

OFF THE LANDING PAD

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2026



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New Aircraft Meets New Era For Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter Trust

The Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter Trust is entering a significant new chapter with the arrival of its new Airbus H145D3 alongside the announcement of our new Principal Sponsors, Jonathan and Maree Wallace of the Wallace Foundation.

Together, these milestones symbolise a marked step forward in capability and technology, while reflecting the Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter Trust's ongoing commitment to delivering an increasingly capable, modern and responsive rescue service for the region.

The purchase of IXM supports the continued expansion and modernisation of New Zealand's emergency air ambulance capability. The Airbus H145 D3, widely recognised as the global benchmark for emergency medical services, provides advanced performance, reliability and mission flexibility, enabling crews to operate safely and efficiently across New Zealand's diverse and demanding environments.



Pilot Bill and CCFP Jack with Jonathan and Maree Wallace.



CCFP Cornelius with Hugo Fitzsimmons, Jonathan, Maree and Inga Wallace. (from left to right)

Jonathan Wallace says the decision to support the rescue helicopter demonstrates the Wallace Foundation's commitment to the region and recognition of the critical role the service plays.

"Hawke's Bay is where we call home and the region has been incredibly good to us. As a family we support many community initiatives but feel passionately about supporting the lifesaving work of the region's rescue helicopter in a larger, more enduring way."

He says the service's accessibility and lifeline role across the region were key considerations in the Foundation's decision.

"The critical role the rescue helicopter plays in helping anyone, anywhere, at any time at no cost to the patient makes the Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter Service pretty unique, and that's what's driven us to get behind it."

The new partnership follows an extraordinary 34-year period of Principal Sponsorship by the Lowe Corporation. The Trust acknowledges the significant contribution of the Lowe family, whose longstanding support has helped shape the service and enabled it to continue delivering lifesaving operations across Hawke's Bay for more than three decades.



Winter Olympics Proves a Driving Force

What started as a grassroots horse-riding event has delivered a major boost to the Wallace Foundation Rescue Helicopter's emergency response capability.

The Central Hawke's Bay Winter Olympics raised enough money to recently purchase a brand-new Rapid Response Vehicle (RRV) for the Rescue Helicopter service - turning months of fundraising, sponsorship and community support into an asset that is already making a difference to patients across the region.

Driven by organiser Claire Wilson and a dedicated team of volunteers, riders and sponsors, the 2026 Winter Olympics raised an impressive \$102,000. Two-thirds of the funds - \$68,000 has been gifted to the Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter Trust to fund the new vehicle, with the remaining funds supporting the event's community beneficiaries.

For Claire, the achievement is a proud milestone in the Winter Olympics' long association with the Rescue Helicopter.

"The team at the rescue helicopter said, 'How about this?' and we have jumped at the challenge. I'm just so proud that we managed to pull it off!"

The new RRV provides greater space, versatility and capability, effectively operating as a mobile critical care unit when the helicopter cannot fly or when the crew needs to respond by road.



The vehicle is an important part of the Rescue Helicopter's wider emergency response capability, allowing the critical care team to support ambulance crews, reach patients when weather prevents an aircraft response, and transport essential medical equipment directly to the scene.

HBRHT CEO Andy Quayle says the Trust is incredibly grateful for the ongoing commitment from Claire, her team, riders, volunteers and the event's many sponsors.

"Their contribution will continue to help save lives for many years to come."

The new Rapid Response Vehicle is a powerful example of what can happen when a community gets behind a cause that matters. From a paddock in Central Hawke's Bay to the front line of emergency medical response, the Winter Olympics has once again shown that grassroots fundraising can make a very real difference.

A 'Heli Livestock' Special Thank You!

Following another big-hearted contribution to Heli Livestock, we'd like to make a special thank you to Graeme and Judy Wedd of Rotoma Station for the proceeds from their recent cattle beast donation.

The sizeable cheque from this pledge (their second for Heli Livestock), will go a long way towards helping ensure our crews can be there for patients when every second counts. Thank you Graeme and Judy!

