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PRESS RELEASE

Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter named as Official Charity of the Air New Zealand Hawke's Bay International Marathon

The Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter has once again been named as the Official Charity Partner of the Air New Zealand Hawke's Bay International Marathon, it was announced today.

This year's event will take place on Saturday 13 May, and the Trust is urging runners to join 'Team Rescue Heli' and help raise vital funds for the charity, which provides a 24/7 emergency rescue helicopter service to the region.

Frances Searle, Commercial Partnerships Manager at IRONMAN Oceania, who own and deliver the event said, "We are delighted to be working with the Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter again this year, and we are excited to build on last year's fantastic partnership with such an important local charity"

Laura Hyde, Marketing and Fundraising Manager at the Trust said, "We are really looking forward to this year's event. The support of IRONMAN Oceania, along with the hard work and dedication from our volunteers and runners, made last year's event a huge success for us and raised \$10,000 to support our life saving service.

We hope to build on that this year, and again would love for any runners, walkers or people who could help with our bucket collection to get involved with 'Team Rescue Heli'

Thousands of competitors are expecting to participate in this 2017 event, which incorporates a kid's run, 10km challenge, half marathon (21km), and of course, a full marathon. Runners will take in the best highlights of the region, with flat easy running through local cycle trails, vineyards, olive groves, quiet country roads - all finishing at the impressive Sileni Estates Winery where they can celebrate their efforts in style.

Anyone taking part in any of the distances can join 'Team Rescue Heli' by contacting Laura Hyde at mfm@hbhrt.org.nz or 06 878 1630 for their running vest and fundraising pack.

Entries will close on 23 April, so those wishing to take part are encouraged to enter sooner rather than later to avoid disappointment at www.hawkesbaymarathon.co.nz

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Contact: Laura Hyde, Marketing & Fundraising Manager on (06) 878 1630 or email mfm@hbhrt.org.nz

About the Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter Trust

The Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter is a charitable trust, which provides a dedicated Rescue Helicopter service to the Hawke's Bay region. Each year the Rescue Helicopter Crew completes over 300 lifesaving missions, helping those who need urgent medical care and transportation. The service is free of charge and available 24/7 to everyone in our community, but costs \$2.3million each year to operate. www.hbhrt.org.nz

About the Air New Zealand Hawke's Bay International Marathon

The Air New Zealand Hawke's Bay International Marathon will take place on 13 May 2017, and will showcase the spectacular wine-growing region to runners and supporters from throughout New Zealand and around the world. www.airnzhbmarathon.nz