

> AIR RESCUE AND AIR AMBULANCE SERVICE

> ISSUE 35 LIFEFLIGHTER

> WESTPAC RESCUE HELICOPTER & LIFE FLIGHT NZ AIR AMBULANCE

> MAY 2008

SURPRISE! AN EARLY ARRIVAL

32 weeks into her pregnancy, Aucklander Angela Goodwin was feeling totally fine. She was excited about a girls' week-long trip to Hahei planned with her mum and 18-month-old daughter Jessica for a bit of rest and relaxation before baby number two arrived in a few months.

But Angela's baby had other ideas! The trio had barely started their holiday when Angela started going into labour two months before her due date. With Grandma at the wheel and little Jessica suffering severe car sickness in the back seat, they made a frantic trip to Thames Hospital in the dark, over windy roads.

Dad Steve got an urgent phone call saying they were heading to Thames, but that they were unsure if there would be an immediate transfer to Waikato. He decided to head south without knowing his destination. On arrival at Thames, it was found that Angela was already 8cm dilated and wouldn't make it to Waikato Hospital before the baby arrived. Steve made it to Thames just in time, seeing his beautiful daughter being born at 11:40pm. Samantha's birth weight was 1.9kg (the normal birth weight for a full-term baby is 3.5kg) so she needed specialist care because of her very early arrival.

The nearest specialist unit for premature babies was at Waikato Hospital, so at just a few hours old, Samantha was flown there by the Waikato Westpac Rescue Helicopter team. An anxious Dad (and a very tired Mum) drove to Waikato Hospital to join their new daughter, whilst Grandma and Jessica headed back to Auckland. Samantha stayed at Waikato Hospital for just over a day, before being flown on Life Flight's Auckland-based Air Ambulance so she could access Auckland City Hospital's neonatal unit. This flight was at intensive-care standard: As you can see from the photos, Samantha was surrounded by advanced medical technology and a specialist medical team.

When she was in the neonatal unit, Samantha's temporary home was an incubator. She was fed by intravenous tube and received medication to assist her lung development. A tiny monitor on her foot continually measured the amount of oxygen in her blood, and others tracked her heart rate and breathing. She is now back home with Angela and Steve and big sister Jessica at nearly four weeks of age.

Angela comments: "Samantha's arrival was a huge shock but we were overwhelmed by the professionalism of everyone who helped. And not too many people can say that in their first 30 hours of life they have had a helicopter, air ambulance and two land ambulance rides! The Air Ambulance is something that I wasn't aware of before, but what an incredible service: it's surreal having all that medical equipment and flight nurses around you in an aeroplane, Steve and I are just so grateful to the Life Flight team for helping our wee girl".

Thank you to Angela and Steve for sharing their story. If you have a story about Life Flight that you would like to share, please email stories@lifeflight.org.nz or call 0800 500 451. ■



Samantha in the neonatal unit



Samantha onboard the air ambulance in the purpose-built incubator



PRINCIPAL SPONSOR RESCUE HELICOPTER



PRINCIPAL FUNDER AIR AMBULANCE



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THANK YOU!

Life Flight is always grateful to benefit from community fundraisers. If you would like to run your own fundraising project, please call 0800 500 451 or email events@lifeflight.org.nz – we can help make it easy.



Unisys and Partners' annual golf tournament raised nearly \$7,000 for Life Flight. Pictured: Brent Hodgson with Candy Coe, Life Flight's Marketing & Fundraising Manager.

At the Williams & Adams charity golf tournament, over \$5,000 was raised and an excellent day had by all. Pictured is Nigell Haslop of Williams & Adams with fixed-wing crewperson Phil Harris in front of the Life Flight NZ Air Ambulance.



The annual Tri-Services Golf Tournament (organised by Parliamentary Security, Pukerua Bay RSA and Kapiti-Mana Police) was again a great success, raising over \$6,000 for Life Flight. Pictured are Inspector John Spence, Area Commander Kapiti Mana District, Anna Gilhooly of Life Flight John Hannan of Pukerua Bay RSA, and Gordon Harris of Gordie's Bins.



New Zealand-Sri Lankan Friendship Society chose Life Flight as the beneficiary of its annual dinner/dance which helps celebrate the Sri Lankan New Year. Thank you to the organizing committee for all their hard work, and the many young dancers who entertained the guests, some of whom are pictured left.

