

CareFlight news

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Disaster scenario helps train CareFlight doctors

It was a late afternoon on a lonely back road and the scene was that of a major disaster. A bus full of teenagers and carers had rolled onto its side, colliding with two other vehicles. Nearly 30 people were injured, some seriously, and others were wandering around dazed and confused. It was exactly as planned!

The Major Disaster training scenario was in full swing by the time the CareFlight rapid response trauma team arrived by helicopter, delivering the first of many medical crews to the scene of the crash. Rural Fire Service Volunteer Firefighters and NSW Fire Brigades were the first on scene and had already begun assessing the situation. As more medical help arrived, the scene was sectorised and prioritised, with patients being triaged according to their injuries before being treated and transported.

The CareFlight Disaster Cache was called in, arriving on the CareFlight truck with a further team of nursing staff and logisticians. NSW Fire Brigades began cutting victims out of the cars and the bus as the helicopter ferried the most seriously injured from the scene.

CareFlight Doctor Ken Harrison, co-ordinator of medical training, said, "The exercise was about exposing our registrars and specialists to a high fidelity disaster scenario.

The Major Disaster training scenario

Working side by side with emergency personnel, they set about stabilising the most seriously injured and assisting with the recovery effort. The realism was amazing and everyone involved had that sense of purpose about the job at hand".

CareFlight retrieval specialist Dr Samantha Bendall, who assisted with the set-up of the bus crash scenario, got to use her training from that day when she responded to a tourist bus crash in Kangaroo Valley on 14 May this year. While fortunately the crash was far less severe than the simulation, Dr Bendall stated that she had been well prepared for the mission which closely resembled the training scenario.

Special thanks go to the NSW Rural Fire Service, NSW Fire Brigades and the many volunteers who donated their time to become victims, bystanders, actors and even caterers for the event. While we all hope that a disaster of this scale never occurs, your support for CareFlight training will aid the preparedness of our doctors and crews when they are called upon to act in disaster situations. ✕

Save future lives
by leaving a
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The technology, the equipment, the training – it's thanks to your support

How times have changed since CareFlight began saving lives back in 1986. Technology has advanced, equipment has improved immeasurably, training is more sophisticated. However, one thing remains unchanged – community support. Without the help of the community, CareFlight would quite simply not be able to remain at the forefront of rapid response critical care and many lives would be lost or changed forever.

Every day, CareFlight doctors and crew are on standby at locations around Australia ready to go to the aid of people who suddenly find themselves in need of emergency medical care. People who will probably never meet those who so generously donate and raise funds so that CareFlight can continue to provide this care. People who suddenly become acutely aware of how technology, equipment and training can save lives. People who are thankful for the community's ongoing support of CareFlight because all of this – the technology, the equipment and the training – is thanks to your support.

Read on to find out how technology, equipment and training are helping CareFlight doctors save lives and how the community is supporting CareFlight's work. ✕



Easyriders Motorcycle Club donates

Representatives of the Easyriders Motorcycle Club of Sydney visited the base in June to present a cheque to CareFlight following their successful Bike Show in Penrith, NSW. Held in March this year, the annual show raises funds for CareFlight, a charity close to the hearts of the family oriented club.

Stopping for a photo with the helicopter and crew, the club members toured the base and learnt more about the work of CareFlight and how their fundraising will help save lives. ✕

Easyriders SMC members with the CareFlight helicopter and crew at our Westmead base.



Community Clubs give generously

Lions, Rotary, Probus, National Seniors, St John Ambulance, Scouts, Guides, Zonta, View and many more community organisations have continued to support CareFlight by raising funds, making donations and engaging in Community Talks or Base Visits in the first half of 2010.

The generosity of many service clubs is especially evident during ‘Changeover Season’ when many clubs have their annual change of board membership. Outgoing boards take the opportunity to invite CareFlight along to their annual dinners to receive cheques representing the proceeds of their annual fundraising efforts.

A special thank you to all our wonderful supporters who are a part of service clubs. Your selfless dedication to the community ensures we can continue to save lives.

If you would like to book a Community Talk or Base Visit, please see our website or call 02 9843 5100 for details. ✕

Killara ladies care for CareFlight

The ladies of Killara Golf Club near Sydney have been busily preparing a series of fundraising events for CareFlight, the first of which was held in June. The ‘CareFlight Ladies Golf Day at Killara’ was an outstanding success, if judged only by the dazzling array of CareFlight themed outfits worn by the golfers. Doctors, nurses, pilots, patients, paramedics and even ‘Buddy the Helicopter’ were all represented by hand-made costumes. One group even wore ‘flight’ helmets complete with imitation ‘Night Vision Goggles’, although it didn’t improve their golfing.

With a trivia night planned for August and a Pro-Am planned for September, the ladies are all set to make a worthy contribution which will help CareFlight save lives. For more information see our website. ✕

A CareFlight themed golf team – pilot, doctor, nurse and patient



Woodford to Glenbrook 2010

On a perfect sunny day in late June, 700 mountainbike riders and 400 runners took to ‘The Oaks Fire Trail’ in the NSW Blue Mountains to raise funds for CareFlight.

Over a course of 25km, the runners and riders raced up hills and down dales, from the Woodford Train Station to ‘Euroka Clearing’ near Glenbrook.

CareFlight event organiser John Ebbott said, “Never before have so many bike riders been on the Oaks Fire Trail at one time. With so many entrants this year, the logistics of the event were monstrous and we would never have been able to run it so smoothly without the help of the Blue Mountains Rural Fire Service, St John Ambulance, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Hawkesbury Radio, Springwood Lions and the many volunteers who gave of their time to see the event become a success”.

Success also describes the fundraising, with over \$30,000 being raised by the event via online donations alone.

