

CareFlight news

Issue 62 | Winter 2013

Franklin's amazing adventure around Australia

An epic 19-month circumnavigation of Australia driving an 86-year-old car came to a successful conclusion at Easter when David Rundle and Geoff Morris steered their 1927 series 11B Franklin into Rat park at Warriewood.

Along the way the pair, backed by another 22 intrepid drivers and supporters, travelled more than 27,250 km of main roads through every state and territory in their restored car.

Geoff Morris and David Rundle return to an enthusiastic Easter welcome home.



The Franklin is the only car of its type registered in Australia. It has no front brakes, no air conditioning and no power steering.

Challenges included floods in outback Queensland and dusty corrugated roads in remote Western Australia. But their support car with spares, and incredible support from the most unlikely places in remote areas, kept "Franki" on the road with repairs including a rebuilt axle and even a cylinder replacement.

Along the way they collected donations to support the work of CareFlight.

"The momentum of awareness of our drive and donations to CareFlight grew as we went," Geoff Morris said.

The team got to speak about their adventure and CareFlight as they travelled, talking in schools, museums and where crowds gathered to meet them and admire "Franki".

A gathering of historic motoring enthusiasts was on hand to welcome David and Geoff, still at the wheel of their Franklin, back home.

"What an experience and what a

home-coming," David Rundle said, "to conclude what has been an adventure of a lifetime."

David was inspired to raise funds for CareFlight after learning more about our charity's support for injured patients of all ages from a CareFlight speaker at the Pittwater Motor Enthusiasts Club.

Because he's had several good mates injured in car crashes, David was even more aware of the great work of CareFlight's doctors and their treatment of trauma patients.

The \$27,000 they collected will support the CareFlight MediSim outreach program which takes trauma education to regional, remote and very remote emergency service officers across Australia.

Great work David Rundle, Geoff Morris and your entire support team. Anyone wishing to raise funds for CareFlight – from a drive around Australia to a backyard barbeque – is asked to visit our website (www.careflight.org) where the "get involved" section has all the details to help you help us help others. ✕

Flights for ill babies and children

Ill and injured children and babies are being flown from across New South Wales to specialist care under a new arrangement with national aeromedical charity CareFlight.

During the first three months of the year CareFlight made 92 patient flights to bring the doctor and nurse teams from the Newborn and Paediatric Emergency Transport Service (NETS) to regional and rural hospitals.

The flights were made to hospitals in the regions of the Illawarra and south coast, central west, central coast, southern and Riverina, north-west, mid-coast, Blue Mountains and the Hunter.

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Missions from 1 January to 14 April



Regional locations to which CareFlight has flown NETS missions already this year.

Artist's donation a recognition of care and life

The impressive and original work of art now hanging on the wall of CareFlight's operations centre in Darwin says more than "thank you" for our Top End teams.

The work was presented by artist Deborah Edwards in appreciation for the timely and expert treatment rendered to her husband Bruce after he suffered severe burns when petrol exploded in a shed on their property near Adelaide River township, south of Darwin.

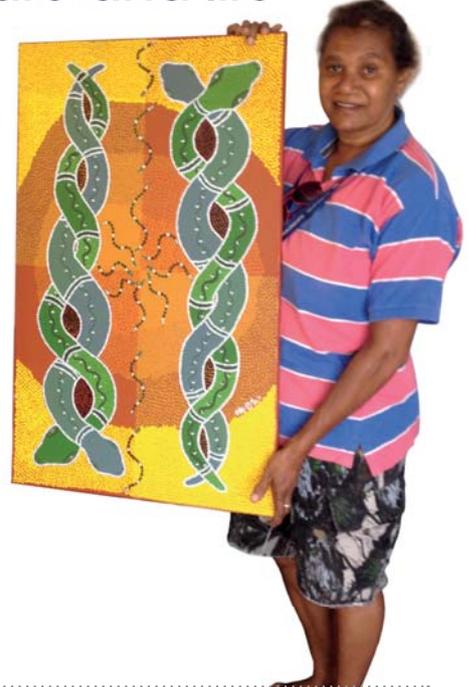
Following initial expert treatment by staff at the Adelaide River health clinic Darwin's CareFlight helicopter transferred the man to Royal Darwin Hospital.

Later CareFlight International Air Ambulance used their Darwin-based medi-jet to fly the man under full

monitoring to the special burns unit at Royal Adelaide Hospital. His recovery is underway, helped by the initial treatment and timely transfers.

Deborah drove to our operations centre in January to present the painting which, she explained, encompasses two symbolisms. In addition to being a dot painting representation of the traditional medical symbol known as caduceus, it also acknowledges life. When Deborah is travelling and stops at a waterhole, under her tradition, a handful of dirt is thrown in as recognition of the serpents and other life which lives in the water.