The 2008 Master Builders' Conference held in Wellington in April raised \$9,000 for Life Flight with a charity auction. Gerald Rixon of the Wellington Regional Master Builders Association comments: "We feel the construction industry is one that is vulnerable to accidents, and we are proud to support Life Flight". Pictured is Communications Manager Anna Gilhooly accepting a cheque from Gerald Rixon of Master Builders.



Auto Image Petone came up with a unique fundraising idea: a custom-painted fridge (pictured) which was raffled off at the Petone Fair, raising \$1,720. Thanks to Paul and the team.

Apparel Master donated over \$1,000 from its recent conference.



Property Broker's Martinborough held a day of golfing in the country: thanks to Sue Stephenson and the team for their huge efforts!

The team from Mitre 10 Masterton for their huge efforts towards the 2008 Christmas Parade and annual golf tournament.



VALUABLE WETSUIT

Not many of us can imagine what it would feel like to be lost at sea for 75 hours. Rob Hewitt's story of survival is inspiring, and one in which we are proud to have been involved. During the four days and three nights that Rob spent at sea, he credits Life Flight's Westpac Rescue Helicopter with keeping his spirits up. "I saw 'Big Red' three times, and each time my heart and soul leapt for joy knowing that people were looking for me... it gave me reason to live, it gave me hope. I remember very clearly the day I was rescued. I was lying on the deck of the Police boat Lady Liz II, and out the window I saw 'Big Red' hovering less than 10 metres away like an angel in the sky. I knew I had survived".

Rob was kind enough to donate the wetsuit that he wore during his ordeal to raise funds for both Life Flight and Coastguard during a charity auction which raised over \$15,000. We thank Rob for his generosity and for continuing to spread the Life Flight message.



Pictured is Rob with Westpac Rescue Helicopter pilot Mike Hall during Life Flight's recent Open Day

LIFE FLIGHT ON THE SMALL SCREEN

If you watch TV3, you may have seen Life Flight's new TV commercials, which launched in late April. Marketing & Fundraising Manager, Candy Coe comments: "These TV adverts have been designed to generate awareness of Life Flight's life-saving services and encourage donations. Life Flight is very grateful for the generous support from Sauce (www.sauce.co.nz – producer of the commercials), volunteer actors from the New Zealand Fire Service, Capital & Coast District Health Board's Flight Nurse Team and Masterton Hospital's High Dependency Unit and of course TV3 for the generous media support." If you would like to make a comment on the new TV adverts, please contact marketing@lifeflight.org.nz

HAVE A PART IN EVERY RESCUE WITH WESTPAC

Westpac is delighted to announce a nationwide appeal in support of rescue helicopters for the fourth year in a row. In 2007, the appeal raised \$100,000+ for Life Flight, and we'd like to raise even more in 2008 – with your help.

Mark Graham, Westpac's National Sponsorship Manager says the rescue helicopters offer a life saving emergency service to more than 3000 people every year: "As Life Flight supporters, you will already be well aware of the importance of rescue chopper services. Everyday, the crew flies to the aid of people just like you and me caught in terrible situations like car accidents, incidents at the beach and at sea, from farms and bush and everywhere in between. They also offer a lifeline to all sorts of people in need of urgent medical treatment such as premature babies and heart attack victims".

Westpac has been supporting rescue helicopters since 1981, and this appeal just another way that we support their life-saving work. You may have seen advertisements on TV and in the papers, or even received a letter from us if you are a Westpac customer. "The appeal also uses our nationwide network of branches to run fundraising activities for the rescue helicopter trusts throughout May (such as auctions and stadium collections) culminating with collectors on the streets on Friday May 23rd".

All money raised in the greater Wellington region will go directly to Life Flight, so it's a great way to show your support for your local rescue helicopter service. During May, you can donate towards the Chopper Appeal at any Westpac Branch, at www.haveapart.co.nz or by calling 0900 4 CHOPPER to make an automatic \$25 donation. For Kapiti residents, there is an auction in support of the chopper on June 23rd. For tickets, contact Westpac Paraparaumu branch. ■



Westpac staff at Life Flight's recent Open Day.
Photo credit: Paul Harrison of Kiwi Air Research.

FROM RUN TO RESCUE

When Scott Rodgers set out for an early-Sunday-evening run, he had no idea that this everyday activity would result in his being winched up into the Westpac Rescue Helicopter on an 8mm steel cable, and a flight to Wellington Hospital's Emergency Department.

