



# Life Flight

> SAVING LIVES ABOVE ALL ELSE

AN OPPORTUNITY TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE REAL DIFFERENCE YOU ARE MAKING



> AIR RESCUE AND AIR AMBULANCE SERVICES

> WESTPAC RESCUE HELICOPTER & LIFE FLIGHT NZ AIR AMBULANCE

> ISSUE 41 LIFEFLIGHTER

> AUGUST 2011

## A TRUCKER'S MIRACLE

Colin Tandy barely clung to life after his truck rolled 80 metres down a Marlborough cliff last year. Colin says, "I owe you guys my life and wish to thank everyone who was involved in my rescue and recovery. YOU GUYS ROCK!! I love you all, thank you."

I experienced sunstroke like never before, it was complete whiteout. I braked but felt my logging truck get sucked sideways down a huge steep bank. Adrenaline shot through me as the truck rolled again and again, bashing me against the roof and seat.

When the truck stopped rolling I immediately dragged myself out through a window. The pain was very intense but my determination to survive was overwhelming. Blood was running down my face and I noticed huge cuts on my arms and feet. I couldn't move my legs and couldn't get a grip on the bank. It was very, very scary.

Pain was coming over me in huge waves. I remember staring into the blue sky, thinking of my children and praying. My thoughts were racing away; my life was passing away.

My heart jumped when I heard the distinctive sound of the Westpac Rescue Helicopter rotor blades. I listened to the wonderful people around me organising my air-lift and knew I was being saved. The feeling of comfort from the noise of the helicopter was amazing! It will stay with me for the rest of my life.

As I was winched up by the Life Flight team I felt the chopper's downdraught on my face. I could see the belly of the chopper; it was an incredible sight that gave me so much reassurance. I knew I was in the best hands.

I had eight broken ribs, broken hips, a split pelvis, a ripped back vertebra, and heaps of cuts on my head and arms.

This accident will affect me for as long as I live, but I have made it my mission to get well as soon as possible. I start working again in a week and I can't wait to get back on the road.

Thank you, Colin Tandy ■



Colin is winched into the Westpac Rescue Helicopter

Photo: SCOTT HAMMOND, The Marlborough Express marlexpress.co.nz



The crash site

PRINCIPAL SPONSOR RESCUE HELICOPTER



PRINCIPAL FUNDER AIR AMBULANCE



EDITORIAL ENQUIRIES  
TO: SEBASTIAN GRODD  
THE LIFE FLIGHT TRUST

T (04) 387 9812  
F (04) 387 9619  
E [sebastian@lifeflight.org.nz](mailto:sebastian@lifeflight.org.nz)  
W [www.lifeflight.co.nz](http://www.lifeflight.co.nz)

# “BABY WAS COMING TOO EARLY AND WE WERE SO CONCERNED...”

Your donations ensured little baby CJ could get home to Wellington after being born nine weeks early.

The hospital couldn't halt the labour. Baby was going to be born, there was no stopping it. I was 31 weeks pregnant and had been visiting family in Christchurch.

With no time for drugs or gas for Mum, Cameron-Jayne Jeffrey was born at 7.16pm weighing just 2055g (4 lb 8 oz). This wasn't what Malcolm and I had planned - we hadn't even started antenatal classes!

CJ came out crying, which we took as a good sign, but she needed specialist treatment in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) as she wasn't able to breathe on her own.

When CJ was four days old, she and I needed to be transferred to Wellington's NICU. Fortunately a Life Flight air ambulance team was able to get us there safely. That day I saw CJ outside of her incubator for the first time; she looked so small and fragile. The nurse placed CJ into her transport incubator and made sure she was safe and secure.

I was extremely emotional and cried during the whole flight, but I felt in good hands and knew the team were doing everything they could to look after CJ.

We were finally able to take CJ home from hospital when she was 32 days old. We felt so lucky to have had wonderful people look after our precious little girl. She is now three years old and continues to flourish. She is a happy, healthy little girl.

