



LOWE CORPORAION
**RESCUE
HELICOPTER
SERVICE**

OFF THE LANDING PAD

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2020

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Meet our new crewman!

It's every mother's worst nightmare.

Hazel went to bed thinking that her son Glenn, was safe and sound in bed after a night out with friends. However, he had been viciously attacked on his way home and sustained serious injuries.

Hazel knew something was amiss when, in the early hours of the morning, she answered the door to one of her son's staff members. A client had dropped off his keys at Glenn's workshop and had noticed a large pool of blood. He alerted a staff member who then went straight to Hazel to check on Glenn. Thankfully Hazel lived below Glenn's house and was able to run upstairs to see what had happened.

That's when she saw it. Blood, blood and more blood. There was blood smeared on the hallway walls, all through the bathroom and into Glenn's bedroom. Hazel then saw her son covered in blood in his bedroom with injuries to his head. Hazel ran to the phone and called 111.

The medical team were incredibly surprised that Glenn had managed to get home by himself. Had he not been so fit, he never would have made it.

Hazel's memory becomes foggy here due to the intense shock she was in. She remembers being taken with Glenn to Waipukurau Medical Centre where the Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter was called for an urgent transfer to Hawke's Bay Hospital. Hazel says all she can really remember of that part of the night was that she was so well looked after on the flight to Hastings by the whole crew.

After Glenn had been assessed at Hawke's Bay Hospital, the hospital staff decided the best treatment available for him would be at Wellington Hospital. Our lifesaving service was called on once more to transport both Hazel and Glenn to Wellington.

The helicopter at Waipukurau



After arriving there, the specialists assessed Glenn's injuries and Hazel was told that her son's head injuries were so severe, he had suffered brain damage as a result.

Glenn lost his ability to speak and had to learn a lot of things all over again. After many years of therapy Glenn is now the best he can be, but Hazel says, "sadly Glenn is not the Glenn I remember prior to the assault." She is so grateful to the helicopter crew and all of those involved in his care as she knows that without them all Glenn would not be here today.

After the accident, Hazel wanted to do everything she could to support our service to make sure we would always be there for other people, like Glenn, who need that lifesaving trip to hospital. She felt she couldn't do a lot but started to support our service with donations and then recently decided to become a Regular Giver where she pays an amount per week on an ongoing basis.

Hazel says, "It was really important to me to do what I could to make sure this lifesaving service is here for anyone else like Glenn who needs an urgent trip to hospital."

For us, having people like Hazel commit to a regular donation means a huge amount. Regular Givers mean we know that we have a certain amount of funds coming in regularly, we can save money on admin costs, and it also allows us to plan ahead knowing we have your ongoing support. Our wonderful Regular Givers are the ones who see how important ongoing support is for us and commit to providing it.

TRAMPER LOST NEAR WAIPATIKI BEACH



My name is Hamish Ramsay and I am a pilot for the Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter Service. On the 14th of June, we were called to a critical and difficult mission that without the skills of our highly experienced crew, could have had a very different ending.

It had been a beautiful Sunday in Hawke's Bay. The sun was just about to set, and it was starting to get quite chilly when we received a page from the Search and Rescue team.

A trumper had been enjoying a walk in the bush near Waipatiki Beach and had got lost. She had been attempting to find her way out for a few hours before she realised there was no way she would get out on her own. She luckily found cell phone reception and called the police who told her to stay put.

We were paged at 4.48pm and had loaded the helicopter, pushed it out of the hangar, inputted our coordinates and taken off within 8 minutes. This is where our new helmets really helped. Thanks to our community and some very generous donors, our entire crew now have the best helmets available, which makes our job a whole lot safer and easier. Due to the technology in these helmets, the police officer in charge, Wayne Steed, was able to speak on the phone to the lost trumper throughout the flight.

We arrived at the coordinates we were given and by this time, it was dark. The area the trumper was in was very dense. The trees were swaying in the wind and hiding any chance of us spotting her. When we realised how difficult it was going to be, Wayne had a great idea and asked the trumper to shine the torch on her phone up into the air.