Scott has had Type 1 diabetes for 21 years, which is easily controlled through regular medication. On March 16th 2008 however, Scott misjudged the impact of an afternoon of digging holes and breaking up concrete, and whilst out running in Eastbourne's Butterfly Creek Track he collapsed, falling a long way down a bank and losing consciousness.

Luckily for Scott, a young woman Adrienne Booth went for a run in the same area as Scott. Out of the corner of her eye, she saw some movement in the bushes and found Scott. Adrienne immediately ran over the hill to pick up a cellphone, alerting two fellow runners on the track (Bernie and Kate) who stayed with Scott to help. After retrieving her cellphone, Adrienne ran all the way back to Scott, phoning 111 and her parents on the way.

Adrienne's parents (Kate and Jeff Booth) quickly rounded up a group of helpers, which was exactly what Scott's wife Tracey Geoghegan was doing. Tracey had become worried that Scott was late back from his run and was quickly coordinating friends into search parties to tackle the various tracks that Scott could have chosen. Andrew Bird went up Muritai Track, Tracey and Dave Griffiths climbed the McKenzie Track and Carole Lowe set out for the Bus Barns Track.

After not finding Scott on the tracks, a very worried Andrew, Tracey and Dave arrived at the top of the hill: to be met by Bernie who directed them to Scott. Carole was alerted to the fact that Scott had been found. Thankfully, Scott had regained consciousness and his local rescuers had helped him get to a better location.

Adrienne's phone call to 111 kicked off an emergency services response too, which was just as well. Scott had been unconscious for several hours and was actually suffering from hypothermia. He needed hospital treatment, and he needed it quickly.



Scott with Mike Hall, who was the pilot on Scott's rescue mission



Because of the isolated location, 111 had dispatched the Westpac Rescue Helicopter from Wellington International Airport. Adrienne was in constant communication by cell phone with both 111 and then with the Westpac Rescue Helicopter's pilot: Mike Hall. Mike comments: "When we were dispatched, there were only 20 minutes of visibility left before night-fall, so having direct contact with people on the ground was invaluable, ensuring a quick location of the group".

Once the group was located, the Westpac Rescue Helicopter got low enough to the ground so that the paramedic could jump off from a 5 ft hover. She assessed Scott, attached him to a harness and performed a double-winch back up to the helicopter.

Scott was flown directly to Wellington Hospital's helipad within 10 minutes and was treated for his hypothermia. Scott comments: "I want to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who played a role in my rescue. The locals were just fantastic, and Adrienne in particular deserves a special mention. I was just very lucky to be found: I was unconscious for several hours and was getting very cold; in fact, I was hypothermic which would have been fatal if I'd been down the bank much longer. As they say: you never know when you might need the services of the Westpac Rescue Helicopter".

Thank you to Scott for sharing his story. If you have a story about Life Flight that you would like to share, please email stories@lifeflight.org.nz or call 0800 500 451. ■

LIFELIGHTER BRIEFS

> TAX UPDATE

From 1st April 2008, law changes to the tax rules on charitable giving will remove the \$1,890 rebate threshold on donations made by individuals and the 5% deduction limit on charitable donations made by companies and Maori authorities. The company deduction for charitable donations has also been extended to include unlisted companies with five or fewer shareholders.

Life Flight is delighted that these changes will hopefully provide greater opportunities for individuals, companies and Maori authorities to donate.

THANKS FROM (AND TO!) SOME YOUNG SUPPORTERS

A lot of the work that Life Flight does involves flying babies and children all over New Zealand, so it's always very special to hear from some of our younger supporters:

- General Manager Kevin Allan received a special thank-you letter and drawing from 7 year old Harrison Unsworth recently, thanking the team after he was flown on the Life Flight NZ Air Ambulance after suffering a particularly nasty compound fracture whilst on holiday.
- The entire junior syndicate of West Park School in Johnsonville visited Life Flight after completing a lesson unit on flight. The students very kindly contributed \$154.20 (one of the classes is pictured here).
- St Michael's School in Taita recently held a mufti day where all students dressed in red in support of the Westpac Rescue Helicopter (pictured) and collected \$146.30 ■



FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Life Flight works very hard to ensure that your donations save peoples lives. All of our supporters, key service partners and sponsors are an essential part of that equation. I would like to draw attention in this newsletter to two very important supporters: the Starship Foundation and Wellington International Airport.



