

CareFlight news

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Pilots fly expert care to patients

CareFlight pilots are a special group of people. They possess more than the technical skills and flying experience to command our helicopters and KingAir aircraft.

They're steady, resilient and dedicated. They're adaptable enough to respond to all sorts of conditions and in unpredictable situations. Above all, they're team players who are always willing to go the extra mile to get critical care to patients as quickly as possible.

As pilot and Westmead senior base aviator Ian Smart puts it: "I manage the base and the safety of every operation.

"On shift we're always in our flight suits and ready to go. We know who

is going to do what and when – it's all practised and rehearsed.

"Even as aircrew we know the medical equipment well and are first aid qualified, so we can help set up for blood transfusions, prepare the stretchers or assist with CPR."

In our aeromedical charity's spring fundraising appeal, CareFlight is recognising the pilot role as well as our donors who are valued supporters of CareFlight. Through their support our donors are part of the CareFlight team and every bit as dedicated as our pilots when it comes to helping save the lives of ordinary Australians.

To donate call 1 800 655 876 or visit www.careflight.org



Pilot Ian Smart ... it's about making the difference.

Naming honour will continue Terry's mission



His daughter Renee, wife Gaye and son Kyle with the Bell 412 named after Terry Summers.

The passion and commitment which Terry Summers brought to flying helicopters, including many years with CareFlight, will continue in his memory following a dedication ceremony held at our Westmead base in June.

Family, friends and colleagues

gathered for a naming ceremony – specifically, to name our Bell 412EP in his memory.

CareFlight CEO Derek Colenbrander said the purpose in naming the aircraft was not only to honour Terry Summers but also to recognise his contribution to CareFlight

and the wider aeromedical community.

"We were so pleased that Terry's family was able to join us for the occasion. We were also delighted by the presence of so many of Terry's friends and colleagues," Derek said.

Guest speaker Dan Tyler, a former long serving CareFlight pilot and great friend of Terry's for nearly 40 years, gave a moving address and account of Terry's career and contribution to the safety of helicopter operations.

He recalled how, despite returning to the land with his wife Gay to live at Inglewood, near Rylstone, Terry continued with years of flight duty at CareFlight – which included many challenging and life-saving missions – with his trademark level of skill, safety consciousness and understanding.

Facing the same weather and huge seas that confronted other rescue pilots during the epic Bass Strait search and rescue effort of the 1998 Sydney-Hobart yacht race, Terry overcame a serious engine malfunction while searching 80 km out to sea in atrocious conditions. He executed a textbook recovery to bring the helicopter and crew safely back to land.

As Dan Tyler said, it was right on so many levels to name the helicopter for

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Awards honour three of CareFlight's co-founders



Pioneer doctor made a Fellow

Australia's first full-time helicopter rescue doctor Ken Wishaw has been made an Honorary Senior Fellow of the University of the Sunshine Coast.

The honorary award was presented in April to Dr Wishaw, of Alexandra Headland, at a USC graduation ceremony in the region where he has worked as an anaesthetist since leaving Sydney more than 20 years ago.

The award recognised his outstanding contribution and dedication to the community as a pioneer in rescue helicopter medicine and aeromedical intensive care retrieval.

"This is very humbling and I see it as recognition of the legacy that I've left in aviation and medicine," Ken said.

A pioneer of rescue helicopter medicine and aeromedical intensive care retrieval, Dr Wishaw helped co-found CareFlight and the New South Wales Medical Retrieval Service in 1986.

He led the development of the stretcher-based 'mobile intensive care unit' for safely transferring critically ill and injured patients. It has since been copied around the world by civilian and military services.

His autobiography, 'Helicopter Rescue', published by Pan Macmillan in 2004, became a national bestseller and remains available via the CareFlight Online Shop on our website.

Photo Patrick Woods / APN



OAM for Peter's service

For his service to the community through air rescue services and to surf lifesaving, CareFlight co-founder and life member Peter MacCormick has been awarded a Medal in the Order of Australia (OAM).

The Mosman-based businessman and developer was awarded the OAM in the Queen's Birthday announcements in June.

For Peter, who also trained as a lifeguard in the United States, his experience leading the surf rescue jet boat service at Shelley Beach, near Manly, led him to volunteer as a crewman when the pioneering surf rescue helicopter service was started in Sydney in 1973.

In addition he served on that service's board of directors while undertaking 15 years of service as a rescue crewman.

