

CareFlight news

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Quick response saves beautiful Belle

Within minutes of her mother Catherine's desperate "000" call for help, a CareFlight trauma team landed at the property and our specialist doctor was working with ambulance paramedics to treat little Belle.

Her parents realise Belle's is a life spared by a combination of soft soil under the truck tyres, expert initial treatment and subsequent hospital care.

As Catherine says: "The fact that CareFlight was there within 15 minutes of our call, and brought such an amazing level of care to the scene, truly made all the difference. It's pretty incredible when you think about the amount of preparation that must go into getting everybody together and transferred to the scene of the accident."

The story of Belle's survival is a feature of CareFlight's mid-year appeal for funds – to support the medical education, service and support which our national aeromedical charity delivers to the community.

Belle's parents say they were so relieved when CareFlight landed, it was obvious that they were ready to go into action.

"They knew exactly what to do," Catherine said, "so the CareFlight team assessed Belle and went straight to work.

"They gave her painkillers, which she so desperately needed, and a blood

transfusion. The doctor inserted a breathing tube into her windpipe and gave her a general anaesthetic. She received the best hospital-level of care at the scene of the accident.

"Throughout all this, Troy was holding Belle, talking to her, encouraging her, helping her. He was calm, he was focused – all he wanted was for our little girl to get better."

Once the CareFlight doctors had done all they could for Belle's major life-threatening injuries, she was airlifted to hospital where she spent the first four weeks in the Intensive Care Unit.

In the seven months since the accident Belle has had a number of operations. She had a broken pelvis and a broken thigh bone. She suffered a lot of blood loss, and her blood pressure dropped so low that she had a stroke in her spine. As a result, she has a permanent spinal injury and will remain in a wheelchair.

As Catherine puts it: "It's only because of donations that CareFlight can provide this amazing care at the scene – without you, they wouldn't be able to fly and look after kids like Belle when they are fighting for their lives.

"We give thanks every day for the team at CareFlight, whether it's the pilot who flies the helicopter, the air crewman who does the mapping to get them to the scene as quickly as possible,



Another life spared ... little Belle with her favourite CareFlight bears.

or the wonderful doctors. It's not just a job for them – they've got families themselves and they understand how parents feel. They bring peace of mind to parents at their worst time." ✕



Local hero Shane saves toddler's life

Relying on CPR resuscitation techniques he learned from television, an 11-year-old boy has been branded a hero for reviving a toddler he pulled from a popular waterhole at a remote Northern Territory community in February.

Shane Tipungwuti proudly told a CareFlight medical crew how he had learnt how to perform CPR from watching a program on Television

Channel 99.

The near tragedy occurred on Milingimbi, about 400km east of Darwin, just off the coast of Arnhem Land.

Three-year-old Lucas Dhurrkay had fallen into Macasson's Well which is about 300 metres from the local school, after he had wandered away from his home. The small waterhole is a popular

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Hero Shane Tipungwuti beside toddler Lucas Dhurrkay in the Milingimbi Health Clinic bed, as CareFlight prepared to fly the toddler to Darwin.



Left: Daphne Makinson makes another set of colourful CareFlight skull caps. Right: Another CareFlight duty crew prepare for a Top End day ... wearing their colourful skull caps made with pride by Daphne Makinson.

J&J supports trauma training in Western Australia and NSW

Five additional MediSim workshops are being held across New South Wales this year thanks to a special donation of \$43,000 from the Johnson & Johnson Trust.

This latest donation is in addition to the existing \$150,000 partnership which CareFlight has with J&J for Year 2014.

This existing partnership helps provide a total of 18 remote location MediSim workshops – 10 in the Northern Territory and another eight in Western Australia with four of those workshops held in the remote Kimberly region.

MediSim program manager Colin Brown said CareFlight last year trained 121 emergency service personnel in Western Australia, from WA Emergency Services and WA St John Ambulance volunteers.

Feedback proves that under the J&J sponsorship, CareFlight’s trauma specific training already is making a huge difference to the emergency services, the health system and most importantly, the patients they are called to treat.

Attending a CareFlight on Display event are J&J’s Melissa Murray and Meshlin Khouri with CareFlight’s Scott Monahan.



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

Praise for telemarketers

Take a bow our outstanding telemarketers at Unity4 who do such a great job year-round placing famous CareFlight bears into homes.

Via Facebook we received the following message: “I had the most friendliest lady from your call center give me a call this morning. I cannot stress enough how professional and caring she was. Her knowledge and genuine commitment to CareFlight was exceptional. I just wish I could remember her name. I have purchased another baby bear in thanks for the tremendous work all of you do.”

Thanks so much Vicky for posting this message. We agree, the callers are a terrific team!

With proceeds vital to CareFlight’s mission, meet our new bear, Luke (photo right), who is about to come onto the market.



Daphne keeps our flight crew heads cool in the heat

Although she lives in New South Wales, long time CareFlight supporter Daphne Makinson is helping the helicopter crews keep their cool while flying to patients in the heat of the Northern Territory.

The heat and humidity up in the Top End mean our pilots, doctors, nurses and air crewmen continue to lose a fair amount of fluid through their heads, especially when wearing the mandatory helicopter helmets on often long missions.