We continued searching and finally spotted her from the torch on her phone in the middle of some very tall and dense trees. We found a clearing close to her and winched down our Intensive Care Paramedic to go back to the area we had located her,

and bring her to the clearing, before winching them both back into the helicopter. Our ICP then checked her medically, and thankfully found nothing wrong with her.

This mission was all down to timing and the quick thinking of our crew. If we hadn't been able to locate her when we did, or she hadn't found reception to call 111, she could have died from hypothermia overnight. I'm so pleased we were able to help her before anything serious happened to her.

This highlights the importance of an incredibly well-trained crew, the right equipment, and the ability to stay calm in these stressful situations.

I was so proud of our team for ensuring this person got the best possible care and made sure she did not get stuck out there on her own, with no supplies, overnight.



Hamish Ramsay (Pilot)

COVID IMPACT: Covid-19 and your Rescue Helicopter Service.

2020 continues to provide challenges in relation to Covid-19. Our crew wrote about their experience during Level 4 in March and April 2020.

It was very rewarding being available for the region when we were needed. It's been a tough time for front line workers around the world and I'm proud that I was able to contribute in some way to help people during that time. **Hamish Ramsay (Pilot)**



I was really stoked to see the general Hawke's Bay public was sticking to the level 4 lock down rules and not out driving around, hunting, fishing, tramping or any other outdoor activities that would have required us as a crew to be potentially exposed to Covid-19 while treating a patient. I know it's tough to have to give this stuff up, so well done everyone.

Jeremy Bruce (Pilot)



It was a strange time, seeing everyone in their bubbles whilst we had to head to work and be away from our families. I missed not being able to be around my two little girls and wonderful wife more, but I'm so proud that we were available to help those who needed us. **Bill Hartree (Base Manager and Pilot)**



Working during lock down was interesting and challenging. However, when you work for a Rescue Helicopter service, you expect and train for the unexpected, so we were really well prepared and enjoyed the challenge. **Ryan Sutherland (Intensive Care Paramedic)**



OFFICE SPACE EXTENDED TO CATER FOR OUR FULL-TIME DEDICATED HAWKE'S BAY CREW.

Twenty years ago, the office and hangar was built on the ground of Hawke's Bay Hospital for our dedicated service. We had one full time pilot and a collection of volunteers who all helped when they could outside of their jobs. Fundraising for our service was outsourced.

Today, we are very proud of our expanded team. We now have three full time pilots, three crewman and two intensive care paramedics. We have a full-time professional crew, which enables our service to be there for the Hawke's Bay community whenever they made need us, saving countless lives. The fundraising and admin for the service has also been brought inhouse to keep everything for our service local.

To cater for our growing team, we have had to expand our office space. This includes a new crew area and office space for our fundraising team.

A huge thank you to Eastern Central Community Trust for contributing towards the building costs and to Rick Merson and John Schollum for all of their painting work, which they have completed free of charge.



Progress so far on our crew space.

// A MESSAGE TO OUR RURAL SUPPORTERS

We know it's been a tough time for the rural community of Hawke's Bay. Not only was the community hit hard during Covid, but then the worst drought in 30 years hit our beautiful region.

We wanted to make sure we took the time to let you all know that we've been thinking about you during this incredibly tough time and we hope you and your families are doing okay. Thank you for continuing to support our service so we can be there if you need us.



COMMUNITY CHEER #hawkesbayheroes



Cape Kidnappers Trail Run

The event is back! On Saturday the 3rd of October, the Cape Kidnappers Trail Run is taking place again. Last year the team raised over \$8,000 for our lifesaving cause. The course is set mostly on private land and includes trails by windswept beaches, native forest, waterfalls, river gorges and stunning coastal farmland. If you haven't been to Te Kauwae-a-Maui / Cape Kidnappers before, you don't know what you are missing. The views are simply spectacular!