Having then had a significant role in establishing CareFlight in 1986, he served as Chairman of our charity for seven years from 1988.

He is a life member of the Balmoral Beach Club where he set up their nippers program in 1991 when he was elected to Mosman Council in 1972 and served a term as Deputy Mayor.

Peter joins two other CareFlight stalwarts, Dr Alan Garner and Ian Badham, in receiving OAMs to recognise their service.



Award recognises Ian's efforts

Aeromedical pioneer Ian Badham was honoured with a prestigious award from the international air medical community at a conference in Rome in June.

It was the first time the European and North American rescue helicopter organisations have given the Gerhard Kugler award to anyone outside Europe.

The Kugler award recognises an individual contribution to air medical transport and air rescue world-wide.

"The contribution which Ian has made to develop Australia's rescue helicopter services is equal in importance to the achievement of Rev John Flynn from 1928 when he established what became the Royal Flying Doctor Service," MedEvac Foundation International Chair Dr Kevin Hutton said.

A former journalist and volunteer lifesaver, Ian started Australia's first rescue helicopter operation with a \$25,000 sponsorship from the Bank of NSW, now Westpac, 41 years ago.

"Over the past four decades I estimate that more than half a million Australians have been rescued or flown by the expanding network of Australian rescue helicopter services," Ian said.

"While many lives have been saved, even more helicopter bases are needed across Australia so medical teams can reach road crash patients quickly and when they need it most." ✕

Terry's mission continues

Continued from page 1...

Terry. His name can continue to fly for CareFlight on NETS missions bringing medical care to ill babies and children across New South Wales.

"Terry was quietly proud to have been associated with CareFlight and the former Child Flight over so many

years," Dan said. "His speciality was pilot training, but he understood the operational importance of medical and rescue helicopters in Australia, especially to the outlying rural communities.

"Terry knew first-hand how important these services are to folks in the bush, and he did everything in his power to make the services safer and more available.

"When the current cadre of

air medical pilots who knew Terry personally – many of whom were trained by him – have all retired and future pilots and medical crew members join CareFlight to fly this machine, they will ask about how it came to be named. Terry's inspiring story will be told and, hearing that story, they will be inspired to be better and safer pilots and better medical crew members." ✕



At the Groote Eylandt airstrip, medical teams from the RAAF and the contracted CHC helicopter work with the CareFlight doctor and nurse to stabilise the injured women.

Quick response across Top End

The ability of the Top End's aviation resources to rise to the occasion came to the fore on two consecutive days in the Northern Territory.

All five of the fixed and rotary wing unit crews praised the pilot of a Cessna 210 which came down in a very remote area on the western side of the Gulf of Carpentaria in March.

As smoke started to fill the cockpit, the pilot put out a mayday call and activated a distress beacon soon after she set out to fly from Numbulwar, across the Top End, to Katherine.

The pilot put down in the only semi-clearing in a vast expanse of trees, the impact with trees ripping off the tail and both wings. Although both were injured, the pilot and her passenger scrambled free from the wreckage before it burst into flames.

The search and rescue teams which responded praised the pilot's professional and calm work in a difficult situation, and her great effort in finding the only partly cleared area to put down.

National co-ordination authority, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority in Canberra, immediately launched a search and rescue mission, calling in local resources in the Western Gulf region and from further afield.

The searching aircraft, from Katherine Aviation and an NT Police PC-12, located the downed Cessna and guided in a CHC search and rescue helicopter on contract at RAAF Tindal.

The helicopter landed in the semi-clearing where the pilot had put down, allowing the RAAF medical team to start treating the two women.

At the request of AMSA, a CareFlight medical team responded from Darwin on one of the aeromedical charity's KingAir aircraft. They flew to the airstrip at Groote Eylandt to wait for the helicopter to fly the injured women 150 km to them.

The CareFlight medical team of Dr Sam Bonnington and flight nurse Penny Lord treated the pilot for leg fractures and the passenger for more serious chest and back injuries and fractures as they were flown to Royal Darwin Hospital.

Just the day before, CareFlight's Dr Bonnington was on duty and flew in a CareFlight KingAir to treat the pilot of a Robinson 22 helicopter which landed heavily near Cape Crawford near the Gulf of Carpentaria.

The man, aged in his 30s, was injured when thrown from the helicopter as it suffered a heavy landing at a cattle station near Heartbreak Hotel at around 7.30 am.