To support Heli Livestock simply contact your livestock agent or affiliated meat company to make your pledge today.



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.



Biddle Whanau Give Back

Giving back to the crew that saved his family's lives was the prerogative of proud Wairoa father and community advocate, Jordan Biddle when he visited the hangar back in May with three children Matene (10), Mikaere (6) and Tiara (4).

Jordan's two sons and wife Aroha survived a fatal car collision with a school bus in Wairoa in February, but their lives were changed irreparably when baby boy Hendrix-Ze was killed instantly.

In an act of generosity and healing from the tragedy, Jordan paid the hangar a visit to thank and give back to our emergency response team handing over a heartfelt donation to acknowledge our service.

Thank you Jordan – we wish you and your whanau all the best on your road to recovery.

Havelock North High School Charity Art Auction

Havelock North High School is hosting a Charity Art Auction in support of our lifesaving service on Tuesday 13th of October at Bayleys Havelock North.

Organised by the school's Community Services Committee, the evening will bring together the school and wider Hawke's Bay community to raise funds for the lifesaving work of our trust.

For further information or to support the event, please contact Olivia Jackson at 22221@hnhs.school.nz.

Bidding Strong at Property Broker's Charity Auction

Bidding at this year's 20th Property Brokers Hawke's Bay Charity Auction was considerably strong, raising a staggering \$84,850 for local charities in June.

The impressive figure has been split evenly (\$28,200 each) amongst the Cancer Society Hawke's Bay, Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter Trust and the Property Brokers Community Fund.

A fantastic night to be a part of with some incredible generosity in the room. A huge debt of thanks to Property Brokers Hawke's Bay for nominating our lifesaving service.



Blazing a Peak Fundraising Trail

A special thanks to Gourmeats Peak Trail Blazer Coordinator, Brendan Bourke for calling in to the hangar with a cheque for \$8,000 for our Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter.

It's the first time our lifesaving service has been selected as a recipient charity of the event's proceeds and we are incredibly grateful for the inclusion. The vital funds will help enable a lifesaving air medical mission.

**Got an idea for a fundraiser?
Contact us to discuss how we can help you, help us!**

Beth Adair
beth@hbhrt.org.nz | (06) 280 7097



Photo credit Carl Gundersen

4x4 Grand Finalists Leave Their Mark for Rescue Heli

A huge thank you to Dodge Contracting and the Hawke's Bay 4WD Club, who organised the NZ 4x4 Trials Grand Final held in Hawke's Bay back in April - and to the hundreds of spectators who swarmed through the gates.

The action-packed event drew some of the best off-road drivers in the country, who carved up the mud soaked course at Crownthorpe to the excitement of the crowd.

More than 40 teams from around the country competed with \$15,000 raised from the event coming straight to the Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter Trust - helping sustain our lifesaving service.

Morrinsville drivers dominated the weekend with Shaun Nicholson, Bryce Nicholson and Cody Fogden winning the event.

Crew Update

With Pilot and Base Manager
Bill Hartree

Hawke's Bay's new Airbus (IXM) is finally in service, how is the transition going for the team adapting to the advancements of the H145?

The transition to IXM and the H145 has been going really well. It is a significant step forward for the team and, while there is plenty to learn with the new aircraft and its systems, the crew have adapted quickly and are becoming increasingly comfortable with the new capability.

The H145 brings a much higher level of automation and technology, which has required a change in the way we operate and manage the aircraft. The team have embraced the change really well and are enjoying getting to grips with the advancements.

In the short time IXM has been in service, what benefits are you already seeing as an emergency aeromedical response team?

The biggest benefit is the increased capability the H145 gives us. The aircraft provides improved performance,



increased fuel capacity and endurance, advanced avionics and automation, and a much more capable platform for the range of missions we undertake.