The solution is to wear a snug fitting skull cap under the helmet. Traditionally these are made in a dull grey colour so air crewman Steve Martz decided to add a bit of brightness to CareFlight’s operation – and enlisted the help of a long time supporter of CareFlight, Daphne Makinson.

Daphne, a very skilled seamstress, has used her skills to support CareFlight and our crews in the Top End. The new, brighter, absorbent skull caps are a hit with all the crews.

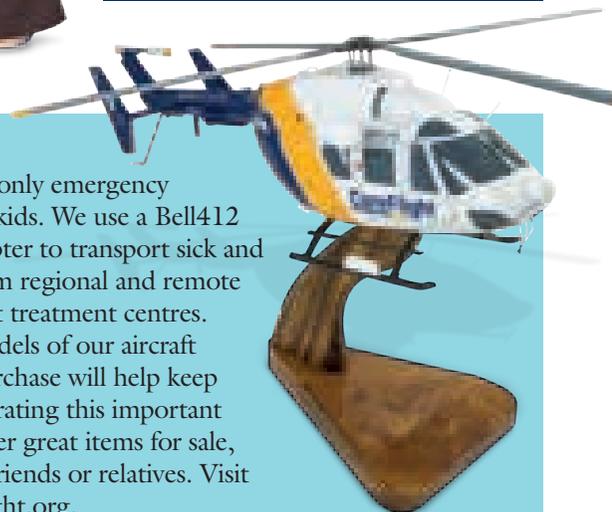
Daphne makes and supplies these caps to CareFlight free of charge for our staff to wear them with pride – they are available to all staff for \$5 which goes to the CareFlight Coffee Club to support staff amenities.

89 flights into South Australia

South Australia continues to be a significant focus for CareFlight. During 2013 our aeromedical charity flew a total of 89 urgent patient flights into South Australia. Patients included those requiring treatment for spinal injuries, fractures and head injuries. These flights make South Australia a key destination within the CareFlight national network of aeromedical missions. ✕

Online shop

CareFlight operates Australia’s only emergency helicopter service dedicated to kids. We use a Bell412 helicopter and a BK117 helicopter to transport sick and injured babies and children from regional and remote clinics and hospitals to specialist treatment centres. Did you know you can buy models of our aircraft from our online shop? Your purchase will help keep these helicopters in the air, operating this important service. We also have many other great items for sale, which make excellent gifts for friends or relatives. Visit our online shop at www.careflight.org.





Staff at the Cosmo Deep gold mine transfer a woman suffering burns to the CareFlight TIO Rescue Helicopter.

Quick help saves brave burns woman

Prompt action by mine staff helped save the life of a woman suffering serious burns who was found beside the Stuart Highway near the Hayes Creek Roadhouse south of Darwin in February.

The miners spotted the woman after they had driven out of the Cosmo Deep gold mine shortly after 8 am.

She was able to tell the good Samaritans how she had trekked through the bush for 2 km to reach the roadside after putting some fuel on a fire to get it going in the morning rain outside her bush dwelling.

They started treating the woman and raised the alarm as they took her back to the medical centre at Crocodile Gold's Cosmo Deep mine where the mine paramedic and Crocodile Gold staff on site continued treatment as the CareFlight TIO Rescue Helicopter flew to the mine.

The CareFlight flight nurse and doctor worked with the paramedic to stabilise the woman who suffered burns to her face and body.

The CareFlight doctor said the woman would have died from her injuries if the miners had not seen her and started treatment.

The woman was placed in an induced coma and flown by the CareFlight TIO Rescue Helicopter to Royal Darwin Hospital where she remained in a very serious condition on arrival. Following stabilisation, she later was flown in the CareFlight medi-jet to Adelaide for specialist treatment to her burns. ✕

Trauma team flies to tree fall tragedy at school

A CareFlight trauma doctor flew to treat children injured when a large branch from a gum tree fell over at the Pitt Town Primary School in Sydney's north-west in February.

Ambulance paramedics called the trauma team when initial reports indicated several children and a teacher were injured.

The CareFlight doctor worked with the paramedics to treat an eight-year-old girl and continued resuscitation as she was taken to the Children's Hospital at Westmead where the girl unfortunately died from her injuries.

Bee sting man's flight from barefoot cricket

A man was flown to hospital after he suffered a severe reaction to a bee sting while playing cricket at a social outing near Colo in March.

A CareFlight doctor and ambulance paramedics teamed to treat the man who was stung on the foot while playing barefoot cricket shortly before 2 pm.

The doctor gave medication to the 45-year-old man, from Sutherland, which stabilised his reaction to the sting.

The man was flown to Westmead Hospital as a precaution where he remained in a stable condition on arrival.

57 snake bite injury flights across Australia

Illness resulting from snake bites is a frequent cause of concern across the Top End.

Being a potentially fatal injury, snake bites need urgent treatment at a local health clinic then, if further treatment is needed from experts at Royal Darwin Hospital, an aeromedical flight may be called on from the Top End Medical Retrieval Service operated by CareFlight on behalf of the NT Government.

