

## RECENT MISSIONS: 2021

Raewyn was tramping with her husband Kerry near the Venison Tops hut when she slipped on a rock and broke her tibia.

They activated their PLB and our crew of Hamish Ramsey (Pilot) Ian Clarke (Crewman) and Steve Lynch (ICP) were on the scene within 30 minutes.

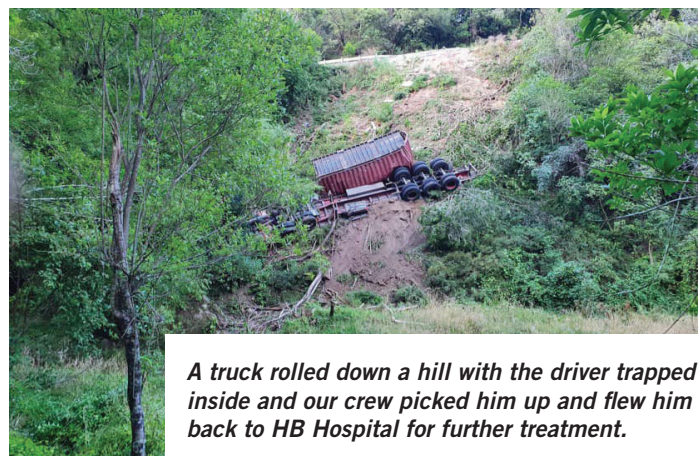
Raewyn says "we really appreciate what you did for us that day and are very grateful that we had a beacon and also that we have such a wonderful service as yours".



A very grateful Raewyn in hospital with Ian & Steve.



Our on duty crew recently performed a difficult winch operation in the Ruahine Ranges in this very dense bush covered terrain. The skill of pilot Bill Hartree and Crewman Wayne Steed ensured this successful winch under very tricky conditions.



A truck rolled down a hill with the driver trapped inside and our crew picked him up and flew him back to HB Hospital for further treatment.



The crew in the National Park picking up a woman who had a serious medical event.

## HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED BECOMING A RESCUE HERO?

Our Regular Givers are part of a special group of our important donors called Rescue Heroes.

The support we receive from our Regular Givers who set up automatic payments and commit to donating on a routine basis is a huge help for our service. It also means you can relax and know you are doing your part to keep this lifesaving service available for the Hawke's Bay Community.

Have you ever considered signing up as a Regular Giver?

If you'd like more details about it, please tick the box on the letter we have sent you and send it back in the postage included envelope. We will then send you a no obligation pack so you can learn more about supporting our service in this way.



THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to our Corporate Sponsors who have supported the Trust on an ongoing basis.

Please support them if you can and also please contact us if you are interested in finding out more about our Corporate Sponsorship programme. Ph 878 1630 or email [mfm@hbhrt.org.nz](mailto:mfm@hbhrt.org.nz)

### 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.

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If your Business would like to become a Friend of the Rescue Helicopter please call Beth on 878 1630

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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  
Rescue Hangar

facebook.com/hbrescuehelicopter

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



SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2021

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

News from the Hangar

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Meet our Base Manager

## Personal Locator Beacon once again proves that lives can be quickly saved

Olly Dale and 3 of his friends started off on a 5 day tramp in the Ruahine Ranges last November, never expecting that half way into the tramp that the weather was going to quickly change and that two members of the group would display serious hypothermia symptoms and need urgent medical attention.

Olly Says " we had ended up being a bit behind schedule as the weather had come in quicker than expected and had slowed us down a bit. We stayed at a DOC hut and after a night of heavy rain, we woke early and headed up to the river to make our way up and across. We waited until the river level was safe to cross but the rain started again and we ended up crossing in waist high water.

The weather really deteriorated from then and so we did a hypothermia check on ourselves, and I realised that myself and another member of the group both had signs of hypothermia.

We decided to stay put at that stage to try to warm up and set up under a fly with emergency blankets and sleeping bags. After a discussion amongst us we decided that I would set off the PLB as we realised that our condition was deteriorating quickly."

Using the GPS coordinates from the PLB, the crew flew directly to where the group was located. However they were in a difficult to access river bank and Intensive Care Paramedic Ryan Sutherland was winched down to assess and treat the patients. He quickly identified that their deteriorating state meant that they needed to be extracted urgently.



Olly and the other trampers rescued during their 5 day tramp

Pilot Jeremy Bruce says " the job was challenging and mentally exhausting as I had to hold the helicopter at a hover for up to 10 mins for each winch. I focused on the top of a tree as a reference point and managed to hold the helicopter steady in deteriorating conditions for the long 160 feet winch up and down each time.

However we do plenty of training and the crew look forward to jobs like this that put our skills to the test. It is so rewarding to know that we got all 4 out safely and is simply why we do what we do. "

Crewman Wayne Steed completed 9 winch rotations through the course of the afternoon ensuring that each patient was brought up to the helicopter safely.

The first two patients were taken to Palmerston North Hospital for urgent treatment, and the helicopter then headed back to the other 2 patients and collect their belongings. The tired crew then delivered the second two patients to Palmerston North Hospital nearly 4 hours after they arrived at the rescue scene.

The group did everything right when they set off their PLB Jeremy says "it meant we were able to go directly to their location and get them out quickly.