It's not too late to take part in the fantastic event, ticket sales are open until the 27th of September. There are options for all fitness levels. Check out the website to see more - www.capekidnapperstrailrun.co.nz

Central Hawke's Bay Menzshed

The Menzshed located in Waipukurau very kindly donated \$750 to us from their community collections. Menzshed is a group of people who are available for odd jobs around the community to help those in CHB who need it. All they ask is for the cost of the supplies they use and a donation to the upkeep of their organisation. They had a surplus this year and decided to pass it on to four worthy local causes, with our service being one of them! One of our Trustees, Michelle Thompson, popped by and accepted the cheque on the behalf of our crew. Thank you to everyone involved.



CHEQUES

Please note that we are still accepting cheques and will continue to do so. We really appreciate your donations; through any payment method you choose.

// WELCOME TO THE CREW - WAYNE STEED

// HOW MUCH WORK DID YOU DO WITH THE HELICOPTER BEFORE COMING ON BOARD AS A FULLTIME CREWMAN?

I have been involved in Search and Rescue in Hawke's Bay for over 14 years and managed the SAR Police team during this time. Through this work I was fortunate enough to develop a great relationship with the team at Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter Service and was on board the machine for a large number of SAR missions. These missions included locating lost persons in the hills, personal locator beacon activations, marine searches and being winched out to conduct a search or recovery.

// DO YOU HAVE ANY MISSIONS THAT YOU HAVE COMPLETED ON THE HELICOPTER AS PART OF POLICE SAR THAT YOU WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER?

I will remember them all but two that stand out are the recovery of two lost trampers in the Ruahine Ranges in 2017 and a surfer in 2018. The trampers got caught out on the tops in deteriorating weather and became disorientated. An attempt was made to locate them and winch them out, but this was unsuccessful as the machine had to turn back due to the extreme weather conditions. That night we managed to walk in a team of 4 to the lost party who set up shelter and kept them warm and alive. The following morning, we flew back to make another attempt. The weather was still atrocious but due to the skill of the pilot and crewman they managed to winch me down to the group. We then winched the 2 lost persons along with team of 4 rescuers back into the machine before the weather fully closed in. Along with the pilot and crewman, I was presented with an NZ SAR award for this rescue.

The rescue of the surfer was memorable in that I received a call to report he was missing and could not be seen in the waves off Haumoana. The day was fine but with a strong offshore wind blowing. Pilot Jeremy Bruce, Crewman Shaun Walters and I flew to the area to conduct a search. We located him over 8km out to sea clinging to his surf board. He was one very grateful surfer and I know we saved a life that day.

// WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PART OF BEING A CREWMAN AT THE LOWE CORPORATION RESCUE HELICOPTER SERVICE?

I would say being part of an amazing team and providing a vital service to the community. I spent over 24 years in my previous role serving the community and I am excited to bring those skills to my new role.

// WHAT DO YOUR KIDS THINK OF DAD FLYING IN A HELICOPTER FOR A LIVING?

My son is mad on aviation and is very jealous of his father now working for our Rescue Helicopter Service. He keeps track of flights whenever the helicopter heads out on a mission, he texts to see if I am on board. The kids are proud of me knowing I am still out there helping the community and jealous that I now get to fly to jobs instead of drive.



Wayne Steed (Crewman)

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.





UPCOMING EVENTS: DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Central Hawke's Bay Open Day: We are planning to have this on the 14th of February in Waipukurau. Please keep an eye out on our Facebook Page to find out the details. We can't wait to see our amazing supporters in Central Hawke's Bay soon.

Grape Debate: The Grape Debate in Hawke's Bay has had to be postponed until 2021. Bec and the team at PlanIt Events have done a fantastic job with this event over the years and they wanted to ensure they could get all their speakers in, even those in Australia. Once they know more, they will announce it on their website www.grapedebate.co.nz. This is always a sell-out event so be quick if you want to secure tickets!

Please check our Facebook page www.facebook.com/hbrescuehelicopter for other events

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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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