A young patient visits Life Flight's Auckland team to thank them for his flight on the Air Ambulance from Invercargill to Starship



Over 35% of Life Flight's missions involve getting babies and children to specialist medical care or equipment not available to them locally. Life Flight's Auckland-based Air Ambulance in particular works very closely with the medical teams at Starship Children's Health on neonatal and paediatric missions.

The Starship Foundation fundraises for Starship's various programmes, and has very generously supported Life Flight's Air Ambulance Service to ensure that children all over New Zealand have access to Starship's specialist services such as the cardiac units. There is a great story on page one regarding a baby flown on this service and how it made all the difference for her family.

Wellington International Airport is home to Life Flight's Air Rescue Base. Like all our corporate sponsors, the support of Wellington International Airport helps ensure that operational costs are underwritten as much as possible, ensuring other funding can contribute more towards saving lives.

And of course, Westpac must be congratulated for organising its fourth annual Chopper Appeal nationwide. This initiative is very much appreciated in securing additional fundraising for Life Flight. To all the Westpac staff who get involved, and the public who support Westpac's efforts: thank you. ■

Wellington International Airport CEO Steven Fitzgerald gets a close up look at Life Flight's work with some of his team

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FROM THE CREWROOM

Life Flight has a very special team of people dedicated to helping people in their time of need. This issue, we'd like to showcase two of our team - one who has been with us for a long time, and one who joined Life Flight a few years ago.

In 1998 Phil Harris was a fire rescue officer at Wellington Airport and joined Life Flight as a volunteer. 20 years of service later, and Phil is still as passionate about his job as the day he started: "I love my job: it's as simple as that. Helping to give people the opportunity to live (and survive) is the best thing. There's nothing better than being part of a team that gets (for example) a premature baby to the life-saving specialist surgery they need". Phil has worked on both Life Flight's Westpac Rescue Helicopter and Air Ambulance, and has flown with many pilots in many aircraft over the years. When asked about his most memorable mission, the answer comes quickly: "Without a doubt, finding

six people 180 miles out to sea in a Life Flight Air Ambulance and staying with them until the Westpac Rescue Helicopter could winch them to safety and fly them to Wellington: that was a pretty good feeling".

The Westpac Rescue Helicopter pilots spend a lot of time wearing their distinctive red suits, so when Wellington base-pilot Mike Hall was spotted wearing a fixed-wing pilot's uniform, there was more than one confused face. Of course, Mike has been flying fixed-wing aircraft since he was a teenager, but it was still a surprise to see the different uniform. Little did we know, but Mike had quietly gone about getting checked out to fly the Metroliner (better known as the Life Flight NZ Air Ambulance). Not content with being able to fly both aeroplanes and helicopters, Mike is also studying towards a BCom, and in fact made it onto Massey University's 2007 Deans List which was announced recently. Life Flight is proud to have the exceptional skills of staff like Mike who make our life-saving missions so successful. ■



Phil Harris and some of the Capital & Coast District Health Board's Flight Nurse Team



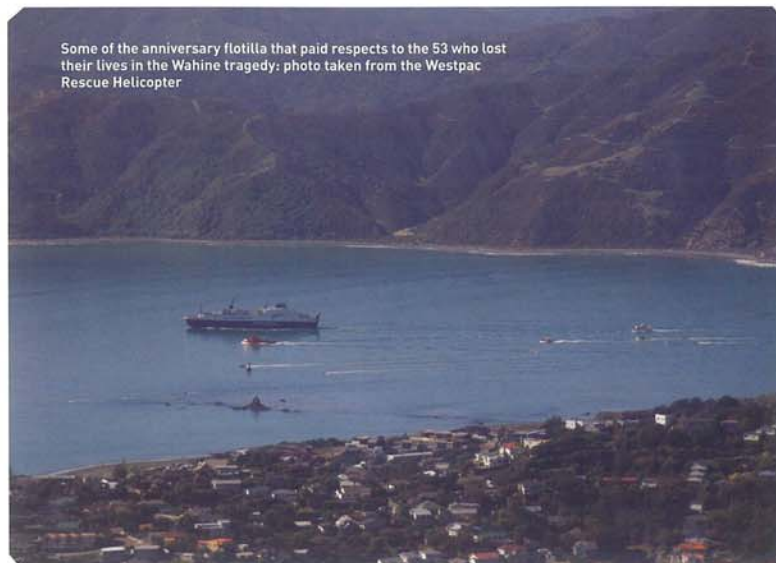
Pilots Mike Hall and Neil Moore in front of a picture of Life Flight's co-founder, Peter Button



Mike in his "other" uniform

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I have had the privilege of being involved with Life Flight for a long time now, and often I step back and marvel at how far we have come since the day in 1981, when Peter Button knocked on my door at the Commercial Bank of Australia seeking sponsorship for his rescue helicopter service. It's important to reflect on how things start, and we were all reminded of this on April 10th 2008 when Life Flight joined the hundreds of Wellingtonians who joined forces to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Wahine tragedy.



