



OFF THE LANDING PAD

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2026

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Pulse of Patient Care

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FARMERS SENDING LAMBS SUPPORT 'HELI LIVESTOCK'

As farmers head further into the lamb trading season they're being urged to keep the rescue helicopter on their donation radar when sending lambs off farm.

Whether selling fat through your meat company or store lambs through your agent, 'Heli Livestock' enables farmers to support their local rescue helicopter service the best way they know how. By pledging the proceeds from livestock sales through your livestock agent, you will be making a lifesaving contribution.

A Hawke's Bay farming family of self-confessed 'frequent flyers' has not hesitated helping the region's air rescue service, by donating the proceeds of spring lambs.

Sarah Grayson (nee Hansen) and her young family farm in partnership on 'Marae Downs', alongside her parents Chris and Helen. As a family heavily involved in equestrian; hunting and showjumping, she admits they've had their fair share of rescues over the years.

"I got rolled on by my horse showjumping at an event at Takapau in 2022. I suffered a sternoclavicular joint dislocation and also did my ACL and MCL in my knee. I was flown to Hawke's Bay Hospital and have never been so pleased to hear the chopper. The crew were amazing - the flight was the only time in twelve weeks that I was free of pain - I can't thank them enough.

"Mum has also been picked up after breaking her neck in the early 2000's and prior to that, my older brother Daniel



Sarah Grayson (nee Hansen) and son Troy, with parents Chris and Helen at the Stortford Sale Yards

was airlifted - both sustaining injuries from horse-related falls. As a family, we're incredibly appreciative of the service!

"I sincerely hope other farming families get in behind to support 'Heli Livestock', if everyone donated two lambs or a cattle beast every year, that's the most cost efficient insurance you can have as a farmer. Accidents happen and you want to know the rescue helicopter will be there when you really need it."

Hot and arid conditions across much of Hawke's Bay has forced many of the region's lambs to be finished outside of the area but for those still on crops or reasonable pasture, the rescue helicopter is pleading for farmers to donate the proceeds from just one or two head to support the service. Farmers can make a 'Heli Livestock' pledge at any time of the year, throughout the year, every year going forward.

Raukawa based farmers, Graeme and Judy Wedd generously donated a cattle beast recently through the scheme, raising around \$2,000 for the rescue helicopter. Their contribution has helped support life-saving missions across Hawke's Bay and it's hoped will inspire others to consider doing the same.

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"The rescue helicopter is so important to the health and wellbeing of our rural population, and rural communities across Hawke's Bay all know the great job your crew do when that unexpected accident occurs," shares Graeme.

"The method of donating stock when sending to slaughter is such a simple way for farmers to support our lifesaving service. We'll be doing our best to support 'Heli Livestock' annually, and hope others will follow suit."

Farmers interested in supporting 'Heli Livestock' are invited to first register on our website www.hbhrf.org.nz and then contact their livestock agent to make a life-saving livestock contribution. ■

WHERE OUR COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING COMES FROM - **THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTS OUR LIFESAVING SERVICE.**



Andrew and Claire Sewell and family reunite with their lifesaving crew (CCFP Cornelius, ACO Georgia and Pilot Nat)

■ PATIENT'S HEARTFELT THANK YOU

No one told Andrew Sewell at the time of his heart attack how close he came to not making it, but if it wasn't for the speed and specialised care of our Rescue Helicopter crew, Andrew knows his chances were slim.

After landing in Wellington on the night of his health scare at around 2:50AM in strong winds, the 48 year old father of five was whisked straight in for surgery, receiving an emergency stent in the main artery of his heart.

He recalls what helped get him through those anxious moments.

"The team of Cornelius, Georgia, and Nat were absolutely amazing. They were professional, calm, and incredibly informative throughout the entire experience. They kept us all reassured and at ease during a very stressful time.

We can't thank them enough - they are truly an outstanding team and a great asset to Hawke's Bay."

