I am really looking forward to next year's ball".



Domino's raising 'dough' for the Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter Trust

A HUGE thankyou to Domino's Pizza and in particular Pankaj and Ravi the Greenmeadows franchisees, that held a pizza night fundraiser recently.

\$1 from every pizza purchased on Wednesday the 10th of August was donated to the Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter Trust and the Domino's team even stopped by the hanger with pizzas for the team.



Property Brokers Auction

The crowd dug deep at the recent Property Brokers Hawke's Bay Charity Auction which raise more than \$70,700 to be shared amongst local charities including the Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter. The sell-out evening saw 400 people attend the event, where 44 items were auctioned and an additional 38 items in the silent auction.

The auction items, which ranged from a one-hour sail on a Māori waka to amazing trips away, a five-course degustation in-home experience, signed Magpies jersey, David Trubridge lights, a go-kart experience, a half-day fishing trip in Napier and more.

This amazing result wouldn't have been possible without the hard work of the incredible Property Brokers team, the generous sponsors and supporters, and the wonderful Hawke's Bay community who put their hands in their pocket to support this wonderful event.

RECENT MISSIONS

11/5/22

The crew assisted the Police and Search and Rescue to locate two overdue trampers in the Ruahine Ranges. The trampers were located safe and well.



Photo courtesy of HB Today
Photographer - Paul Taylor

14/7/22

The crew were dispatched to Waipataki Road where a car had skidded and slipped down a bank. The 2 occupants had freed themselves from the car but were more than 100metres down a steep hill.

Fire and Emergency assisted one of the female occupants to the road, but the second occupant required recovery by winch. Thanks to the airbags and seat belts the 2 female occupants survived the tumble down the steep hill and were flown to Hawke's Bay Hospital in a moderate (but shaken) condition.

18/7/22

The day started out with some water winch training, our Intensive Care Paramedics Cornelius and Heath braved the cold and were in the water. The crew were then called to a fatal multi vehicle MVA on SH-5 near Tarawera. The Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter transported the most critical patient, a female patient aged in her 60's who lost her husband in the accident, to Waikato Hospital.



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

- Ballance Agri-Nutrients Waipukurau - **\$1,000**
- Ballin' for a cause (Olivia Ellis) - **\$8,500**
- Cape Kidnappers Trail run - **\$4,000**
- Hastings Scottish and Country Dancing Club - **\$1,000**
- Hawkes Bay Mountain Bike Club - **\$3,030**
- Heretaunga Tramping Club - **\$1,200**
- Lions club of Takapau - **\$5,000**
- Pōrangahau Fishing Club - **\$1,000**
- PWC Hawke's Bay - **\$1,000**
- Spirit of Napier Lions - **\$1,000**
- Tiniroto Easter Game Hunt - **\$1,000**
- Waipukurau Vintage Fair - **\$2,000**
- Wairoa Pony Club - **\$2,500**

We also appreciate the support from the following;

Ballance Agri-Nutrients Hastings - Craig's investment partners 50km per day challenge - Farmlands Cooperative instore event - Havelock North Primary School - Hawke's Bay Hunt Club Inc - Hawke's Bay Pig Hunters Club - Noel Leeming Napier - Property Brokers Rural Team BBQ - St Andrew's Church - Waipatiki Community Association Inc - Waipawa Co-Operating Parish Opportunity Shop - Waipukurau-Waipawa Sports Club.



We are excited to announce that we have retired our current bumper sticker, and, in its place we will now be sending out this great window sticker! We felt it was time to change things up and hope that you will proudly display this window sticker to show your support of our life-saving service.

If you currently receive a donation receipt via post, please keep your eyes peeled for the new window sticker with your next receipt. If you currently receive a donation receipt via email and would like to get your hands on a window sticker, please email Amber – mfm@hbhrt.org.nz and we can organise to send it out to you. Thank-you to the amazing team at Sign Central who helped us bring this window sticker to life and also created our new corporate supporter icons/window stickers.

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

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DG Glenn Logging Ltd
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Forest Management NZ
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Morice Ltd
Newstead Farm
Oldershaw & Co Ltd
Plan A Consulting
Pope Electrical
Quality Roading & 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
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**

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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

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