

LOWE CORPORATION RESCUE HELICOPTER

OFF THE LANDING PAD



SPRING NEWSLETTER 2018

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Community Helipad and more!



Credit: Hawke's Bay Today.

Tragic accident leaves Hawke's Bay rural community in shock

Thursday the 14th of June began like any other day for our Rescue Helicopter Crew.

Little did they know that by the end of the day they would have been pivotal in the rescue of critically injured patients from one of the worst aviation accidents that Hawke's Bay has seen for a number of years.

At 9am - a regular crop surveying helicopter flight over Ngamatea Station crashed with five people on board. Two occupants were seriously injured, and one was critical. The crash automatically activated the locator beacon on board and a signal was sent to the Rescue Coordination Centre. They immediately dispatched the

Taupo Rescue Helicopter (the closest Rescue Helicopter to the accident) to provide initial medical relief and a scene assessment. Due to the serious nature of the incident both the Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter and the Palmerston North Rescue Helicopter were also dispatched to the scene.

Our Pilot Hamish and Chief Crewman Geoff landed with a St John Intensive Care Paramedic on board. Our priority was the critical patient, Renata Apatu (the co-owner of Ngamatea Station), who had suffered the worst injuries in the accident.

(cont'd)

Tragic accident leaves Hawke's Bay rural community in shock (continued...)

Ren was quickly stabilised and urgently flown back to Hawkes Bay Hospital within 15 minutes. Shortly after landing and transferring Ren to the care of the Hospital's Emergency Department, both Palmerston North and Taupo Rescue Helicopters also landed in Hastings with their seriously injured patients onboard.

Despite our best efforts, and those of the Doctors involved that day, sadly Ren's injuries were extremely serious and proved to be fatal.

We can't always save every patient we rescue, but we know that our service allows us to deliver the best medical care within a crucial space of time, giving critically injured patients the very best chance of survival.

For the crew of the three Rescue Helicopters involved – their professional and swift response to the accident is what they do on a regular basis. The Aviation Industry is very close knit, and attending an accident where other helicopter personnel are involved is understandably difficult for everyone. We would like to acknowledge the Pilots and Crews involved on that day for a job well done under challenging circumstances.



He was known to be a kind, generous and caring gentleman who was loved by many. Most importantly though, he was a husband and a father. His loss will leave a huge hole in the lives of his wife Sally and three children, Angus, Olivia and Greta. We send our very deepest condolences to them all at this very difficult time.

Ren and Ngamatea Station have been incredible supporters of our Rescue Helicopter Service. They knew the vital importance of keeping us flying because you never know when you, a friend, or loved one will need our help.

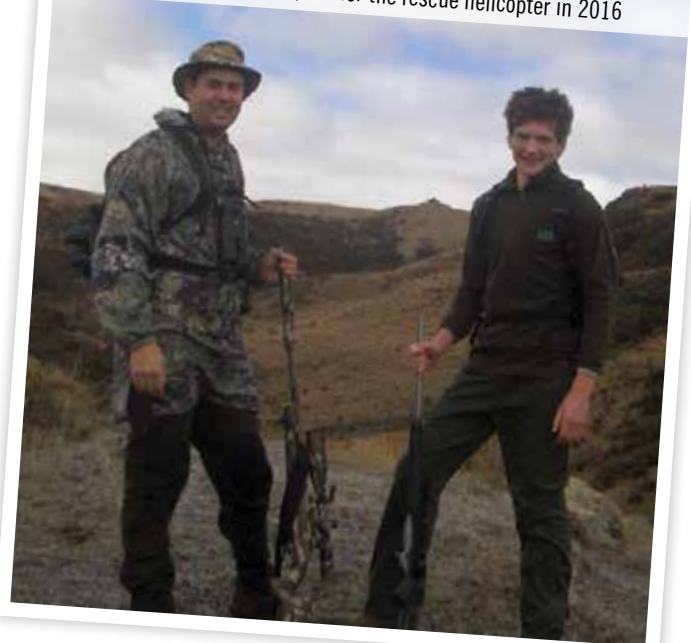
We are so incredibly grateful to the people who continue to financially support our service so we are there when we are needed - as we were on that day.



Once the patients were in the care of the highly trained Hospital Staff, the Pilots and Crews from all three Rescue Helicopters gathered to debrief and discuss the job before returning to their bases to await their next rescue mission.

Renata Apatu was widely known in the rural community. He was a leader in the wool industry and helped to run a very successful family owned beef and lamb operation with his siblings.

Daniel Lee and Renata Apatu in 2008 on Ngamatea Station.
Daniel Lee raised over \$21,000 for the rescue helicopter in 2016



A community pulls together to build new helipad

For many years, when the crew were dispatched to incidents in Porongahau, the helicopter landed on a rugby field which is also used for grazing sheep.