We had always donated to The Life Flight Trust, never thinking we would need them to help us with our baby. Malcolm is a mountain biker and we assumed it would be him that may need rescuing one day! I ran the Auckland Half Marathon last year and raised \$1800 for this awesome cause.

Thank you, Kaye, Malcolm and CJ ■



Little CJ reaches out



CJ is carefully loaded into the Life Flight air ambulance in her transport incubator



Kaye and Malcolm are among a special group of supporters who have included a gift in their Will for Life Flight. Most people never consider this kind of gift, so we are most grateful to all of our bequesters who will save lives in the future. A gift in your Will doesn't have to be large to make a difference. Just a small percentage of what's left after your loved ones are provided for will give others a second chance in their time of need. For more information please call our CEO David Irving on (04) 920 2240 or email: [info@lifeflight.org.nz](mailto:info@lifeflight.org.nz)

# FROM THE CHAIR AND CEO

This year Life Flight is celebrating its 35th year of service and its 30th year of sponsorship from Westpac. Westpac's support is vital to help ensure the sustainability of Life Flight's rescue service. Life Flight was the first rescue helicopter to be sponsored by the bank in New Zealand and Westpac has now extended its support to rescue helicopters across the country.

In May, Westpac hosted the International Rugby Legends Dinner that both of us attended. It was fantastic to witness the support of legends David Kirk, Bobby Skinstad and John Eales. Profits from this event were donated to Life Flight to support the Wellington-based Westpac Rescue Helicopter.

We are very grateful to Kendall Akhurst, one of the people you have helped, who spoke at the event about how he was flown by Life Flight after breaking his neck in a rugby accident.

In the past few months we have also been privileged to meet those of you who have left, or are considering

leaving, a bequest to the Trust. These meetings are inspiring because of the dedication these supporters demonstrate by ensuring air ambulance and air rescue services are available for future generations.

A special thanks goes to Kaye and Malcolm [featured on page 2] for pledging a gift to Life Flight in their Will. It is humbling that their passion for Life Flight has inspired such a long term commitment. For anyone considering something as significant as a gift to Life Flight in their Will both of us would be happy to discuss this privately with you to help ensure your wishes are honoured.

Thank you for your ongoing support and passion for Life Flight. ■



Bill Day – Chair



David Irving – CEO

## WESTPAC'S CHOPPER APPEAL



Thank you to everyone who has once again shown their support and generosity through Westpac's Chopper Appeal.

Each year Westpac organises and funds the Westpac Chopper Appeal, a nationwide fundraising campaign. Money raised locally is returned to The Life Flight Trust.

Mark Graham, National Sponsorship Manager, Westpac says the bank is grateful for the support of its staff and the public.

"New Zealanders' incredible generosity shows how many lives this service touches," says Mark. "We'd like to thank our Westpac staff who organised fantastic fundraising events, volunteers who helped collect on the street and the public who dug deep to show support."

This year Westpac staff showed incredible tenacity, energy and enthusiasm, with fundraising activities ranging from a bake sale and make-up seminar to BBQs and a silent auction.

Fundraising initiatives also included staff dyeing their hair red, quiz nights, a ten-pin bowling

competition, an indoor sports tournament, and a street appeal on Friday 20 May. Some of the Westpac team even demonstrated their outstanding fashion flair at the hilarious Miss-Da Westpac Competition, raising more than \$2,300.

Mark adds: "This service gives a second chance to many people and each mission can cost thousands of dollars, so funds and support really help save lives. Westpac has a long-standing partnership with The Life Flight Trust, and we are proud to sponsor the service that is provided to people in this area." ■



Cream pie your manager!