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If they had left it any longer with the weather deteriorating so swiftly we may not have been able to get in , so the outcome could have been very different."

Olly is very grateful to have had access to such a wonderful service and is aware that he could have lost his life that day.

"The paramedic told me that he thought I had about an hour left – so the fact that we had the PLB and activated it when we did – undoubtedly saved my life.

I just want to say a massive thank you to the crew who picked us up and to say please just keep doing what you are doing. " says a very grateful Olly.



Crewman Wayne Steed looking at the group below

## 15 PERCENT INCREASE OF MISSIONS IN 2020

In a year that everything mostly stopped during 6 weeks of lockdown – we have completed a record amount of missions during 2020.

Normally our mission numbers sit at around 300 each year but 2020 has finished with a massive amount of 346 missions for the year – 15 % increase from the previous year. There have been an increased number of PLB (Personal locator Beacon) rescues which shows that people are taking a PLB when they go out into the bush and using it if something goes wrong.

General manager Ian Wilmot says "With three full time pilots, three full time crewmen and a third paramedic about to begin – our service is well placed to respond.

We are very grateful to the people of Hawke's Bay for their ongoing and consistent support which enables our service to continue to be there whenever needed."

Base Manager Bill Hartree also praises the team for their efforts over the last year and says "it is a real acknowledgement of the professionalism and skill of the team that we have completed so many successful missions. 2021 has started with a very busy time also and our team have been averaging two or sometimes three missions a day."

## MEET THE CREW - BILL HARTREE – PILOT & BASE MANAGER

Bill started with us in December 2018 and as a Hawke's Bay boy born and bred - he says he feels that he has definitely arrived home again.

Bill's family are a long term farming family from Puketitiri and his parents Wilton and Theresa are naturally very pleased to have Bill and his family back in the Bay. Bill has settled well back into the Hawke's Bay lifestyle with his wife Emma and 2 daughters; Olivia who is 3 years old and Sophie who is 15 months old.

Bill says "Moving back to the Bay has been a great opportunity to be close to family again and I feel as if I am back in my old stomping ground doing a job I really love, so it can't get much better than that. I really love helping people and have a good variety of work each day – no day is the same and we don't know where we will go or who we will be picking up. "

Bill has been flying for over 12 years and has flown over 6,000 flying hours so is a well experienced and qualified pilot. He previously worked in commercial and agricultural work in the central South Island.

As well as flying as a part of the rostered crew – Bill also holds the position as the Hastings Base Manager which means that he coordinates the overall operations of the base and keeps the day to day operations running smoothly.

Bill and his family starred in our Christmas appeal this year. Emma talked about how hard it is sometimes with a young family to not have Bill there on special days. It is part of the deal though, and they know how important his job is and are very proud of him.

Olivia drew a lovely picture of her Daddy and the helicopter which seems to have struck a chord with our donors as we have received a significant amount of donations for that appeal. We know that we receive donations from people during the year but Christmas is the time that we are the busiest, so we really appreciate the extra support we receive from our donors at this time of year.

## Huge Congratulation to the newly married Andrea and Ian Clarke!

Clarkie is one of our three Crewmen and married this gorgeous woman on the 9th January. Andy works as a nurse at the HB Regional Hospital in the PACU. They knew each other from a few years ago and reconnected in recent times.

We all love a good love story here at the Hangar and we are thrilled to welcome Andy to our Rescue Helicopter family.



Bill, Emma, Olivia and Sophie.



Olivia is old enough to understand that her Daddy helps people who are sick or have had an accident and always greets him with great excitement when he gets home asking "Did you save someone's life today Daddy". She is very determined to be a Rescue Helicopter pilot when she grows up and the chances are that Sophie will have the same dream as they both see their Daddy working hard and saving people's lives.



## COMMUNITY CHEER #hawkesbayheroes

### Thanks for your support!



From L to R - Alan Heatlie and Ed Connolly the joint owners of the Guthrie Bowron master franchise, Ian Wilmot General Manager of HB Helicopter Rescue Trust and Peter Clayton, President of Hastings Golf Club.

Hasting Golf Club held a Pro Am Golf Day on the 25th Jan and have donated a cheque for an amazing amount of \$10,000!

Our thanks to Guthrie Bowron as lead sponsor, Hastings Golf Club for hosting the event and to all other sponsors and players who made the day such a great success.



Cape Kidnappers Trail Run raised \$4,000 from their event in October – making their total donations over \$20,000 in the last 3 years.

Wairoa Pony Club who chose to support our service for the second year in a row and raised \$2,568 from their 2020 Christmas Cracker event



Also – Our very grateful thanks to Wairoa Veterinary Club, One School Global, Omakere Horse Sports Club and the Lions Club Of Takapau who have all supported us with significant donations in the last few months.



## CHEQUES

Please note we are still accepting cheques for as long as we can but we have been told that early June will be the time that our bank will not process them anymore. We have a range of other options on how you can donate and are very happy to support you and make this change as easy as possible for you.

If you are worried about how this will impact you – please give us a call and we can help you to work out how it will suit you best to continue to support us.

For those who have kindly supported the Trust by sending us cheques we will reach out to you closer to June when the banks stop accepting cheques.

We hugely value and appreciate the support you have given us and continue to show us.