Planning is already underway for the 2011 event, scheduled again for the last Sunday in June. For more information on the Woodford to Glenbrook Classic, including the 2010 results, see the CareFlight website. ✕

Corporate Partnerships

The CareFlight relationships team have been busy discussing the benefits of Corporate Partnerships with some of Australia’s most community conscious organisations. If your company is interested in partnering with an innovative community organisation, please contact us today on 02 9843 5100.

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



Night Vision Goggle (NVG) technology is now used on all CareFlight helicopters

Newcastle search for missing fishermen

In May, NSW Police requested CareFlight's assistance in the search for four missing people who were washed off rocks while fishing just south of Newcastle in NSW. The search had commenced during the day using Police boats and other resources, but nightfall required a different approach.

After consulting with the CareFlight duty crew, the NSW Police tasked the CareFlight helicopter to search the area. The crew used Night Vision Goggle (NVG) technology to set up a low-level search grid and located numerous items in the water. The Police boats were then able to recover these items.

The Night Vision Goggles showed their worth by allowing the search to continue into the night. However, after hours of flying over a very dark ocean there was no sign of the missing people. Sadly, the eventual outcome was the recovery of five bodies, a stark reminder to the community of the dangers of rock fishing. ✕

Three-year-old boy hit by passing car

On Saturday 12 June, a three-year-old boy was struck by the side mirror of a passing car on the NSW Central Coast. The boy and his father were attempting to cross West Street in Umina when the incident occurred, prompting a call to NSW Ambulance who then called CareFlight's rapid response critical care team. The CareFlight helicopter launched immediately from the Westmead base and landed at the scene within 20 minutes.

On arrival, the CareFlight doctor and Ambulance Service paramedics found the young boy was in a reduced state of consciousness and becoming combative, a sign of possible head injury. The CareFlight doctor administered a general anaesthetic and intubated him at the scene before placing him on a ventilator to control his breathing.

The child, accompanied by his father, was then airlifted directly to Westmead Children's Hospital in a serious but stable condition. ✕

Rapid response to school zone accident

A 12-year-old boy was treated by CareFlight in April after he was hit by a car outside his school in Berowra Heights, north of Sydney. The CareFlight helicopter launched immediately to the scene in Lonsdale Avenue, landing in a tight location to deliver the rapid response trauma team as close as possible to the patient. The boy was stabilised at the scene by the CareFlight doctor and Ambulance Service paramedics. He was then transported by ambulance to Westmead Children's Hospital under the continuing care of the CareFlight doctor. He arrived in a stable condition. ✕

The CareFlight rapid response trauma team works with Ambulance Service paramedics on scene in Berowra Heights



Rugby tackle with life threatening result

A 13-year-old-boy suffered a life threatening injury while playing rugby in Moss Vale, south of Sydney, in April. The CareFlight rapid response trauma team responded to the report that a young rugby player had sustained a throat injury during a tackle. Landing on the rugby oval, the CareFlight doctor teamed with Ambulance Service paramedics to treat the boy, who was suffering life threatening, time critical airway swelling.

CareFlight Doctor Shane Trevithick placed the boy in a medically induced coma and intubated him to ensure he could continue breathing. He was then loaded into the CareFlight helicopter and flown directly to the Westmead Children's Hospital where he arrived in a stable condition.

Dr Trevithick said after the mission, "There is no doubt this boy's life was saved by the rapid intervention of the CareFlight team today. His airway swelling was life threatening and intubation enabled us to control his breathing for him". ✕

CareFlight Doctor Shane Trevithick updates the emergency department trauma team on the patient's condition after stabilising him ready for transport to hospital



CareFlight's Aero Medical Service takes flight in NT

CareFlight has successfully implemented one of the largest aero-medical endeavours in Australia's history. On 1 July 2010, CareFlight began aero-medical retrieval service operations for the Northern Territory Government and is providing the aircraft, co-ordination facilities and staff for the Top End.

It was a busy start to the new service, with over 50 missions conducted in the first seven days. It is expected that the service will

transport close to 1500 patients in the first six months alone.

Operating 24 hours a day out of bases in Darwin, Katherine and Nhulunbuy / Gove, CareFlight is utilising four Beechcraft B200 King Air aeroplanes and our BK117 helicopter to cover the enormous distances across the NT. The CareFlight aero-medical team is also responsible for the co-ordination and logistics which are run from the operations centre at Darwin Airport. The

integrated operation sees patients moved both into and out of Darwin, as well as between communities as far south as Tennant Creek.

Contracted to the NT Department of Health and Families, CareFlight will provide this aero-medical service to many thousands of Territorians and visitors for an interim period of six months. CareFlight is hoping that it will be successful in its bid to make this service long term. ✕

Injured boater recovered from Rinamatta Beach

In early July, Darwin's CareFlight rescue helicopter was tasked by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority to a boating incident near Rinamatta Beach on the western side of Bathurst Island. The CareFlight aircraft left Darwin Airport just before 6pm and was on scene 20 minutes later, landing on the beach just 50 metres from a small boat on which a man had fallen sustaining suspected spinal injuries.

Due to the nature of his injuries, the crew had to wade out into the water to treat the man who was lying in a 27ft Shark Cat boat. After removing their flight suits the crew entered the water, keeping a lookout for crocodiles and marine stingers as they placed the patient on a stretcher and carried him back to the beach. He was stabilised before being airlifted to Royal Darwin Hospital under the care of the NT Health doctor who reported that the man had suffered a lower back injury and suspected lower spine damage. He arrived at the hospital just after 7pm and was listed as being in a stable condition. ✕



DONATIONS

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Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

10APA

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:

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

CONTACT

02 9843 5100
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Donations Toll Free 1800 655 876