Westpac bake sale

# THANK YOU!

We are continually wowed by our wonderful community fundraisers and their passion for helping others. Our sincere thanks go to the organisers of the events below. We simply can't physically fit everyone on this page unfortunately so please do visit [www.lifeflight.org.nz/event\\_thanks.php](http://www.lifeflight.org.nz/event_thanks.php) to see a full list of our event supporters. Have you got a fundraising idea? We'd love to hear it. Call Anna on (04) 920 2247 or email [events@lifeflight.org.nz](mailto:events@lifeflight.org.nz).

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESS

**PAYROLL GIVING:** Payroll giving is the most tax-effective way to donate. When your employer processes your pay, your donation comes out automatically and IRD provides an instant tax credit. So, if you donate \$25 to Life Flight we get the full \$25 but it only costs you \$16.67 because IRD pays the rest as a tax credit back to you instantly. Plus, you don't need to keep receipts or apply for your end-of-year tax credit. Contact us for more information.

**BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP LOGO AVAILABLE:** We have launched a new support programme for businesses. We've developed a logo for use on your letterhead, website and email signature. The logo will be re-issued every year and managed on an annual subscription basis, payable however you like: monthly, quarterly, bi-annually or once a year. Not only will you be signalling your business's commitment to your

community, clients and business partners, but you'll be helping save lives. Please get in touch for details.



**COMMUNITY PARTNER 2011**

For more information please call Anna on (04) 920 2247 or email [business@lifeflight.org.nz](mailto:business@lifeflight.org.nz).

## OUR THANKS GOES TO

**STREET APPEAL:** Thank you to all our volunteers, the Lions, Rotary and Probus Clubs, corporate groups and the Westpac staff that helped raise \$57,000. Special thanks to regional coordinators Mary Beesly, Lindsay Moir and David Howden. If you'd like to collect in May 2012 please email [streetappeal@lifeflight.org.nz](mailto:streetappeal@lifeflight.org.nz).

**MANSFIELD MEANDER:** The 13th year of this event saw 15 gardeners open their gates and raise \$2,500. Thanks to all gardeners and the Silverstream Lions Club.

**FRONDE SYSTEMS:** The Fronde team raised \$3,000 at their end-of-year client thank you function.

**MARLBOROUGH ULYSSES CLUB RESCUE RIDE:** 200 riders journeyed from Havelock to Witherlea Racecourse and raised \$1,436 to help save lives.

**TOP GUN:** Life Flight was a lucky recipient of \$5,000 from a movie night organised by Charlotte Gendall to honour the film's 25th anniversary.



Top Guns: Tim Brown, Life Flight Pilot Stella Coales and Ben Sigmund

Photo: Andrew Bonallack, CityLife

**EAT DRINK AND BE CRAFTY:** Melanie Maddock and Chloe Jenssen organised a fantastic day of craft, gourmet food and entertainment that raised \$3,000 to keep our teams flying.

**4WD OFF-ROAD SAFARI:** Thanks to Peter Sinke, the Plimmerton Rotary Club and the Wellington Cross Country Vehicle Club this event contributed \$2,000 each to Life Flight and Wellington Free Ambulance.

**MASONIC CHARITABLE BOWLING TOURNAMENT:** Local Freemasons have conducted annual charity bowling days for 40 years. This year \$1,875 was raised and The Freemasons Charity subsidised an additional \$8,125 to purchase two helicopter crew helmets.

**BMW OWNERS REGISTER:** The 30th anniversary charity ride from Cape Reinga to Bluff raised funds for rescue helicopters nationwide. Life Flight received \$2,668.

**LIFE FLIGHT OPEN DAY:** Thousands flocked to our base in May, raising nearly \$13,000. This event wouldn't be possible without our wonderful service partners. Thanks also to the business supporters including: Classic Hits, TV3, The Dominion Post, Caffe L'affare, Air Castles, Premier Beehive, Hiremaster, PAK'nSAVE Kilbirnie, Vision Media, Rocket Bikes, Signature Promotions.



