



LOWE CORPORATION
**RESCUE
HELICOPTER
SERVICE**

OFF THE LANDING PAD

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2019

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We need you!

Rugby Accident leaves a teenager needing urgent transfer to Auckland

Saturday May the 11th 2019 started as a completely normal day for Thomas. Little did he know that in a few short hours – he would be dealing with a reality that he may be paralysed and unable to walk ever again.

As a keen rugby player, he was looking forward to the game he was playing in that day - a reserve grade match for competition winners Napier Old Boys Marist against Hastings side MAC at Tremain Park in Napier.

Thomas got to the field, prepared for the game and started warming up with his teammates. Everyone was excited and really looking forward to the day as it was set to be a good game.

The game started and was going well until his worst nightmare occurred. A player tackled Thomas and he landed in such a way that he was knocked out. When he came to, he had crowds of people surrounding him, asking if he was okay.

It was then that he realised that he wasn't okay and couldn't move any part of his body. He was completely paralysed from his head down. The ambulance arrived in what seemed to be minutes and checked him over whilst administering pain relief.

The paramedics immediately knew how serious this accident was. Urgent treatment for Thomas could mean the difference between him being able to walk again or being paralysed for life.



Thomas in the back of the Helicopter as we get ready to fly to Auckland.

The paramedics at the scene identified that they needed the Rescue Helicopter to transport Thomas to the specialist care. Our pilot and crew were activated and were at the scene within minutes.

The closest specialists for spinal injuries were in Auckland at Middlemore Hospital and so the decision was made to fly Thomas directly there. The crew loaded Thomas into the helicopter and in just over an hour, they were on the roof at Middlemore Hospital.

The swift access to urgent specialist care Thomas required meant thankfully, that Thomas made a full recovery and was home in the Hawke's Bay a few days later.

"I am so grateful for the care the Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter provided on that day. It was such a relief for not only me, but also my family, to get to the specialists that I needed so quickly.

The crew were fantastic the whole time. I just don't know what we would do without these guys in Hawke's Bay and they have certainly changed my life by being there when I needed them." Thomas said. ■

// MEET THE CREW - IAN CLARKE (CLARKIE)

// HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A CREWMAN?

I was a volunteer crewman at the Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter Service for just over 6 years. With recent changes to the team, there was a vacancy for a fulltime crewman, so I applied for the role. It has always been a dream for me, to be a full-time crewman and not have to fit a volunteer role in around another full-time job.

I jumped at the opportunity when I was offered the role and have been in that position for just over 4 months.

// WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PART OF BEING A RESCUE HELICOPTER CREWMAN?

Being able to be there for the community when they need us. There is such immense satisfaction when working for the people of Hawke's Bay and being able to complete successful rescue missions that can often save someone's life. You get home after a big rescue mission and it's all worth it, even if its 2am!

I really like to see the difference we have made to our patients and their families and to know that we have changed their lives by the work we do.



A rescue Clarkie did recently where he had to winch down into 2.5m swells in the sea to save this young man.

// HOW DOES IT FEEL LANDING AT A RESCUE?

The adrenaline definitely kicks in. We get details about where we are going and what gear we should take but you don't know just how involved in the rescue you'll need to be. The missions we attend can vary so much. Sometimes there are multiple patients, so the paramedics sometimes need us to help with the initial medical care. We can land at an accident and have to get straight into doing CPR on a patient, holding breathing masks in place or retrieving the correct gear for the paramedic.

All you can do is to focus on your job and what you need to do. It can mean that landing at certain scenes can be very confronting – but absolutely all worth it and just what we do.

// WHAT'S THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE OF BEING A RESCUE HELICOPTER CREWMAN?

I've always loved helicopters. I trained as a pilot privately when I was younger. I jumped at the opportunity to be a crewman because I get to do what I love and help people at the same time – what's not to like about that? However, the difference between flying in a small helicopter for fun in your private time and then being a Rescue Crewman landing at a car accident where there's a seriously ill patient was probably the biggest challenge for me. I am used to it now, but it's something that you can never be prepared for until you have experienced it.

// WHAT DOES YOUR FAMILY THINK OF YOUR ROLE AS A RESCUE HELICOPTER CREWMAN?

My grandson, Darcy, thinks it's particularly cool. He loves all things action and Grandad working on a helicopter is very exciting for him.



Clarkie and Darcy

The Grape Debate 2019

Rebecca Tacon and the team from PlanIt Events are incredible supporters of ours. Every single year Rebecca and her team organises the hugely successful event – The Grape Debate, to raise vital funds for us. It's a sell out every year and she is now expanding it throughout the country to raise funds for even more incredible charities. How generous is this lady?! Thank you Rebecca and team for all of your support.