To show their heartfelt appreciation, Andrew, his wife Claire and their children put on an amazing morning tea shout for the crew at the hangar.

"Seeing the rescue helicopter flying over your house, you often wonder what kind of emergency they're heading to - but after needing their help ourselves, we've gained a whole new level of appreciation for the incredible service they provide, completely free of charge.

"As a family, we've set up an automatic weekly donation to support the rescue service, and we're also keen to help with any future fundraising or volunteer opportunities. It's our way of giving back and showing our gratitude for the lifesaving work they do every day." ■

MEET THE CREW - GEORGIA

Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter's emergency crew is highly specialised, dedicated and adaptable – ready to respond at any time of day or night. Through staff changes we welcome our newest ACO (Air Crew Officer) Georgia.

Where have you come from before landing this role with Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter?

I was a medic in the Navy and then an Air Crew Officer at the Hamilton base for a year before moving down to work with the Hawke's Bay Rescue Heli.

What is it about being an ACO that really motivates you?

Every job requires full crew focus and coordination. I enjoy being a part of that machine and being out there for the community when they need it. The role of an ACO in particular is quite varied with a mix of: aviation, medicine and the general logistics that come with each mission. I love getting to use a range of skills each day.

How do you deal with the hard days on the job ie. traumatic injuries/rescues? That must be difficult at times.

During hard days on the job, I find the mission debriefs we do really helpful. It's only human to have a reaction to traumatic events - a cup of tea and a yarn goes a long way. I also lean on my amazing support network at home!

Tell us something about yourself that you haven't told the crew!

The crew don't know I have major beef with Pukekos (yes the birds). They used to chase me on my way to school. My current interests are - getting to the gym (sometimes), bringing up how hot Hawke's Bay is (again), playing chess (badly).

Welcome aboard Georgia! ■



Georgia

LOWE CORPORATION RESCUE HELICOPTER
OPEN DAY

GOLD COIN
DONATION
ENTRY

**SATURDAY 28TH
FEBRUARY 2026,
10AM-2PM**

**GRAEME LOWE RESCUE
HELICOPTER CENTRE,
ORCHARD ROAD, HASTINGS.**

Car parking available at Heretaunga
Intermediate School
Car Park.

www.hbhrt.org.nz



COMMUNITY CHEER

We are so grateful to the Hawke's Bay Community for supporting our service so we can be available 24/7 for our region. Below are a few special people who have been raising valuable funds for us recently.

DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR A FUNDRAISER?

Please contact Beth – email beth@hbhrt.org.nz or call (06) 878 1630 to discuss how we can help you, help us!



Thank you Sara and Tahaenui Christmas Fete!

Each year, Sara and her team create a truly magical Christmas Fete at Tahaenui Station in Nūhaka, showcasing an incredible range of high-quality goods from local businesses. In 2025 alone, the event raised \$6,000 for the Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter Trust. Since first supporting us in 2022, this wonderful community initiative has donated more than \$27,000 in total.

Our crew are regularly called upon to help save lives in the Wairoa community, and support from local people and businesses like this makes a huge difference. We are so grateful for their incredible support!

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING GROUPS/CLUBS WHO HAVE DONATED TO THE TRUST RECENTLY

- Downer NZ \$2650
- Z Energy – Good in the Hood \$1855
- Wairoa A & P Society – Dirty Dash! \$1600
- Wairoa Contract Bridge Club \$4000
- Wairoa Veterinary Club Inc \$7000

We Turn 33!

What a night celebrating 33 years of the HB Rescue Helicopter Trust! The hangar was abuzz as we hosted some of our wonderful supporters, local MP's, board members past and present and volunteers. When the pager went off and the crew swung into action tasked to pick up a burns patient near Pongaroa, it was a sharp reminder of just how critical our service is.



Property Brokers Charity Auction

A huge thank you to the team at Property Brokers Hawke's Bay who coordinated yet another stellar Charity Auction for our Rescue Helicopter.