The photo shows Deborah Edwards with the painting she presented to CareFlight in grateful appreciation of the care and treatment given to her husband following a horrific accident in Adelaide River last year. ✕



Flights for ill babies and children

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Since New Year's Eve, two CareFlight helicopters have joined the NETS fleet to transfer sick babies and children to specialist hospitals in Canberra, Sydney and Newcastle.

CareFlight is used for time-critical missions within a band from the outskirts of Sydney to approximately 500 km away. This accounts for about one in six NETS missions.

Other NETS missions are conducted by fixed-wing aircraft and road ambulances.

As well as a NETS medical team, comprising a doctor and nurse, a \$300,000 mobile life support system makes each NETS journey.

Separate to the 92 patient flights to regions across NSW, CareFlight's own rapid-response trauma teams flew to injured children in Greater Sydney and the Southern Highlands.

Caring individuals, groups and businesses are invited to support the work of CareFlight, with details on the website (www.careflight.org) including upcoming events. ✕

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



Henry draws in a young fan

CareFlight supporter Jodie Adams posted a note on her Facebook page telling everyone:

"My daughter received her CareFlight bear, Henry, today which inspired her to draw this picture of her bear. Thank you for all you do – I encourage everyone to support CareFlight."

Thanks Jodie. Your daughter, and other CareFlight bear buyers, will be seeing double in future. To celebrate the new helicopter service we provide to transport ill and injured children and babies, CareFlight has launched our new twin baby bears. Our twins, Jack & Chloe, will make a great addition to the bear personality stories which are such a feature of CareFlight fundraising.

Shop online to support

CareFlight now has our very own online shop.

Our new "virtual shop" is clean and so easy to navigate. You can place your order online and it will be delivered to your door.

There's an excellent range of merchandise including CareFlight bears,

caps, beanies, model aircraft and general merchandise.

Plus, to support our national aeromedical charity, you have the ability to make a donation quickly and easily without purchasing anything.

Check out our new online shop at www.careflightshop.com

Community talks and base visits

CareFlight has undergone major changes in recent times – our Westmead base has been redeveloped and in Darwin work is well underway on our new aeromedical operations base and hangar.

Now CareFlight is able to invite you to hear about it and see it yourself.

Our Westmead base and facilities have changed significantly. We now have a new HQ building at nearby Northmead and we have refurbished some of the old buildings to establish education centre facilities.

We have expanded our role to undertake aeromedical services in the Northern Territory and now provide MediSim training across Australia. These changes in particular ensure that CareFlight keeps not only saving lives but also teaching others how to do it.

Another significant change is CareFlight's successful provision of dedicated helicopters to carry Neonatal and Paediatric Emergency Transport System (NETS) teams. ✕

Long-range rescue from large cruise ship off Arnhem Land

Darwin's CareFlight helicopter crew have added another rescue "first" to their string of mission accomplishments.

Their successful landing on the foredeck of a large cruise ship 100 km out to sea off the remote Arnhem Land coast to rescue a seriously ill crew member captured national media attention.

The crew of Tony Birmingham (pilot), Steve Martz (crewman), Darren Chilton (nurse) and Kartic Atre (doctor) took off from Darwin in February in response to a request from the national search and rescue co-ordinating body, Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA).

Long-range is almost normal for CareFlight teams in the Top End – whether on our King Air turbo-prop aircraft, Lear medi-jet or on our helicopter – and with the helicopter flying a total distance of almost 1,000 km this rescue was no exception.

After a refuelling stop at the town of Maningrida, 500 km north-east of Darwin, the helicopter crew took off and



Darwin's CareFlight helicopter approaches the cruise ship Celebrity Solstice some 100 km out to sea off Arnhem Land.



The seriously ill ship's crewman is placed on board CareFlight after the helicopter lands on the Celebrity Solstice.

made radio contact with the 122,000 tonne, 320-metre long cruise ship Celebrity Solstice which had left Darwin the previous day on a trip around the top of Australia to Cairns.

The captain had made a radio call to AMSA when an Indonesian crew member suffered a heart attack. Although being treated by the ship's doctor, the captain asked for the rescue to take the seriously ill man to a major hospital.

Because of the coastline, the captain was unable to approach closer to shore, but slowed the ship to a steady eight knots with the wind across the deck as

the helicopter approached and was given permission to land.

For pilot Tony Birmingham it was the first ship landing since his navy days. Not only did it go smoothly but the reception was amazing. All the ship's flags and railings on the forward deck had been lowered, the safety team were present with all equipment... but it was the constant flash of cameras from passengers recording the event that really impressed.

