

CareFlight news

Issue 60 | November 2012

Quick aid to remote road rollover

Flying the hospital to the patient is what CareFlight teams achieve around Australia every day.

A September response to two young women in very remote northern Australia shows how far our mantle of care is extended by CareFlight doctors and nurses.

Two young Belgian tourists had a frightening experience when their backpacker van rolled over three times when they swerved to avoid an oncoming car on an isolated highway as they attempted to drive from Sydney to Darwin.

Emergency services from the small outback town of Borroloola, near the Gulf of Carpentaria, rallied to the aid of the women when notified of their plight. A CareFlight King Air turboprop aircraft from Darwin was part of the co-ordinated response for the Top End Medical Retrieval Service which is operated by CareFlight on behalf of the Northern Territory Government.

The women told CareFlight's Dr Trevor Gardner when they pulled to the side of the Carpentaria Highway, some 90 km east of Cape Crawford, they hit a soft patch which caused their van to roll.

The crash left the 22-year-old driver unconscious for a short time then trapped

inside suffering a fractured skull, a mild traumatic brain injury and back injuries.

Her 20-year-old passenger friend suffered arm and hand injuries.

Only when a clinic nurse, police and fire-rescue officers from Borroloola drove to the crash were they able to force open a door and free the woman driver.

CareFlight pilots Allan de Rooy and Terry Latchman flew Dr Gardner and flight nurse Matt Auld from Darwin to the Tankumbirini station airstrip to meet

the Borroloola team who drove their patients 30 km to the King Air aircraft.

They stabilised the women before flying them to Royal Darwin Hospital for further assessment, where the women remained in a stable condition on arrival.

The driver underwent two weeks of treatment at Royal Darwin Hospital where she was regularly visited by our clinical teams before she was able to fly home.

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The injured Belgian women are prepared for their flight from Tankumbirini station airstrip to Darwin on one of CareFlight's King Air aircraft.

Flight nurse tribute

Amanda Quinn with her flight nurse bear namesake.



CareFlight's latest bear is a tribute to the extraordinary role of our charity's flight nurses.

This latest addition to the CareFlight family of bears is a flight nurse – in full flight suit, just as our nurses wear when flying to patients on CareFlight helicopters, aeroplanes and medi-jets.

Our cute flight nurse bear is embroidered with the name Amanda in tribute to Amanda Quinn who became CareFlight's first flight nurse to go "down-the-wire" from the helicopter over land.

Amanda, who features in our direct

mail appeal to Northern Territory donors in the lead-up to this Christmas, was winched 30 metres down into Katherine Gorge, south of Darwin, to rescue a woman suffering concussion and possible spinal injuries. Amanda placed the injured woman on a rescue stretcher so she could be hoisted back up then flown to hospital.

So when you buy a flight nurse bear you will be helping our charity buy extra equipment to treat and rescue future patients. The flight nurse adds to our collectable series of pilot, rescue crew, doctor and engineer bears... a great tradition of CareFlight service to the community. ✕



Susan Matland enjoying the recent Venture.

Amazing Venture

The Amazing August Venture was again a huge 4WD success in the great tradition of CareFlight Ventures, as the photo indicates.

A convoy of more than 20 4WDs started off from Gosford early on Friday morning and headed for the mid-coast to begin the three-day venture. Participants travelled through national parks and state forests across the Central Coast, mid-coast and upper Hunter.

Venture committee member Kevin O'Donnell said that, as always, all proceeds from this fundraising Venture went to CareFlight.

“In an emergency situation every minute counts. It is vital that we continue to raise funds for CareFlight and support the lifesaving service because those few precious minutes can make a difference,” he said.

“In recent months CareFlight has been called to two separate incidents at Umina Beach which further highlights the great need that people on the coast have for CareFlight’s services.”

Make a note, and check our website for details and entry forms for the next Venture, set for a location to be finalised in early April. An outing not to be missed! ✕

MediSim off to Victoria

Continuing the huge success of CareFlight MediSim across NSW and NT, then with army trauma training at Albury-Wodonga, the unique training is bringing Volunteer Trauma Care workshops to emergency volunteers.