Now in its 19th year, the night raised a generous \$25,000 to support our lifesaving service!

The sell-out event at Toitoi Events Centre profiled a number of items generously donated by local businesses and vigorously bid on throughout the night raising a total of \$68,000 for the following three charities: Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter Trust, the Hawkes Bay Cancer Society and the Property Brokers Make a Difference Fund.

These vital funds help keep our service operating 24/7, 365 days of the year, so we can continue to be there when you need us most.



Home and Garden Show

The Annual Home and Garden Show is always a colourful attraction and this year raised over \$3,000 for our service. It was wonderful to see so many of our supporters (both young and old) swing by to say hi to our onsite team and crew. Our raffle will be back by popular demand in 2026!



Cape Trail Run Hits New Record

The Cole Murray Cape Kidnappers Trail Run kicked off spring with a record lineup of starters.

1200 runners and walkers hit the trails in September with proceeds from the event supporting the Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter Trust.

CORPORATE CHEER

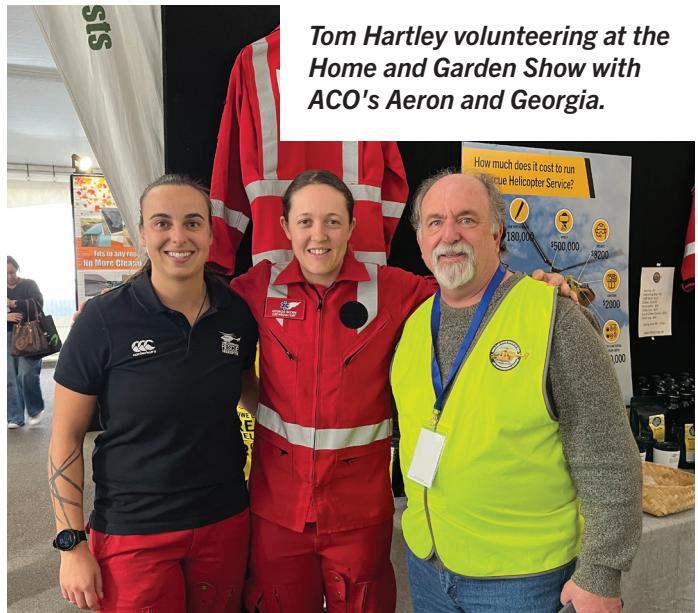


Welcome on board Hick Bros. Civil Construction Ltd as our new 'Platinum' sponsors!

Tom Gaddum and his team visited the hangar where they met the duty crew and checked out our workhorse BK117, between missions.

Hick Bros. Construction Ltd. specialises in large-scale infrastructure projects like bulk earthworks, roading, and wastewater systems. They continue to play a vital role in infrastructure development across Hawke's Bay and were an integral part of post-Cyclone Gabrielle recovery efforts.

Tom is excited to be backing our rescue helicopter service "I'm glad to be able to support an awesome community asset and team."



Govern Cybersecurity has increased its sponsorship support to Diamond level.

As a team of highly experienced and certified Cybersecurity professionals, Govern is dedicated to helping organisations keep their networks safe and secure while enabling them to take advantage of the latest technology developments.

Director, Tom Hartley says it may sound cliché, but it's the least he can do.

"Govern is having a successful period, and I want to share that the best way I can. I think you said it well - it's a lifesaving contribution.

"Govern is the vehicle that I use to help save businesses from cyber-attacks and the impact that has on staff and clients. The HB Rescue Heli is the vehicle you use for saving lives. I'm not claiming that Govern's mission is as important as what you do, but if it can support your work in a small way, then I feel a part of your mission."

25 Years of Unison Sponsorship

Two of Hawke's Bay's vital essential services marked a 'powerful' partnership milestone in October. Local power lines company, Unison Networks (Unison) has been backing the Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter as an Associate Sponsor for 25 years, helping save thousands of Kiwi lives in that time.