From a crew perspective, the enhanced situational awareness and automation are particularly beneficial. They allow us to better manage the aircraft while also maintaining our focus on the patient, medical team and overall mission. The additional capability also gives us greater flexibility when operating in challenging weather, at night and over longer distances.

It is still early days, but IXM is already proving to be a very capable aircraft and a great asset for the Hawke's Bay community.

The Tiger Tug is due for arrival shortly, what other improvements are needed to our hangar and base facilities to accommodate IXM?

The Tiger Tug will be a great addition and will make moving and positioning IXM in the hangar much easier and safer.

There are, however, a few upgrades we will need to make to the hangar as we move forward with the H145. This includes additional storage and suitable workspaces for engineering tooling and equipment. With some of the H145 maintenance now being carried out at the hangar, we need to make sure the engineers have appropriate, secure storage for their tooling and the equipment required to support the aircraft.

Become a Heli Hero today!

For just \$5 a week, you can join our Heli Hero family and help keep our rescue helicopter flying when people need us most. As a Heli Hero, you'll also receive exclusive benefits, updates and a little present from us!

Get in touch with Beth to find out more
beth@hbhrt.org.nz

Corporate Cheer



Board Welcomes New Trustee Alex Walker

In May we welcomed Central Hawke's Bay's former Mayor Alex Walker to the Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter Trust Board of Trustees.

Previously sitting on Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter Trust's Trustee Appointments Committee, Alex played an integral role in the region's Cyclone Gabrielle recovery coordination.

Welcome aboard Alex!



Keara and Annabelle

Westpac Chopper Appeal Raises the Stakes

An enormous thank you to Westpac NZ for helping raise a record amount through this year's national Chopper Appeal.

Of the impressive \$1.78 million raised, a record \$40,222 was raised in the Hawke's Bay region with funds coming direct to the Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter Trust to help sustain our lifesaving missions.

Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter Trust Chief Executive, Andy Quayle is humbled by the generosity shown.

"We are incredibly grateful to every person who contributed in any way, from support for our donation buckets, to the quiz night and bake sales that went on around the region. The record amount raised shows just how close to people's hearts the rescue helicopter is - they can be safe in the knowledge that when it comes to our lifesaving service, every dollar counts."

The Wallace Foundation
Rescue Helicopter
PRESENTS

OFF THE RECORD

BEYOND THE BLACK JERSEY

Proudly supported by
BAYLEYS

AN EXCLUSIVE CHARITY DINNER & AUCTION SUPPORTING THE WALLACE FOUNDATION RESCUE HELICOPTER

Four men who have shaped New Zealand rugby at the highest level come together for one night of candid conversation and stories rarely told publicly.

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All Blacks captain 1996-1999 • led the side in 22 tests

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Former All Blacks Captain • Flanker • 1967-1977

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20 years All Blacks GM • 2 Rugby World Cup wins • 250+ tests

DAVID KIRK MBE
Captained All Blacks to victory 1987 Rugby World Cup

DATE: Saturday, 19 September 2026 / TIME: 5.30pm / VENUE: Napier Conference Center

Tickets available from Eventfinda or scan the barcode below

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

Hawke's Bay Hunt	\$6100
Summerset Te Awa Residence Donation	\$6000
Anzco Foods	\$5000
Rapid Relief Team	\$2551
PGG Wrightsons - 'Cash for Communities'	\$2307
Garden Open Day - Ewan McGregor/Cynthia Bowers	\$2200
Combined Rebus Clubs of Te Mata	\$2105
Bennelong Mountain Bike Club	\$2000
Lions Club of Takapau	\$2000
Wairoa Grey Power	\$2000
Havelock North Bridge Club	\$1656
Heretaunga Tramping Club Inc	\$1600
Cole Murray Cape Kidnappers Trail Run	\$1000
St Columbas Presbyterian Church	\$1000
Hastings Scottish and Country Dancing Club	\$1000
Ngati Pahauwera Trust	\$1000

Help fundraise for us: contact Beth on beth@hbhrt.org.nz

Thanks to our sponsor family

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