Before Christmas, in addition to some 12 NSW communities visited, our instructors will be conducting courses at Wagga Wagga, Wodonga, Seymour, Tocumwal, Grafton and Lismore. ✕

Rotary & Inghams support



CareFlight received a generous donation of \$100,000 from Ingham’s Enterprises which was facilitated by the Rotary Club of Narellan at their annual charity ball. Pictured above, receiving the donation, are CareFlight’s Andrew Anderson, Derek Colenbrander and Trent Osborn with (second from right) John Hexton from Inghams. ✕

Shows spark interest

CareFlight has been busy participating in country shows, promoting the CareFlight brand and demonstrating the true value CareFlight adds to local communities.

Events in which CareFlight has been involved include Bstreetsmart, Blackmores Sydney running festival, Crestwood Fair, Wiseman’s Ferry Police & Citizens golf & bowls day.

Thanks also to Sylvia and Les for organising a monthly fundraising raffle among staff at the remote Roper Bar camp of Western Desert Resources to help us buy vital equipment. ✕

Social media likes success

CareFlight’s Facebook following is gaining momentum. We are now approaching 3,000 followers and the number is growing while building an understanding of the wide-scale scope of our service across Australia.

CareFlight International Air Ambulance missions now are being posted on Facebook and gaining further interest. We’ve had mainstream television stations and newspapers picking up the international missions which is impressive. Posted comments include: “Fantastic job CareFlight!” and “Makes me proud to sell bears to keep this fantastic service going”. Plus “Certainly safe in the knowledge that when you are overseas there are companies like CareFlight to bring us home if the unexpected happens.”

The power of CareFlight friends on social media’s Facebook also came to the fore recently when the NT News newspaper asked readers to vote for their favourite charity.

Alerted to our need, Facebook came alive with votes so when the paper’s poll hit the magic number CareFlight proved the most popular.

While CareFlight is funded by the NT Government to provide the Top End Retrieval Service, donations allow our charity to purchase additional equipment to enable us to provide an even better service.

The NT News “likes” success comes on top of donations received at shows and displays over recent dry seasons – which have funded the purchase of a BabyPod2 capsule for infants on our flights. ✕

For full details of upcoming events, check our website at www.careflight.org

NVG search finds patient

A CareFlight trauma team used their helicopter's night vision goggle technology to locate a seriously injured bike rider in a gully at Lalor Park in September.

As ambulance and police units searched around Venn Oval reserve in the dark they were initially unable to locate the injured man some 300 metres away from the main playing field.

After spotting the man lying in the ditch beside his bike, CareFlight landed so the team doctor could start treating him. The doctor was joined by ambulance paramedics and police.

The CareFlight doctor said the 20-year-old man, from Blacktown, was riding a motor bike in a drain near the oval when he hit a deep ditch and was

thrown over the handlebars.

Because the man was not wearing a riding helmet the crash left him with a traumatic brain injury.

The doctor administered a general anaesthetic then placed the man on a ventilator to control his breathing.

The rider was taken under continuing treatment by the CareFlight doctor, in a road ambulance, to Westmead Hospital where he remained in a serious condition on arrival.

Supported by donors, CareFlight has equipped our helicopters with late-generation night vision goggles which allow the rapid-response trauma team to land safely at accident sites and to assist emergency services in night search and rescue missions. ✕



Flying the hospital direct to our patients

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Just a month before, a seriously injured survivor was flown to hospital by CareFlight (photo above) from a double fatality car crash near Jabiru, some 140 km south-east of Darwin at the entrance to Kakadu National Park.

Nurses and a doctor from the Jabiru Health Clinic combined with St John paramedics and police to treat the injured from two cars on the Arnhem Highway as emergency services worked to free the trapped patients.

Darwin's CareFlight helicopter flew a flight doctor and nurse to the scene.

The specialist CareFlight crew worked with teams to stabilise a man, the driver of one car aged in his 50s, who suffered multiple fractures and injuries. ✕



Pictured far left: CareFlight's nurse and doctor prepare to fly the injured motor bike rider to Darwin from Hayfield Station. Pictured immediate left: Emergency services assist to ready the boy for his flight from Woy Woy.

Cattle station flight

A CareFlight medical team flew to a remote Northern Territory cattle station to treat an injured motor bike rider who suffered multiple injuries when he crashed into a stationary truck on the station in August.

Acting on a request from NT Health's Rural Medical Practitioner CareFlight sent a flight nurse and doctor to the station, between Daly Waters and Elliott, some 600 km south of Darwin.

The King Air turboprop aircraft landed on the station airstrip to allow the medical team to stabilise the 26-year-old man who remained conscious.

