

CareFlight news

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Road crash response saves children

CareFlight's Dr Chris Jones had just 15 minutes left of his shift at the Ambulance Service of NSW Orange helicopter base when the call came in. A utility and a 4WD had collided at high speed on the Great Western Highway just outside the town of Lucknow.

The crash had happened close to the helicopter base so Dr Chris Jones and Ambulance Service paramedic Nathan Croft decided to drive the short distance in the road ambulance stationed at the base.

The scene was chaotic. The force of the impact was so severe that the vehicles had split apart and wreckage was strewn over a wide area. Sadly, the driver of the 4WD in which a family of six had been travelling, had died. A mother and two children were trapped in the 4WD and the 26-year-old male driver of the utility was trapped in his vehicle. Remarkably, a three-month-old baby and another boy who were in the 4WD had escaped with relatively minor injuries.

Chris and Nathan assessed the situation and reported back to the Ambulance Co-ordination Centre. The Ambulance helicopter was called from Orange to the

scene and two Ambulance helicopters with additional medical teams were tasked from Sydney. There were no other intensive care paramedics available from Orange. As far as advanced medical teams were concerned, Chris and Nathan were on their own and would be for some time.

They focused their attention on the two critically injured children, an eight-year-old boy and a 12-year-old boy, trapped in the back seat of the 4WD. The younger boy had severe bleeding around the face, was unconscious and having difficulty breathing.

When the Sydney helicopters arrived, Chris quickly handed over the younger boy

to the arriving medical team before flying the 12-year-old to Westmead Children's Hospital in the Orange helicopter. The younger boy followed about 20 minutes later. Their mother was released from the 4WD and transported in a third helicopter to Westmead Hospital.

The outcome for the mother and her two injured children was good. All are doing well.

As always in these types of emergencies, the outcome was the result of a team effort. Together with ambulance medical teams and helicopters, police and fire agencies, CareFlight played a vital role in the chain of survival, making a significant difference. ✕

Careflight doctors focus on rural service... see centre pages.

Plea to kids: it's cool to wear helmets

It's cool to wear a helmet... that's the message CareFlight wants to get through to children using scooters and skate boards.

One teenager's life was saved by wearing his bicycle helmet early this year: within hours other children riding scooters without them suffered head injuries.

The stark contrast prompts the CareFlight plea for children to wear helmets when riding scooters and skate boards – it is already compulsory to wear helmets when riding bicycles.

A 13-year-old Cabramatta boy's life was saved because he was wearing a helmet when his bicycle was struck by a 4WD at Canley Vale, in Sydney's south-west.

Using the helicopter crew's Night Vision Technology, a CareFlight doctor flew to the scene and placed the boy in an induced coma to start immediate emergency treatment of his fractured skull, severe head injury and extensive abrasions.

The boy was taken to Westmead Children's Hospital where his condition improved – thanks to the added protection the helmet gave when he was dragged some 20 metres under the 4WD in an alleged hit and run.

Twice the next day CareFlight's rapid response trauma team flew to injured boys who were left initially unconscious when they fell from scooters at skate parks – and were not wearing helmets.

At Rockdale, in Sydney's south, a boy was left initially unconscious when he fell onto concrete while riding a scooter.

The boy's serious head injury would have been less severe had he been wearing a helmet, the CareFlight doctor said.

Just five hours later, ambulance officers called the CareFlight trauma doctor to treat another teenage boy who suffered head injuries in a fall from a scooter at a skate park in Summer Hill, in Sydney's west.

The 13-year-old boy collided with another scooter rider and fell head-first onto concrete, leaving him initially unconscious.

Again, his injury was more severe because he did not have the protection of a helmet. ✕

NRMA Insurance ends sponsorship

After a remarkable 20 year partnership, the sponsorship which NRMA Insurance has provided to CareFlight is coming to an end.

This longstanding relationship started in 1990 following our charity's initial three-year sponsorship from HCF which began when CareFlight started in 1986.

We take this opportunity to say thank you to NRMA Insurance for the help they have given us in saving lives over two decades.

CareFlight will continue to develop business partnerships into the future, including those which we have forged with the Motor Accidents Authority of NSW (MAA) over recent years and Country Energy customers through the long-standing "tick box" program.