This meant that any time, day or night, that the helicopter was needed, a volunteer fire brigade would have to come out and clear the area for landing. It also meant that mud and sheep droppings would get through the boots of the crew and the wheels of the stretcher which in turn ended up in the helicopter and hospital which was a real health and safety concern.

As missions in the area increased, the community of Porangahau came together and built a purposely engineered and fenced helicopter landing pad. Locals all pitched in to help with the project which is a great success.



Within two weeks of completion, it was utilised it to pick up a patient who needed specialist medical care and the crew were most impressed.

Thank you Porangahau!

REMEMBER in an emergency dial 111

Winter Missions Snapshot

Date: Saturday 28 July

Bus Crash at Turoa Ski Field: The Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter was one of four rescue helicopters which responded to a bus crash at Turoa Ski field with 31 people on board. We transported a 31 y.o. female who sustained head injuries and a fractured pelvis, and a 29 y.o. female with head injuries to Waikato Hospital for further treatment.

Date: Friday 6 July

Kaweka Forest Winch Rescue: The Rescue Helicopter were sent to a hut in the Kaweka Forest park for a 33 year old male who tripped and fell on a walking track and sustained a fractured lower leg. He was given pain relief and stabilised at the scene by a St John Paramedic before being winched out, and transported to Hawke's Bay Hospital for further treatment.

Date: Saturday 30 Jun



Two Time Critical Inter-Hospital Transfers:

Transported an infant patient with breathing problems from Wairoa Hospital to Hawke's Bay Hospital
Transported a male with head injuries from Hawke's Bay Hospital to Wellington Hospital.

Date: Saturday 9 June

Responded to Waipukurau for an MVA: car versus tree. Helicopters from Hastings and Palmerston North co-responded to the accident, because of multiple patients. Palmerston North Rescue Helicopter transported a teenage female patient with moderate injuries and the Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter transported a male patient, in his 50's with multiple serious injuries. Both patients were transported to Hawke's Bay Hospital for further treatment.

See all our latest missions at www.hbhrt.org.nz/news-and-media/mission-log

Dine With... Martin Bosley 2018

This year's inaugural and sold out "Dine With..." event was a huge success with over \$45,000 raised for our life-saving service. Martin Bosley was our celebrity chef this year and created a beautiful three course meal for our 180 attendees.

The meal was followed by a wonderfully successful auction, including a one of a kind Elephant Hill dining experience, Queenstown Getaway, and many other amazing highly sought after auction lots!

**Plans for the 2019 event are well underway and we can't wait to announce details!
Please keep an eye out on our social media and website for more.**



Tremains support



Jen Brownlie from Tremains Real Estate is a wonderful supporter of ours. For every property that she lists and sells, Jen will donate \$500 to 1 of 4 organisations. Since she started this early last year, we have already received \$4,000 in donations from Jen! Thank you so much Jen for your amazing support.

Good in the Hood



The Z Energy 'Good in the Hood' fundraising campaign was held earlier this year. We are very grateful to Heretaunga Street Z Energy for choosing us as a beneficiary raising \$2,000.00.

Westpac Chopper Appeal



The Westpac Chopper Appeal is held in May each year. Local Westpac employees assist with fund raising for the benefit of the Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter. This year, the team raised over \$27,000 for our service. **Thank you so much Westpac!**

Grape debate



Grape Debate was a fantastic night. This year they had a battle between the Australian and the Kiwi wine makers. Jeremy Corbett moderated the debate and the judges decided that Australia was the winner! After the debate, there was a charity auction for our service which raised close to \$30,000! This event was created and run by Bex Tacon from Planit Events. Bex does this every year and has raised nearly \$80,000 for the Rescue Helicopter since she started. We are so incredibly grateful to Bex and those who sponsor the event to help her make it a reality.



SURVEY UPDATE:

Thank you so much to all of those who returned surveys from our last mailing. We truly appreciate all of those that took the time to respond and let us know your preferences. We are working through all the responses and will update your details accordingly. We were really pleased to hear so many positive things about the rescue helicopter and what you like to hear about from us.



Upcoming Events: Dates for your Diary

5th October - Helicopter Fly in at the Magpies Game: Every year our Major Sponsor Unison conducts a competition for a child to fly in to the Magpies final home game in the rescue helicopter to deliver the game ball! Keep an eye out on their social media for more information.

6th October – The Cole Murray Cape Kidnappers Trail Run: This year we are very proud to be the official charity for the Cole Murray Cape Kidnappers Trail Run. The scenic event offers 45km, 32km and a 5km walk/run. The course is mainly set on private land and includes windswept beaches, native forest, waterfalls, river gorges and stunning coastal farmland. The views are spectacular! You can find out more on our website, www.hbhrt.org.nz

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

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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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