No helmet injury to boy

A teenage boy left unconscious when he fell from his skateboard was flown by CareFlight to hospital from the Central Coast in early September.

The CareFlight doctor said the 13-year-old boy, from Woy Woy, was

riding a skateboard on the road near his home when he fell and hit his head.

The boy was not wearing a helmet at the time and was left initially unconscious.

CareFlight doctors urge all skateboard and bicycle riders to wear a riding helmet to avoid suffering a brain injury.

"Wearing a helmet is cooler than looking stupid if you stack and are left unconscious because you haven't worn a helmet," CareFlight doctors said.

Two children hit by 4WD

Two children were injured when struck by a 4WD vehicle while crossing a busy road at Leumeah, near Campbelltown in September.

Ambulance paramedics and the CareFlight trauma doctor teamed to treat the boys who were injured when struck crossing Pembroke Road near the intersection of Burrendong Road.

A 12-year-old Leumeah boy suffering

critical head injuries was given a general anaesthetic by the doctor and placed on a ventilator to control his breathing to assist the boy's recovery by starting intensive care management at the scene.

Another boy with lesser injuries was taken to hospital by road ambulance.

Southern Highlands trauma

A Connells Point boy was flown to hospital after he fractured both wrists in a trail bike mishap in the Southern Highlands near Bargo in July.

The CareFlight trauma team initiated treatment then was joined by ambulance paramedics and police at a quarry off West Road.

The CareFlight doctor said the 13-year-old was riding with friends when he misjudged a jump.

After stabilisation and splinting the boy was flown to the Westmead Children's Hospital. ✕

Medi-jet flight rescues shark attack woman

The father of a woman who was attacked by a shark while diving in Tonga said she is recovering well thanks to the CareFlight team who rushed to bring her home.

Kylie Maguire, 29, was attacked by what was believed to be a 3m bull shark while swimming near a resort in Vava'u in September.

Her father, Mike Maguire, told the Northern Star recently his daughter was keen to get back to Tonga where the shark bit her on the thighs and buttocks.

She was taken to a local Tongan hospital for immediate surgery but, with her wounds not healing well, her family made the decision to call CareFlight International Air

Ambulance to rush her back to Australia for further emergency surgery.

At the time of the attack, Kylie was working on the ship ICE, a boat owned by wreck-hunting company Tonga Blue, which this year started working with the Tongan government to uncover the area's "hidden maritime past".

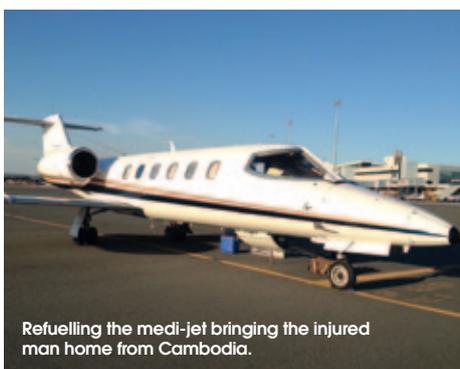
The ship's captain, Don McIntyre, has continued to stay in touch with Kylie, who he calls "our mermaid".

Kylie's father, Mike Maguire, told the Northern Star newspaper his daughter is keen to return to Tonga.

"This has been a big adventure for her and Kylie's already talking about when she might be able to get back," he said. ✕



Lennox Head woman Kylie Maguire airlifted from Tonga by CareFlight medi-jet.



Refuelling the medi-jet bringing the injured man home from Cambodia.

Flights back to Perth

A 49-year-old Perth man was in a serious but stable condition at Royal Perth Hospital after he was flown from Bali in September.

The man sustained traumatic brain injuries when he fell off a motorbike.

The man had undergone neurosurgery at a Bali hospital following the crash before his family arranged for one of CareFlight's medi-jets to transport him home.

The man arrived at Perth International Airport accompanied by a CareFlight doctor, nurse and his father and was taken to Royal Perth Hospital by St John Ambulance.

Indonesia is a frequent destination for CareFlight medi-jets to bring home injured and ill Australians. For that reason, CareFlight urges all travellers to take out comprehensive travel insurance, ensure any pre-condition has been noted while refraining from dangerous activities that may prejudice both their insurance and wellbeing.

A month before a seriously injured man was flown from Cambodia back to Perth by CareFlight International Air Ambulance in another long-range medi-jet transfer where our doctor and nurse rendered expert care for their patient. ✕

Every cent helps to keep CareFlight in the air

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