With your community support we will continue to develop our national services providing the best possible level of emergency medical care with one prime focus – the optimum outcome for all our patients. ✕

Ian Badham OAM
Founding Director – CareFlight



Choppers for Charity continues

The great tradition continued at Sussex Inlet in February with the whole community banding together to raise funds to support the clinical, research and education services which CareFlight doctors provide state-wide. The weekend began on Friday with a barefoot lawn bowls competition, followed by a charity golf day on Saturday and a dinner dance at the RSL on Saturday night. The weekend finished with a street parade and community festival adjacent to the foreshore in Sussex Inlet (photo right) on Sunday. The committee had been working tirelessly throughout the year to organise the event and it proved to be another massive success. Thank you to all those who lent a hand on the day, to all who came along and enjoyed the activities and to our great supporters at the Sussex Inlet RSL Club.



IGA Golf Day success

It was pouring with rain in Sydney on the Valentines Day weekend and you would be right in thinking there was no way people would play golf in such weather. However, on the Mid North Coast it was 32 degrees and bright sunlight... perfect! After a spectacular dinner at the Wauchope RSL Club, the IGA Northern Locals brought in a number of their key suppliers and supporters for the annual IGA golf day at Wauchope Golf Club. Because of the day, numbers were down but the support from sponsors was equal if not better than the 2009 event. The CareFlight Rescue Simulator was on the golf course for participants in the event and visitors to view, while CareFlight and IGA staff worked to keep everyone hydrated and well fed. It was a very successful event with thousands of dollars raised. CareFlight would like to thank IGA Northern Locals (photo below) for their continuing support and friendship, especially the organising committee of Dave Price, Kylie Knights, Chris Crilley, Richard O'Leary, Ray Fitzgerald and Darren Partridge. Well done team!



Honda Foundation's ventilator

The Honda Foundation has been a longstanding supporter of CareFlight through in-kind support and generous donations. A new Elisee ventilator (photo above) is now being used on board CareFlight's medi-jets where it will provide our patients with an enhanced standard of care.

Masonic Auxiliary's great decade

With sadness and celebration the NSW Masonic Auxiliary has wound up with a final presentation to charities – including CareFlight. The latest donation of \$12,000 means the NSW Masonic Auxiliary has contributed a total of \$80,500 over a remarkable 10 years to support CareFlight's medical and aviation services. Our special thanks to these outstanding Masons for their great contribution to many worthy causes.