Some of the anniversary flotilla that paid respects to the 53 who lost their lives in the Wahine tragedy: photo taken from the Westpac Rescue Helicopter

Peter Button was one of those people at Seatoun beach on April 10th 1968 who watched in horror as the disaster unfolded in front of them as they helped passengers ashore. Peter flew light fixed-wing aircraft for fun, and knew that a helicopter, with its speed and ability to get to difficult places, would have been invaluable in the tragedy. Watching the rescuers struggle (53 lives were lost that tragic day), Peter turned to a friend and said the words that built Life Flight: "There has to be a better way". Peter knew that the Wellington region needed a rescue helicopter service, and he was determined to set one up. It didn't matter to him that he didn't have the financial resources to buy a helicopter and didn't know how to fly one.

All these years later, the air rescue and air ambulance services that Life Flight has in place are a true testament to what one man with a vision can do. Of course, our thoughts are with those whose lives were touched by the tragedy 40 years ago. Perhaps those who lost loved ones can take some small comfort in knowing that more than 20,000 people have been helped since that day, thanks solely to events witnessed by one man on April 10th, 1968.

On behalf of Life Flight, thank you to you: the sponsors, community groups and individuals and of course all our staff and Trustees over the years who have all played a part in helping these 20,000 people. We simply could not do it without you.

WR Bill Day, Chairman. ■

BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT LIFE FLIGHT

Kicking off the 2008 Chopper Appeal, Life Flight held its annual Open Day on Sunday May 4th 2008. More than 3,000 people visited Life Flight, donating \$9,000 towards Life Flight's services.

Communications & Events Manager, Anna Gilhooly comments: "Open Day is all about being able to see several emergency services at once. The Westpac Rescue Helicopter, Life Flight NZ Air Ambulance, Wellington Free Ambulance, New Zealand Police and Airport Fire as well as New Zealand Customs "Sniffer Dogs" and the New Zealand Army Bomb Squad. Thank you to everyone who supported this event, especially the many kids who came dressed up as their favourite emergency services hero".

Thanks to Caffé L'Affaire, Freestyle Total Print Production, Hiremaster, Watties, Tip Top, Hangdog Adventures, Tech Trans and Vidcom for supporting this event. ■



The crowd enjoys a demonstration by the New Zealand Customs "sniffer dogs"



People queue to see inside the Life Flight NZ Air Ambulance



Crewperson Logan Taylor with budding helicopter pilot Connor, and Dad Jason



Community Constable Aaron Dann with a definite future recruit

MOBIL FUELS LIFE FLIGHT

Mobil Aviation provides critical support to reducing our fuel costs and has been doing so for well over 10 years. Mobil's contribution literally keeps our team in the air and saving lives. Thank you Mobil. ■



Mobil Aviation's Yogendra Kumar with Kevin Allan and Keith Frewen of Life Flight



Crewperson Logan Taylor re-fuels the Westpac Rescue Helicopter after a life-saving mission

HOW TO HELP

Any help you can provide is very much appreciated. Please fill in the details below and return in the self-addressed envelope provided.

MR MRS MS MISS OTHER (PLEASE TICK ONE)

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

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STREET NUMBER STREET NAME

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YES! I WANT TO HELP

I would like to donate (please tick):

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To donate by CREDIT CARD ON OUR WEBSITE, visit www.lifeflight.org.nz to make a secure, instant donation. Please provide an email address to receive a receipt.

To donate by DIRECT CREDIT: The Life Flight Trust's bank account number is 03 0578 0048481 08. Please include your name and address as the reference fields so that we can attribute your donation to you.

REMEMBER The Life Flight Trust is a registered charitable trust. Donations above \$5 may be tax deductible.

PLEASE SEND ME INFORMATION ON:

- Donating regularly from my bank account or credit card
- How to include Life Flight in my Will
- Donating my time towards supporting fundraising events
- Organising a school/club/group visit to Life Flight's Air-Rescue Centre
- Life Flight's range of supporters' products