

LOWE CORPORATION RESCUE HELICOPTER

OFF THE LANDING PAD



SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2018

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Volunteer Crewman, Brett "Gonzo" How.

Thank you and goodbye Brett "Gonzo" How

It is with a very heavy heart that we must let our supporters know that Brett "Gonzo" How, one of our incredible volunteer crewmen, has passed away. We would like to take this opportunity to let you all know how amazing this man was and what he did for our vital life saving service.

Gonzo worked for the trust for nearly 20 years as a volunteer crewman. He was also a Firefighter at the Hastings Fire Station.

He was involved in many rescues including one in October 2016 where he was part of a crew that rescued two trampers off a cliff face in the Ruahine Ranges in winds gusting up to 100 km/h. This rescue took such incredible bravery and skill that he, and the entire team in this rescue, were later recognised with a Certificate of Achievement at the New Zealand Search and Rescue (NZSAR) Council Awards. An always humble Gonzo didn't see this as an act of bravery, he simply saw it as doing his job. Charlie Beetham, who was the chief pilot on this rescue, said "Gonzo was one of the most experienced and valued men we had during my time with the rescue helicopter...his flawlessly calm nature and demeanour, combined with his absolute professionalism in even the most challenging situations instilled a huge amount of confidence and trust in the pilots he flew with".

This view of Gonzo was agreed upon by all of the crew. Chief Crewman of the Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter Service, Geoff Taylor, summed up Gonzo using a Sir Edmund Hilary quote. "People do not decide to become extraordinary. They decide to accomplish extraordinary things."

Not only was Gonzo great at what he did, he was an amazing person as well. Gonzo was someone who made a connection with everyone he met. He was a first point of contact for many patients who were picked up by the Rescue Helicopter and no doubt made a lasting impression on many. His cheeky sense of humour, fantastic smile and huge heart made him incredibly personable. He lit up a room as soon as he walked in.

We will really miss Gonzo and are forever grateful for the time he dedicated to keeping the community safe. Rest in Peace Brett "Gonzo" How.

2017 IN A SNAPSHOT



BABIES & INFANTS

33 babies and children under 5 years were transported by the Rescue Helicopter in 2017.



BEACH

14 people transported after accidents on the beach or in surrounding areas.



BUSH

15 people were transported from rivers, in the bush, or walking tracks. Many of these patients had to be winched out due to the nature of their surroundings.



FARM

24 people involved in farm related accidents were transported by the Helicopter and taken to hospital.



ELDERLY

58 elderly patients were taken to advanced medical care.



TOTAL NUMBER OF MISSIONS:

292

REMEMBER in an emergency dial 111

Summer Missions Snapshot

Date: Wednesday 3rd January

Time: 17.00

Rescue at the beach: The rescue helicopter responded to Ocean Beach for a 43 year old female with a neck and spinal injury from the surf. She was transported to Hawke's Bay Hospital for further treatment.

Date: Sunday December 31st (New Year's Eve)

Time: 08.20

Car accident: The Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter was tasked to a single vehicle accident on SH5 near Rangitaiki Lodge, between Napier and Taupo, where a young male was thrown from his vehicle and sustained multiple injuries. He was transported to Hawke's Bay Hospital for further treatment.



Date: Tuesday 19 December

Time: 12.30

Rescue of a tramp: Flew into Urewera Ranges to retrieve a father and son who were overdue from a tramp. The pair had been missing since Sunday night, and were found by LandSAR searchers. The father was unable to walk due to an ankle injury. Father and son were both retrieved by winch from very steep terrain and were transported to the DOC Visitor Centre at Lake Waikaremoana.

Date: Thursday 14 December

Time: 11.45

Mountain bike accident: The rescue helicopter was responded to Te Mata Peak for a young woman who fell from her mountain bike and sustained leg injuries. A paramedic was winched into the tall trees to retrieve the patient. She was then transported to Hawke's Bay Hospital for further treatment.

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

A decorative wreath of various green herbs, including olive branches with olives, basil, and a bunch of green grapes, surrounds a central white circle.

LOWE CORPORATION RESCUE
HELICOPTER SERVICE

Dine with
**MARTIN
BOSLEY**

*A 3 COURSE DINNER EXPERIENCE
PRESENTED BY MARTIN BOSLEY*

& CHARITY AUCTION

TO BENEFIT THE LOWE CORPORATION RESCUE HELICOPTER

Friday, 23 March 2018 *from* **6.30pm**

HAVELOCK NORTH FUNCTION CENTRE

PRICE IS **\$100PP** WITH A 10% DISCOUNT FOR 8 TICKETS OR MORE.

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM WWW.HBHRT.ORG.NZ DRESS SEMI-FORMAL



LOWE CORPORATION
**RESCUE
HELICOPTER
SERVICE**



We are so pleased to announce that once again the Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter has been named the Official Charity Partner for the Air New Zealand Hawke's Bay International Marathon which will take place on Saturday the 12th May 2018.