Ari Vatenen visits crew

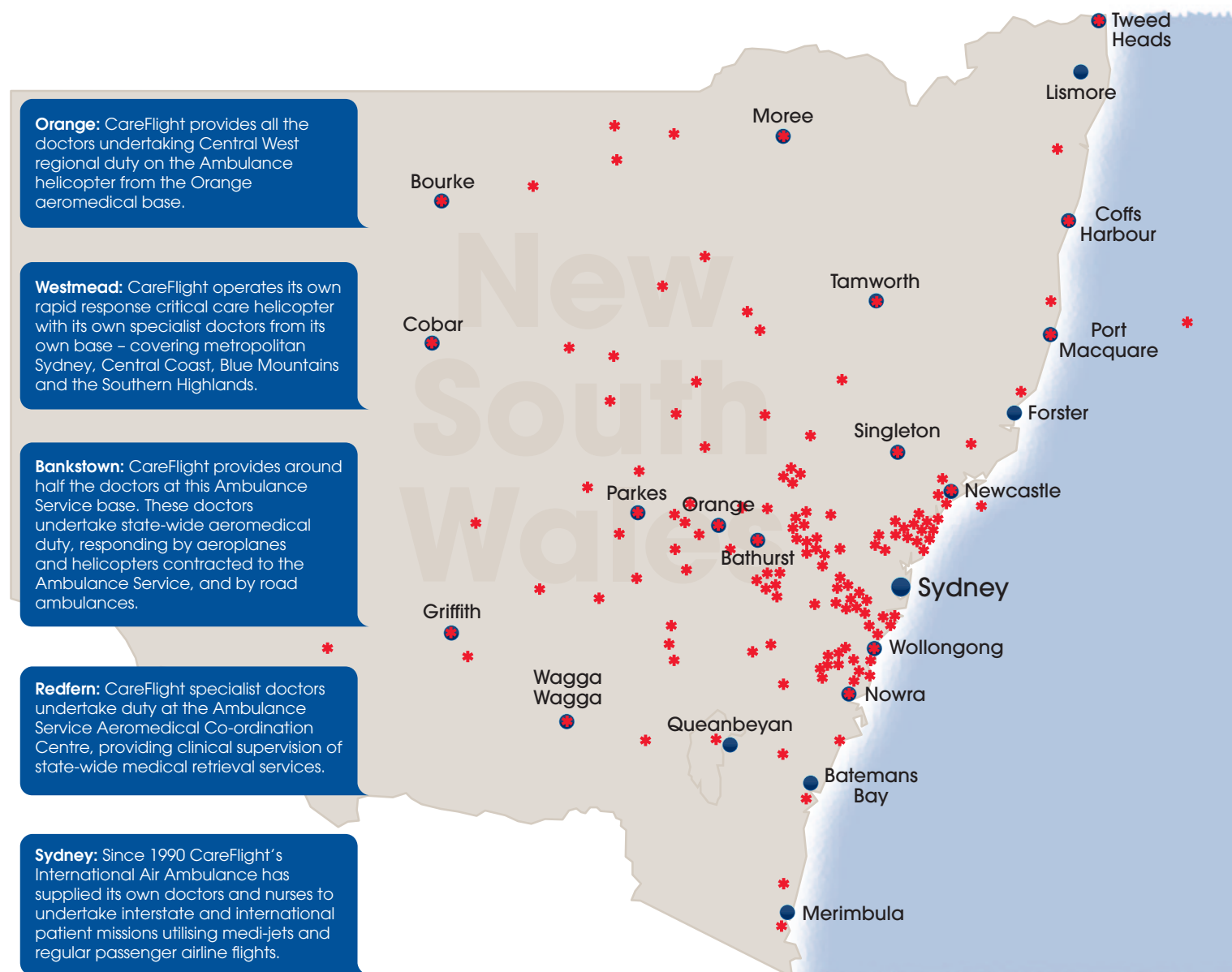
World Rally Champion and four times Paris to Dakar Rally winner Ari Vatenen visited the CareFlight base in January (photo above). A true legend in the Motorsport world, Ari is now a keen (private) helicopter pilot in Europe, flying from his home in the south of France to many places around Europe to fulfil his roles with the FIA and the EU, as well as attend motorsport events and functions. Ari happened to be in Sydney as the guest of honour for NRMA's 90th Birthday Dinner on 25 January, where he spoke enthusiastically about the importance of helicopters in EMS. ✕

Check our website for full details of upcoming events at www.careflight.org



CareFlight doctors focus on rural service across NSW

Listed below, and plotted on the map of NSW, are locations outside Sydney where CareFlight doctors attended patients during 2009 – responding by helicopter, road ambulance and air ambulance aircraft. This clearly shows the continued focus of CareFlight doctors on the welfare of rural patients.



Austinmer	Burradoo	Crookwell	Gulgong	Lake Macquarie	Mt Hunter	Orange	Tamworth	Wattamolla
Avoca	Bylong	Cullen Bullen	Harden	Leeton	Mt Lambie	Pambula	Taree	Wellington
Baradine	Camden	Dooralong	Hartley	Lidsdale	Mt Victoria	Parkes	Thirlmere	West Wyalong
Bathurst	Canberra	Dubbo	Hay	Lightning Ridge	Molong	Peak Hill	Trangie	Wilton
Bega	Canowindra	Dungog	Hill End	Lithgow	Moruya	Penrose	Trundle	Wingello
Bilpin	Cataract Dam	Erina	Ilford	Lord Howe Island	Morrisett	Perry's Crossing	Tumut	Wisemans Ferry
Binnaway	Clarence	Exeter	Jerrong	Lower	Moonie Moonie	Pictou	Shellharbour	Wollongong
Blackheath	Cargo	Forbes	Jenolan Caves	Maccdonald	Muswellbrook	Port Macquarie	Sutton Forest	Wolgan Valley
Black Springs	Cobar	Gilgandra	Jolls Bridge	Lower Portland	Narromine	Quandialla	Tahmoor	Wyong
Blayney	Coffs Harbour	Garie Beach	Kanangra	Manildra	Newcastle	Robertson	Tweed Heads	Yerranderie
Boorowa	Collarenebri	Glen Davis	Kandos	Mangrove	Newcastle (offshore)	Rylstone	Wagga Wagga	Young
Bourke	Coonabarabran	Golspie	Kariong	Mountain	Newnes	Sackville	Wallacia	
Bowral	Cudal	Gosford	Kangy Angy	Maitland	Nowra	Singleton	Wallerawang	
Braidwood	Cudgegong	Goulburn	Kempsey	Merriwa	Nyngan	Silverdale	Walgett	
Brewarrina	Colo	Grafton	Katoomba	Milton	Oberon	Sofala	Warren	
Budgewoi	Coonamble	Griffith	Kiama	Mittagong	Oran Park	Somersby	Warnervale	
Burning Palms	Cowra	Grenfell	Lake Cargelligo	Moree		Stanwell Park	Warragamba	