The patient was transferred to the helicopter stretcher and intensive care monitoring equipment then flown back to Darwin via Maningrida. ✕



Top: Emergency teams combine to treat the injured boy at the track before his airlift to hospital. Bottom: CareFlight lands outside the injured man's home to allow an early start to intensive care treatment.

Last lap fall leads to airlift

A fall from his bike on the last lap of a motocross race left a Canberra boy unconscious on the motocross track at Oakdale in March.

Track officials, ambulance paramedics and a CareFlight trauma team rushed to treat the seven-year-old boy, from Canberra, who was left unconscious for several minutes and suffered a neck injury.

He was taking part in the last event of the day in preparation for competing in the national motocross titles and fell as he prepared to enter a sharp left hand turn.

After stabilisation the boy was flown by CareFlight to the Children's Hospital at Westmead, accompanied by his mother. He remained in a stable condition on arrival.

Garden fall man's praise for recovery

It's taken 15 months but the good news is that a Heathcote man is making steady progress after a fall from almost three

metres onto rocks while gardening left him with critical head injuries.

Emergency services rushed to the Corinth Road home in January last year, with CareFlight landing in the street to allow the crew doctor to team with ambulance paramedics treating the 41-year-old.

Jeff and his wife Susan attribute his fast recovery to the early start of intensive care treatment by CareFlight. After three weeks in St George Hospital and another five weeks at the Liverpool brain injury unit Jeff now has been able to resume work.

Long-time CareFlight trauma specialist, Dr Bernie Hanrahan, was the flight doctor that day and placed Jeff in an induced coma and on a ventilator to control his breathing.

Jeff's story of his treatment and recovery, including the role of CareFlight's rapid-response critical care team, is featured in our mid-year appeal letter to donors. ✕

US honours our unique national trauma training



CareFlight is presented with the AAMS 2013 Excellence in Community Service award in Washington DC in late April, from left, award sponsor PHI Helicopters (Chris Hall), CareFlight director (Ian Badham) and AAMS president (Rick Sherlock). Photo courtesy Mark Mennie.

The world peak aeromedical body has honoured CareFlight's unique Australian initiative in national trauma training.

The Washington-based Association of Air Medical Services (AAMS) presented CareFlight with its 2013 Excellence in Community Service award during a

reception on Capitol Hill in Washington DC in April.

It was the first time an aeromedical service outside the United States has received the prestigious recognition.

Drawing on the outreach trauma training which helicopter services in Canada and the United States have

developed over the past decade in teaching their local rescue services how to better treat trauma patients, the CareFlight MediSim program has taken its mobile training directly to rural and remote communities right across Australia.

This contrasts to the US experience where programs usually run courses in only the main regions in which they provide the local emergency helicopter. That, combined with our number of courses and the vast distance covered by CareFlight educators to assist rural and remote rescue teams, was what impressed the international judges.

"This project blew me away," one judge said, "it's a great community service for those who might otherwise not have access to this training. It has tremendous capacity to save lives and impact on the quality of life for many."

Across Australia this year some 30 CareFlight education and logistics personnel will travel almost 40,000 km - which is further than if one was to drive around the earth's equator in a car and back to the starting point!

CareFlight MediSim provides simulation based trauma care training to rescue volunteers using its experienced doctors, nurses and paramedics at no cost to the participants. ✕

Every cent helps to keep CareFlight in the air

Title, First Name, Surname	
Street Address	
Suburb	
State	Postcode
Email	
Home Phone	Mobile Phone
Work Phone	

- I would like more information on including a Bequest to CareFlight in my Will
- Please remove me from your mailing list
- Occasionally CareFlight allows other like-minded organisations to contact you with information. If you prefer not to receive such communications please tick here.
- Arrange a visit to the CareFlight base or for a speaker to visit your group.

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Privacy Information: CareFlight recognises the importance of your privacy and safeguarding your personal information. All precautions are taken to protect your details and we use them to contact you about fundraising, our work, events, merchandise and other issues we feel may be important to you. To change the type and frequency of information you receive call 1800 655 876.

Here is my single gift of:

\$25 \$35 \$55 Other \$

Yes, I would like to become a CareFlight Support Crew Member by giving:

\$20 a month \$30 a month \$50 a month Other \$

By:

- Option 1:** Cheque / Money Order (Made payable to CareFlight)
- Option 2:** Direct debit (Monthly donations only. An authorisation form will be sent to you)
- Option 3:** Credit card: Mastercard Visa Amex Diners

Credit card number:

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Name on card:

Signature:

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Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible

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