A special presentation at the hangar officially acknowledged Unison as a core pillar of support for the region's medical air rescue service.

Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter Trust CEO, Andy Quayle says the partnership has stood the test of time.

"25 years of dedicated support is incredibly impressive. It is testament to an organisation's genuine commitment to support a cause aligned with its own purpose, values and principles.



"It's fantastic to be able to celebrate the occasion with Jaun and his wider team. I congratulate them on reaching this milestone and express our gratitude for their 25 years of support."

THANK YOU TO OUR FAMILY OF CORPORATE SPONSORS

PRINCIPAL SPONSOR

Lowe Corporation

ASSOCIATE SPONSORS

Pan Pac Forest Products Ltd | Unison Networks Ltd | Winter Olympics

PLATINUM

Centralines Ltd | Hick Bros Civil Construction | Napier Pine Ltd | Tumu Group

DIAMOND

Brownrigg Agriculture Ltd | Fleet Sales NZ Ltd | Govern Ltd

RUBY

Central Hawke's Bay District Council

SAPPHIRE

Wairoa District Council

EMERALD

Baker Tilly Staples Rodway Audit Ltd | BEL Group Ltd | COF's Hawke's Bay Ltd | Constellation Brands NZ Ltd | Hastings District Council
J A Russell Ltd | JK Auto Installation Services Ltd | Midlands | Napier City Council | Vet Services (HB) Ltd

GOLD

Advanced Plumbing | Ainsworth & Collison | Alexander Construction | Archant | Atkin Construction HB | Awakeri Drainage | Bay Espresso
BDO Hawke's Bay Ltd | BP Clive | Bridgeman Concrete Ltd | Broad Electrical Services | Conroy Removals Ltd | Davmet New Zealand
Development Nous | East Coast Lumber | Forest Management NZ | Gallagher Insurance | GJ Gardner Hawke's Bay
Harris Pumps & Filtration Ltd | Hawke's Bay Aggregates | Hydralada Company | Kiwi Tax Ltd | Kleer Contractors HB Ltd | Lattey Group
Matariki Forests Ltd | MCL Construction Ltd | Middle Hills Contracts | MW Lissette Ltd | Napier Sandblasting Co Ltd
NH Packing and Farming Co. Ltd | Oceanbridge Shipping | Peak Commodities Ltd | Pope Electrical Ltd | Populous People | Propart Ricambi Ltd
QC Engineering HB Ltd | Quality Roading & Service | RD8 Fresh Produce Group | Red Steel Ltd
Reid Produce Company | Rothbury Insurance Brokers | Rural Direction Recruitment & HR
Sainsbury Logan & Williams | Stephenson Transport Ltd | Total Energies NZ | Venta | Vista Auto Glass | Wassco Engineering

SILVER

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CHB Funeral Services Ltd | DG Glenn Logging Ltd | DSK Engineering Ltd | Epplett & Co
Everest Kool | Findex Community Fund | Foley Agrisystems | Fraser Thomas Ltd | Hayes Log Transport Ltd | Hollycombe Farming Ltd
Hygiene Technologies Ltd | Logan Stone Ltd | M F & N J Laurie | Markham Global
Mark Pittar Transport | Mike Kettle Contracting Ltd | Morice Ltd | Newstead Farm | Oldershaw & Co
Osler's Bakery & Café | Pacific Powder Coating Ltd | Plan A Consulting | Prime Trading Ltd
Redshaw Livestock Ltd | Suvic Engineering Ltd | Tasman Harvester Contracting | Tribe | Waimoe Farm
Waipukurau Construction Ltd | Waterforce Ltd | Websters Hydrated Lime Co Ltd

If you would like to discuss our corporate sponsorship packages or wish to come on board,
please get in touch with Jo on 06 878 1630 or email jo@hbhrt.org.nz



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