New contract for Top End

CareFlight will take over provision of all aeromedical services in the Top End, the NT Government has announced.

Territory Health Minister Kon Vatskalis announced in March that CareFlight has been awarded an interim contract to take over all services from July.

This is an extension of the aeromedical services already provided by CareFlight in the NT. Our medi-jet has operated out of our Darwin base since 2007 and we have had a dedicated helicopter based there for the past 18 months.

CareFlight, which has conducted ad hoc aeromedical missions in the Top End over the past two decades, has contracted to provide the NT Government with four King Air turbo prop aircraft, along with nurses and logistical co-ordination. These aircraft will be based in Darwin, Gove and Katherine, and will be in addition to the jet and helicopter already based in Darwin.

Demand for aeromedical services in the Territory has increased by 25 per cent over the past six years, the NT Department of Health & Families has said, and now some 3,000 patients are transported annually. ✕

Illusion sparks 'copter searches

Darwin's CareFlight helicopter completed extensive searches for a light aircraft which residents reported seeing in mangroves near Darwin Harbour in March.

Residents in the Nightcliff area alerted authorities when they saw what may have been a small aircraft in mangroves off the shore.

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) in Canberra, which co-ordinates major sea and air searches nationally, called CareFlight to conduct an aerial search of the area in the dark.

Using the helicopter's night sun searchlight and with the crew using their night vision goggles, CareFlight spent over two hours sweeping the area from a height of several hundred metres.

Having not found any wreckage or suspicious evidence, the crew resumed the search at first light, again sweeping the area, this time from a low height (500ft). The crew did not find anything which may have triggered the alert.

After interviewing residents, police said several witnesses reported seeing a light plane end up in bushes just after 6pm, sparking a large-scale search involving the CareFlight helicopter and land-based police.

Police Duty Superintendent Mike



Murphy said two buildings, bad weather and a low-flying aircraft combined to create the illusion that a light plane had crashed into the mangroves.

"I've actually seen it myself. It's remarkable how it looks like a light aircraft pointing out into the ocean," he said. ✕

DONATIONS

YES! I would like to make a donation. MONTHLY DONATION SINGLE DONATION

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SUBURB/TOWN

PHONE

EMAIL

DONATION AMOUNT
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PAYMENT DETAILS

MASTERCARD VISA AMEX DINERS CHEQUE/MONEY ORDER

CREDIT CARD NUMBER

CARDHOLDER'S NAME EXPIRY DATE

CARDHOLDER'S SIGNATURE DATE

Once completed, please return this coupon to:
CareFlight, Reply Paid 84642, Wentworthville NSW 2145

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. 10TAX

Donations Toll Free 1800 655 876

NOW - Online Donations

Without the generous support of community minded people, CareFlight would not be able to take off - literally. Now you can donate using our website. Go to www.careflight.org and on the home page click on the DONATE NOW button.

On the next page simply click on one of the buttons which will give you the option of making a single donation or donating on a monthly basis.



Other ways to help:

If you would like any information on the following, please contact CareFlight:

- Organising a fundraising event
- Arranging a base dinner or an interest visit
- Making a gift to CareFlight through your Will
- Making donations to CareFlight through your payroll
- Making a regular monthly donation

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