

CareFlight news

Issue 61 | Autumn 2013

CareFlight flying more ill children

National aeromedical charity CareFlight is flying ill babies and children across NSW after being selected by the NSW Government to provide helicopter services to the Newborn and Paediatric Emergency Transport Service (NETS).

Since New Year's Eve, CareFlight has provided two helicopters to fly NETS medical teams to specialist hospitals in Newcastle and Sydney to bring intensive care treatment to sick babies and children.

CareFlight is used for those missions which are time-critical and within a band from the outskirts of Sydney to approximately 500km away.

The first mission for CareFlight was to fly a NETS team to Orange to treat and stabilise a sick newborn infant. After stabilisation, the infant was transported to the neonatal intensive care unit of a Sydney hospital in a \$300,000 mobile life support system carried in the helicopter.

In a busy start to 2013 the new operation flew babies and children from the Central West, Riverina, South and North Coast to specialist hospitals. At the same time CareFlight's own rapid-response trauma service flew to injured children on the Central Coast and across Greater Sydney.

CareFlight Chief Executive Officer Derek Colenbrander said CareFlight has a long history of providing aeromedical services for children.

"The first two flights made by CareFlight in July 1986 were to children injured in a car crash near Lithgow who were transported to hospital in Sydney," he said.

"That tradition continues today with CareFlight flying to a large number of child trauma cases in Greater Sydney.

"Additionally CareFlight medi-jets are used to transport ill and injured children across Australia, while we transport children through the Northern Territory Medical Retrieval Service which CareFlight operates for the NT Government."

The operating helicopter under the



The NETS doctor and nurse place the newborn baby onboard CareFlight at Orange Base Hospital in the new operation's first mission.

54-month contract has two pilots on board as well as a specialised doctor and nurse team provided by NETS. The service is on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

"CareFlight's new service is already making a huge difference," Mr

Colenbrander said. "In just the first two weeks from start-up we flew 15 missions and helped to save the lives of critically ill babies and children. Many, many more fragile young lives will benefit this year alone." x

Trauma training extends across Australia

Over this year CareFlight will roll out our unique MediSim trauma training program with 36 workshops around Australia.

An estimated 500 emergency services personnel will be trained in their local community at courses held in Tasmania, South Australia, Western Australia, New South Wales, Victoria and the Northern Territory.

CareFlight MediSim is a mobile medical simulation training program which is delivered to emergency service officers in rural and remote communities where they operate. The program provides high quality trauma training delivered by experts with many years of experience in this demanding work.

Thanks to generous support from companies, clubs, trusts and caring individuals, the CareFlight trauma

educators will travel more than 40,000 km of often dusty and sometimes remote roads in this remarkable outreach program to deliver the courses at no cost to participants.

In mid-April the MediSim, at the request of park rangers, will be held for the first time in the NT's popular Uluru and Kata Tjuta locations west of Alice Springs.

The training then will move north to workshops scheduled at Borroloola, Katherine, Jabiru, Darwin, Dundee Beach, Gapuwiyak, Maningrida and at two cattle stations.

From mid-May the MediSim program will be held for the first time in Western Australia's vast north-west, at Kununurra, Fitzroy Crossing, Derby and Broome.

Then in June training will be delivered to

Continued on page 2...

Festivals, shows, fetes and events

Virtually every weekend during 2013 will have an event somewhere across Australia involving CareFlight in a community – helping to raise funds for our charity.

Over the past few months CareFlight had a great involvement in events including the Granville Family Festival, Wisemans Ferry's 23rd Annual Police & Citizens Golf and Bowls Day, the Sydney V8 Supercars, AvLaw Golf Cup, the NSW Sports Aircraft Club Open Day, Mercedes Benz Concours d'Elegance, Cops and Rodders at Engadine, Hills Grammar School Fete, Land Rover Clubs Expo, Blackmores Sydney Running Festival, Crestwood Fair, Festival of the Winds, Bstreetsmart, Mindil Beach Markets, Gove Peninsula Festival and regional shows held at Albury, Picton, Seymour, Griffith, Temora, Wagga Wagga, Young, Forbes, Parkes and West Wyalong.



Participants at a CareFlight MediSim training course.

MediSim goes national

Continued from page 1...

communities in the south-west of WA at Bunbury, Albury, Norseman and the goldfields town of Kalgoorlie.

CareFlight MediSim co-ordinator Colin Brown said that by the end of 2013, CareFlight will have delivered almost 80 MediSim courses to over 1,000 personnel in two and a half years.