CareFlight teams were called to fly 57 snake bite patients to hospitals across Australia over the past two years.

It was both the pain of a snake bite, and concern for ongoing effects, that gave a woman the benefit of a helicopter flight to Darwin from Gunbalanya – one of four snake bite patients flown to hospital by



The scene emergency services faced on arrival at Pitt Town Primary School.

CareFlight in February.

The woman was bitten by the snake as she walked to her home at night and, when she became unwell from the poison, was treated by staff at the health clinic.

Staff arranged for the woman to be flown by CareFlight to Royal Darwin Hospital for observation and assessment.

Because of monsoon season flooding, the CareFlight TIO Rescue Helicopter undertook the flight, with the woman remaining in a stable condition on arrival at the hospital.

Two kiddies pulled from swimming pools



The CareFlight doctor prepares to fly a toddler, under intensive care treatment, to hospital from Kincumber.

Quick intervention by parents spared two young children from tragedy when they were pulled from backyard swimming pools in separate incidents on the NSW Central Coast in February.

Shortly after 10.30 am a father immediately started resuscitation on his 15-month-old son as he pulled him from the family pool at Kincumber.

The CareFlight doctor placed the toddler in an induced coma and on a ventilator to control his breathing.

The trauma team continued treatment as they flew the boy to the Westmead Children's Hospital where he was in a serious but stable condition on arrival. ✕

Local hero Shane's CPR saves toddler's life



Milingimbi hero Shane Tipungwuti

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swimming spot for local children.

Shane told the NT News he and friends had gone to the waterhole for a swim after school when one of the younger boys said they had seen Lucas fall into the water. It is not known how long Lucas was underwater, but he was unconscious and not breathing when he was pulled out of the shallow water by

Shane.

"His body was like jelly," Shane said. "I jumped in and pulled him out of the water. It was really easy. I pushed his heart and water came out of his mouth and nose.

"I saw it on television on Channel 99."

Lucas was taken to the Milingimbi Health Clinic where the nurses expertly stabilised him. Because the town's airstrip is normally used only during daylight hours, the clinic staff arranged for emergency lighting to be put out so pilot Paul Archbold could fly a CareFlight medical team there at night in the King Air aircraft.

CareFlight's nurse Penny Lord and Dr John Nicholson took over from the clinic team and continued to treat Lucas during the one-hour flight back to Darwin Airport, then on into Royal Darwin Hospital.

Coincidentally a first-aid program was being delivered in the community through the Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation by Remote Area First Aid the day before the near drowning occurred.

Shane's grandfather James Tipungwuti had recently undertaken a

similar course and had regularly shown Shane the CPR learning material.

"He learnt what he did on television, but also through a first-aid book that he likes to look at every night," Mr Tipungwuti said.

"He's a good boy. After it happened he said to me 'Grandpa I pulled the boy out by the hair and I saved him'."

Milingimbi Health Clinic manager Mick Thomas said if Lucas had remained under water only seconds longer he would have likely suffered a brain injury.

"That boy would not be alive right now if it were not for Shane," Mr Thomas said.

Lucas' father Arnold Mininqwuy said his son spent two days in Royal Darwin Hospital but had returned home.

He said Shane was a "hero".

"Shane helped my little boy," he said. "Lucas is doing OK. He is happy to be back home." ✕

Online donations
on the web at
www.careflight.org



Two girls airlifted from car rollover crash near Gove

The parents of a teenage girl who suffered serious injuries in a remote car crash have contacted CareFlight, and the health staff involved, to express their appreciation.

Two teenage girls were injured, one seriously, when a car rolled several times near Gove, on the edge of eastern Arnhem Land, in February.

Another passenger, a 19-year-old man, helped get the pair free from the car which came to rest on its roof at the start of the gravel section of the Central Arnhem Highway in heavy rain just before 9 am. He then ran a kilometre to raise the alarm.

The two girls and the man were taken by St John Ambulance to Gove Hospital for initial treatment.

CareFlight's Dr Trevor Gardner and flight nurse Gail Hiatt flew to Gove to transfer the two 17-year-olds to Royal Darwin Hospital for further treatment to leg, arm and back injuries.

Just a week later, on an airline flight,

a man happened to be seated next to one of our flight nurses. He told our nurse the story of how his teenage daughter was in the car that rolled with the three occupants.

"He congratulated us all on what a fine job we nurses do and how incredibly professional, kind and efficient the CareFlight team that attended his daughter were," flight nurse Lane Johnson recalled.

"The father sang the praises of both the duty nurse and doctor from the mission and also the importance of CareFlight to the community. He asked me to pass on his gratitude for the efforts of the team and all of CareFlight."

Now the girl's mother has written to praise the efforts of St John Ambulance paramedics, Gove District Hospital staff and the CareFlight clinical, aviation and support staff.

"I am extremely grateful to the hospital staff here at Gove Hospital,



The crash scene near Gove from which the three young occupants escaped.

Paramedics, Care Flight staff for all their loving care and attention. I was overwhelmed when arriving at the Emergency Department at Gove Hospital at how all the staff appeared to be right there looking after all three patients," she wrote.

"It was an extremely difficult time and we were all in shock." ✕