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

Beth O'Reilly, the Marketing and Fundraising Manager for the Trust said, "We are so pleased to continue our partnership with the Air New Zealand Hawke's Bay International Marathon. We are constantly looking for ways to fundraise the \$1.3 million we need every year. If you would like to run at an amazing event and help a great cause, please do get in touch and join our Team Rescue Heli. We will provide you with a running t-shirt and a personalized fundraising pack to get you started!"

She added, "100% of any funds raised will go directly to keeping our vital emergency rescue service available 24/7. One day we could be helping you, your family or friends. It is with the support of the community that we can be available for the whole Hawke's Bay Community no matter when they need us."

Air New Zealand Hawke's Bay International Marathon Race Director Adam McDonald described the decision to renew the partnership as an easy one.

"There are different ways we can leave a legacy in the community, our partnership with the Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter is one that enables us as race organizers and importantly our athletes to also contribute to a great cause. Through hosting this event in Hawke's Bay, IRONMAN is able to give a wonderful local charity great exposure and the chance for fundraising vital to their ongoing work, we are thrilled to have them on board again."

As well as those joining 'Team Rescue Heli', runners in any event can choose to support the Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter at the time of entry, with a \$5 or \$10 donation made when they sign up through the event website. Entries for all events are open now at www.hawkesbaymarathon.co.nz



Save lives with every step you take and sign up to fundraise for the Rescue Chopper today! Get in touch with Beth on mfm@hbhrt.org.nz or have a look on our website, www.hbhrt.org.nz under 'Get Involved' for more information.

HUET TRAINING UPDATE

Thank you so much to all of those who donated to training the crew, including the HUET course. We were overwhelmed by the response. We are happy to announce that the crew have been fitting in as much of this training as possible in between our busy summer season, with the rest to be completed later this year.



Patients family gives back to the Rescue Chopper

On Saturday the 27th of August, Colin was driving home from Ongaonga golf club when a on coming driver fell asleep and crossed the centre line, hitting Colin's car head on. Colin says it was like slow motion, it seemed to take forever but in a matter of seconds, he had suffered injuries from which he would never fully recover.

When our crew first saw the wreckage, they knew the situation would be life threatening. There were parts of the car strewn for miles all around, they said. Colin had suffered a fractured skull, 5 broken ribs, a knee fracture, a thigh muscle tear, an ACL ligament tear as well as bruises and scrapes all over his body. He doesn't remember much from the incident apart from the rotors of the Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter spinning as he was loaded into it and taken to the specialists he needed to save his life.



We delivered an intensive care paramedic from St John's to the scene and then transported Colin to the Hawke's Bay Hospital in Hastings.

Colin and his family are so grateful that the helicopter could get to the scene quickly and deliver the help he needed. Colin says "I often see the Rescue Chopper fly over head while I was out on the farm and never thought that one day it would be rescuing me. I am so lucky to be alive."

Lydia Baty, Colin's daughter in law, wanted to give back to those that helped save his life on that day. She held a quiz night and raised over \$3300 for the Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter Service. Thank you so much Lydia!



COMMUNITY CHEER #hawkesbayheroes

Festive appeal week



Patrick and Cherry Dingemans.



Jemma Russell.

We had two street appeals located in Havelock and Napier in early December. We wanted to say a huge thank you to those volunteers who came along and made it all possible and to all of those who donated.

Rescue Rose cheque presentation



You may remember these lovely ladies from our last newsletter. They came in late last year and presented their cheque for \$3,000 to the Rescue Chopper from the sale of their custom made Rose.



Upcoming Events: Dates for your Diary

25th February 2018 – Open Day: We will have our Open day back on Sunday the 25th of February ready for everyone to enjoy! We will have the chopper available to take photos in, have a go on our winch machine and enjoy a family fun day out!

23rd March 2018 – Dine with....: This year we present our first Dine With... Event. This year we will Have Martin Bosley designing and presenting a three-course meal. This year it will be held at the Havelock North Function Centre. If you would like to buy tickets, you can enquire on our website, www.hbhrt.org.nz or email Beth on mfm@hbhrt.org.nz Tickets are \$100 per person with a 10% discount for 8 or more tickets.

29th June 2018 – The Grape Debate: This event sells out every year. Keep an eye out for when tickets go on sale on our Facebook page. This year's event will be between Australian winemakers and New Zealand. Who do you think will win?!

6th – 12th of August – RED FOR RESCUE: We are encouraging stores, schools and workplaces to go red for rescue. Have a fundraiser! It can be as simple as a gold coin morning tea, bake sale, ask your customers for a small donation with every purchase to keep your lifesaving rescue helicopter service available!

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