A combination of resources from Borroloola Health Clinic, the McArthur River Mine's Emergency Response Team and Paramedic plus Police and Emergency Services from Arnhem and Western Division responded to the crash.

After the alarm was raised, another helicopter in the region reached the critically injured pilot and flew him to meet the MRM Medical Centre paramedic and nurses from Borroloola, who treated him. They were joined by a CareFlight doctor and nurse.

The doctor and nurse carried out extensive treatment and placed the man in an induced coma before flying him to Darwin in a CareFlight KingAir aircraft. ✕

Flight for Newcastle surfer

A man rescued by mates from the surf at Frazer Beach, south of Newcastle, was flown to John Hunter hospital by CareFlight in May.

A CareFlight doctor flew to the isolated location on the Budgewoi Peninsula to join Ambulance paramedics arriving to treat the man.

The CareFlight doctor said two other surfers spotted their 30-year-old friend in difficulty in the surf after catching a wave and immediately paddled to his rescue.

The surfers treated the man until the paramedics and the doctor arrived just 20 minutes after the alarm was raised by a '000' phone call.

The CareFlight doctor praised the man's surfer mates, saying, "They did a superb job getting him back to the beach in the conditions."



Ambulance paramedics and the CareFlight doctor take over resuscitation of the surfer after his mates dragged him to isolated Frazer Beach.

Injured fall man treated

A 73-year-old man suffered serious injuries after falling from a ladder while trying to access a ceiling manhole in Castle Hill in July.

CareFlight landed in a nearby park to allow the doctor to team with Ambulance paramedics treating the injured man who had suffered serious head injuries.

The man was taken to Westmead Hospital in a road ambulance, under the care of the CareFlight doctor, in a serious but stable condition.

A short time later a 42-year-old man riding a motor bike suffered suspected spinal injuries when he was hit by a car at St Marys.

The rider was airlifted by CareFlight to Royal North Shore Hospital. ✕



The motorcyclist is prepared for his flight from St Marys.

Origin Energy supports MediSim workshops nationally

A new partner has come on board with CareFlight as Origin Energy has joined up to support the national rollout of our acclaimed CareFlight MediSim Volunteer Trauma Care Workshops.

MediSim provides high quality, simulation based trauma care training to rescue volunteers in regional, rural and remote Australia using experienced doctors, nurses and paramedics.

Origin is Australia's leading integrated energy company – exploring, generating and delivering energy solutions locally and internationally. Origin deliver today's energy needs to over four million electricity, natural gas and LPG customers, making them Australia's largest energy retailer.

Valued at \$100,000 per year, this is a two-year partnership with a third year option.

As a national partner, Origin Energy will have branding recognition on our various MediSim assets and exclusivity in

the energy sector.

It is key partnerships like this that allow us to run the Trauma Care Workshops at no cost to the participants who already give so much of their time and effort to their communities.

In recent months CareFlight MediSim educators have travelled across northern Australia with workshops held in the Northern Territory at Uluru, Alice Springs, Borrooloola, Bathurst Island, Katherine and Darwin, then in West Australian towns including Karratha, Port Headland, Mt Tom Price, Newman, Kalgoorlie, Leonora, Ravensthorpe and Esperance.

The tribute which Port Headland Deputy Mayor Gloria Jacob gave sums up the appreciation which this course receives across the nation.

“Our community is very fortunate that we have a dedicated and responsive



Emergency service volunteers at the MediSim workshop in May at Bathurst Island, north of Darwin, where CareFlight educators flew in to provide the training.

emergency service group who are always interested in advancing their skills. The workshops provided by CareFlight were valuable opportunities and greatly appreciated,” the deputy mayor said.

MediSim co-ordinator Colin Brown said 35 people attended the three workshops at Karratha, Port Hedland and Tom Price in June.

In Kalgoorlie in July the workshop brought together representatives from Fire, Police, National Parks and emergency response team members from the mines. ✕

Every cent helps to keep CareFlight in the air

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- Arrange a visit to the CareFlight base or for a speaker to visit your group.

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Please tick here if you do NOT want to receive future communications from CareFlight.

Occasionally we allow like-minded organisations to contact you with information that may be of interest to you, including some organisations located outside Australia. Those organisations allow us to do the same and this way we can reach more people with vital information.

Please tick here if you do NOT want to receive communications from organisations we trust.

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