"We run these workshops for one very good reason – to continue CareFlight's 27 year objective to save lives in your community," Mr Brown said.

"Emergency service volunteers may be the first to arrive at a trauma scene and their skill can make a difference." ✕

Sussex Inlet Choppers weekend

Three days of fun-filled family community activities are lined up for what is the best weekend you could hope for on the South Coast in late February.

It's a whole-of-town involvement to raise funds for CareFlight, boosted by sponsorship from Bendigo Bank and Sussex Inlet RSL Club.

Barefoot bowls with a sausage sizzle opens the event on Friday 22 February from 1.30 pm at the Sussex Inlet Club, followed by a nine-hole golf challenge the next day. For golfers and occasional players, this is a three-person Ambrose event at the Golf Club starting at 9 am.

A trivia night is in store at the RSL Club on the Saturday night from 7 pm, with cash prizes totalling a minimum of \$650.

The big event takes over The Inlet on Sunday 24 February. Variety stalls open from 9 am before the annual street parade from 11 am. The parade features motor bikes, cars, emergency services including the town's Rural Fire Service heroes, bands and floats.

For details call Graham Quinton on 0439 687 804.

March bike ride for Todd

To mark the tragic death of Harley Davidson's national service manager Todd Peisley last year, his widow Nicole Peisley and CareFlight are holding a charity motorbike ride from Homebush to Wisemans Ferry on Sunday 3 March.

Todd died in Bali only three days after getting married. CareFlight International Air Ambulance flew to the island but unfortunately it was too late.

All proceeds of the event will go to CareFlight so we can keep saving more lives. Please note club colours are not to be worn.

To find how to take part in this fantastic event, go to http://careflight.org/get_involved/events/ and follow the prompts.

CareFlight online shop

CareFlight now has an online shop! This is your opportunity to support a charity that saves lives, by purchasing CareFlight merchandise. Everything from our famous bears to aircraft models, caps, mugs, umbrellas and more. To check it out go to http://careflightshop.com/main_menu/.

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



Top: Wisemans Ferry bowls action. Middle: Stands at the Festival of the Winds. Bottom: CareFlight Venture action.

One-day 4WD wonder

CareFlight is pleased to announce the One Day Wonder Tour Venture which community engagement co-ordinator John Ebbott says is a great way to experience what has made CareFlight Ventures so popular.

"Many have said they'd love to participate in a CareFlight Venture, but haven't been able to take the day off work to attend one of our three-day events," John said. "Now we have the solution for you, the One Day Wonder Tour Venture."

The cost has been set at just \$100 per car, and we will be having some special activities.

Put Saturday 6 April in your calendar now. More details and entries on our website.

Woodford Classic in June

Now's the time to mark this favourite in your diary.

This year's Woodford to Glenbrook will be held on Sunday 30 June. Entrants will run or ride 25 km of the Oaks Fire Trail through the beautiful Blue Mountains National Park from the town of Woodford down to the Euroka Clearing near Glenbrook.

Around 1,000 participants are expected along with their families and supporters, in this great day out for the whole family with food stalls at the finishing line.

Check our website for entry details. ✕

Trauma skills save biker against all odds

Only the swift and expert intervention of the team on Darwin's helicopter saved a young man in a remote field between property outstations 100 km south of Darwin in October.

The 19-year-old man rode his motorbike at speed through a barb wire fence near Batchelor, on the edge of Litchfield National Park.

The force tore the man's neck open from ear to ear and he was near death when the team landed after a P1 (highest priority) response.

Two CareFlight doctors, specialist Matt Hope and registrar John Roe, supported by flight nurse Lee Whitley immediately started resuscitation in their race to save the man's life.

The battle for survival pitted medical skill against a neck that had been ripped open, with massive blood loss and with no airway to allow him to breathe normally.

Knowing patients rarely survive from such terrible injuries, the medical team had to insert an artificial airway then place the man on a ventilator to control his breathing before they could work out the safest way of moving him from the paddock.

The situational awareness and organisational skills of air crewman Ben Inglis and pilot Troy Alder while on the ground were critical during this mission. On the return flight they were able to thread a course around areas of turbulence back to Royal Darwin Hospital.

The man had extensive emergency surgery after which one of the surgeons sent his praise to Dr Hope and the team.

"I want to pass on my thanks to you all, but also to commend you on the great treatment you provided the patient," an RDH surgeon said. "I couldn't believe how well you had all done in the situation."