Coffee Solutions helping out the Chopper!

Thank you to Murray and the team at Coffee Solutions for making those late night missions a bit more bearable for our crew. Here is Ben, one of our pilots, with Murray and his son who have donated the use of this machine as well as regular support. It has already had a lot of use and all the team in the office are very appreciative.

Cape Kidnappers Trail Run

Cole Murray Cape Kidnappers Trail Run is back in 2019. Last year the team raised \$10,000 for us and their next event is on Saturday the 12th of October. Get in quick and support this fantastic event whilst fundraising for our cause.



One of our donors nominated for NZ Local Hero of the year!

Sarah Laurie has been fundraising for us for a number of years now and has done so for nearly every Rescue Helicopter in the country! For this reason, she was nominated as a Kiwi Bank New Zealand Local Hero of the year. She was shortlisted as a finalist and went along to the evening with her lovely and supportive Mum and Dad. Thanks Sarah for all of your support.

// RECENT MISSIONS

Mount Ruapehu Accident - Saturday 31st of August:

1500 hours: Flew to Mount Ruapehu to transfer a patient who had suffered a serious injury after ice had fallen from the roof down onto her and two others. We flew her to Waikato Hospital for further treatment. Two other Rescue Helicopters were dispatched to the scene and flew patients to Waikato and Wanganui Hospitals.

Mahia: Gas Explosion Thursday 29th August

0230 hours: The crew were tasked to Mahia to attend to a male patient, aged in his 50's, suffering facial injuries from a gas explosion in his house - he was flown to Hawke's Bay Hospital for further assessment and urgent treatment.

Tikokino Injured Child - Monday 26th August

1400 hours: We were sent to Tikokino to a young child with a back injury – he was flown to hospital in Hastings to get him the care he needed.

Heart and Respiratory Issues - Tuesday 20th August

1145 hours: transported a 47 year old male patient, suffering from a heart attack, from Hawkes Bay Hospital to Wellington Hospital for urgent specialist treatment.

1500 hours: Flew to Wairoa Hospital to retrieve a young male patient with a respiratory complication – he was flown to Hawke's Bay District Hospital for further treatment.

Quad Bike Rollover in Mangahei - Sunday 28th July

1000 hours: The team were tasked by Rescue Coordination Centre to a PLB activation at a rural location at Mangahei (east of Dannevirke). Upon arrival a male patient was found with injuries sustained in a quad bike rollover. We transported him directly to hospital for the specialist treatment he required.

Baby with a respiratory condition - Monday 15th July

1530 hours: Flew to Wairoa Hospital with a Doctor and Nurse from HBDHB to retrieve a baby with a respiratory condition, the baby was flown to Hawkes Bay Hospital for further treatment.

Missing Hunters in Kaweka Forest - Monday 20th May

0900 hours: Tasked by Police to conduct a search for missing hunters in the Kaweka Forest near Poronui Station. After several hours of searching, the 3 missing hunters were successfully found and rescued.

Photo A: Transferring patients from Mount Ruapehu after terrible accident

Photo B: Wellington Airport after urgent hospital transfer

Photo C: Helicopter coming to land in the Ranges

Photo D: Winching in the Kaweka Forest



REMEMBER IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 111

// WE NEED YOU!

Keeping our crew safe is a really important part of what we do. **There are many ways in which we do that.**

As Clarkie spoke about in his letter, we need your help!

You know the red uniform they wear? Well that is all fire retardant and created specifically for flying. They also have those fantastic helmets to keep them safe should anything go wrong. We have had a few new crew members who are about to start but also some of our older gear is in need of updating. We therefore really need to also get our crew kitted up in the latest gear that they need!

The other way we keep our crew and patients safe is through training. This can be winch training in the night and day, practicing emergency procedures, flying throughout the mountains and practising how to fly in tight areas like the Ruahine Ranges. We've included some images below of the training and gear we have used in the past so you can see how important it is that we keep doing this with our crew.



The helmets our crew need



Our fire retardant uniforms, specifically created for flying.



Winch Training



PLEASE DONATE TODAY TO HELP OUR CREW WITH TRAINING AND SAFETY GEAR!



UPCOMING EVENTS: DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Cole Murray Cape Kidnappers Trail Run - 12th of October. Tickets are selling fast and funds are being raised for our lifesaving service. Get in quick to explore a beautiful part of Hawke's Bay whilst fundraising for us.

Dine With... 2020 – TBC! Keep an eye out for our upcoming Dine With... 2020. More details to be announced in due course. Find out more on www.hbhrt.org.nz

We will have other events come up early next year which we haven't yet announced. If you'd like to keep up to date with them. Please check our Facebook page www.facebook.com/hbrescuehelicopter

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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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Rescue Hangar (06) 878 1633

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