Another specialist doctor at the hospital also sent a message back to the team: "What a lucky man. Hope he gets to thank you one day! Cheers."

A month later the patient had his trachea repaired and was walking around the hospital. ✕



Biker's critical injuries

A motor bike rider was critically injured in a crash with a car at Engadine (photo above) in November.

A CareFlight rapid-response critical care team landed to join ambulance paramedics, police, fire-rescue plus a passing nurse and doctor treating the patient.

The CareFlight doctor said the crash left the man, believed to be aged about 30, unconscious at the scene.

He placed the man in an induced coma, and on a ventilator to control his breathing, as a pre-hospital start of intensive care treatment.

Flight to Jabiru crash

A critically injured man was flown from Jabiru to hospital in Darwin following a fatal car crash in December.

A CareFlight doctor and nurse flew to Jabiru, 220 km east of Darwin, to team with health clinic staff treating the man.

When the CareFlight aircraft landed in Darwin the man was taken under continuing treatment by the CareFlight medical team, in a St John ambulance, to Royal Darwin Hospital.

Man trapped under bus

A CareFlight trauma team flew to the Sydney CBD to team with emergency services treating a man hit and dragged under a bus in the city in December.

Emergency services were called to the corner of George and Bridge Streets after receiving reports that a pedestrian had been struck by a bus.

The CareFlight doctor said the 30-year-old man, from Hurstville, was dragged several metres down the road by the bus before becoming trapped in the wheel arch.

Young boy hit by car

A young boy was seriously injured when he was struck by a car while walking across the old Hume Highway at Mittagong in the NSW Southern Highlands in November.

A CareFlight trauma team landed on an adjacent sports field (photo below) to support ambulance paramedics treating the five-year-old boy.

Because of the mechanism of injury the CareFlight doctor flew the five-year-old boy to the Children's Hospital at Westmead, accompanied on the flight by the boy's mother.

Croc bites boy on leg

A teenage boy bitten on the leg by a crocodile was flown from Arnhem Land to Darwin for treatment in December.

A CareFlight aircraft on a flight from Groote Elyandt was diverted to fly the boy from remote Ramingining, 440 km east of Darwin.

The 16-year-old boy suffered leg wounds when bitten on the leg by the one metre long crocodile while hunting at a billabong. The boy kicked the crocodile as his father rushed to help bring him to safety.

He was treated at the local health clinic which called for him to be flown to Royal Darwin Hospital for further treatment. ✕



Malaysia honours pioneering CareFlight doctors

The first medical helicopter service in Malaysia has started, thanks to support and training from CareFlight experts.

It is operating to reach native people (Orang Asli) living in remote areas with limited access to health care, from a base in Ipoh.

Already the Vice President of the Society of Aeromedicine in Malaysia, Dr Gunalan "Guna" Arumungam, is working to have this extended to respond to road and freeway trauma patients. About 7,000 people die on Malaysian roads every year, many because ambulances are delayed in reaching serious crashes.

In acknowledging this modest start, Dr Arumungam thanked CareFlight for our vital support.

The Australian Government helped meet the cost for CareFlight to provide helicopter emergency medical services training to Malaysian medical and military personnel in November.

Our expert team comprised Drs Steve Walker (team leader), Ken Harrison and Claire Barker and pilot Wayne Vardanega. They helped train 150 participants over five days, including doctors from all Malaysian states, the Malaysian military, a group of physicians from Singapore and a



CareFlight doctors Steve Walker (left, at the conference opening ceremony) and Ken Harrison (receiving his honorary membership).



number of UN medical staff.

Australian Foreign Minister, Senator Bob Carr, said the project was funded by a grant through the Australia-Malaysia Institute of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

"I just wanted to reach out to express my appreciation for the support that CareFlight has given me and my team in Malaysia," Dr Arumungam said.

"We had close to 170 participants taking part in the course this time. I thank CareFlight for making available the medical team that did a great job."

In recognition of the efforts of two CareFlight specialist trauma doctors in particular, Ken Harrison and Steve

Walker, the Society of Aeromedicine Malaysia has extended special recognition.

"We have also decided to do something special for Steve and Ken who have been instrumental in teaching us from the first course," he said, "so we honoured them both with an honorary membership of the Malaysian Society as a token of our appreciation.

"On a personal note, I would like to record my appreciation to Steve who has spent countless nights with me tweaking the course content and making all the necessary arrangements for the CareFlight team and to Ken for making sure that the course was delivered in a manner that impressed the participants." ✕

Every cent helps to keep CareFlight in the air

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