Customs sniffer dog demo

Photo: Lauren Whalley, The Wellingtonian

# CHRISTCHURCH QUAKE RESPONSE

After the Earth shook again in February, your donations meant Life Flight crews could respond immediately with three aircraft to help. Nurse Kathryn Steel shares her experience below.

News of the quake started coming in thick and fast via Facebook and Twitter. We realised this was a major emergency, so we set up "Incident Control" at the base to establish how Life Flight could help.

At 5pm St John Ambulance asked us to fly 14 paramedics and gear to Christchurch. One hour later we were safety briefing their team and loading huge volumes of equipment in to our air ambulance plane.

At 7.30pm I was deployed to Christchurch for a medical evacuation in an air ambulance. We left with no idea of what kind of patients we were going to collect, how we would retrieve them and in what state the city would be.

We arrived into a ghost town. It was pitch black with police on every corner – the streets were lit only by flashing ambulance and fire beacons. The roads were undulating, so the drive to hospital was incredibly slow and bumpy. There were abandoned cars lining the streets where people, desperate to get to their loved ones, had walked away from traffic jams.

At the hospital, staff scrambled to get patients out of ambulances and onto stretchers so the vehicles could be turned around quickly to deal with the many casualties. Everywhere there was carnage and chaos.

The Intensive Care Unit was seething with patients coming and going. The lighting was dim and the air-conditioning wasn't working, everyone was sweaty and tired. We evacuated two very sick patients to Waikato Hospital and returned to Auckland at 4.30am.

In the following days Life Flight flew a total of 21 patients



A Life Flight air ambulance awaits patients at Christchurch airport



out of Christchurch as well as many of their family members. We also flew dozens of specialist personnel and a lot of supplies and equipment to the stricken region. No seat or space was left empty.

It was a stressful and challenging time for all, but your donations made a significant contribution to the rescue and relief operation in Christchurch. Thank you. ■

THANKS  
TO OUR  
SPONSORS

PRINCIPAL SPONSOR RESCUE HELICOPTER

**Westpac**



PRINCIPAL FUNDER AIR AMBULANCE

**NZCT**  
NZ COMMUNITY TRUST



THE DOMINION POST

radio network

Absolutely  
**POSITIVELY**  
Wellington

Wild at Heart  
Wellington Airport

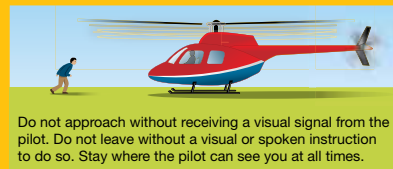
**A** Auckland  
Airport

**FUJI XEROX**

**TeamTalk**  
www.teamtalk.co.nz

# FROM THE CREWROOM: CHOPPER SAFETY

If you're expecting the Westpac Rescue Helicopter to land at an emergency scene there are a few things you can keep in mind to help ensure your safety. Our colleagues at the Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand have provided some guidelines for you. ■



Do not approach without receiving a visual signal from the pilot. Do not leave without a visual or spoken instruction to do so. Stay where the pilot can see you at all times.



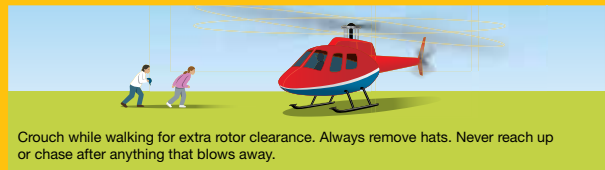
On sloping ground always approach or leave on the downslope side for maximum rotor clearance.



If blinded by swirling dust or grit, STOP – crouch lower, or sit down and wait for assistance.



Clear helipad of loose articles. Secure your gear from the effects of rotor wash.



Crouch while walking for extra rotor clearance. Always remove hats. Never reach up or chase after anything that blows away.



Life Flight crew training on Wellington's South Coast

**YES! I WANT TO HELP SAVE LIVES**

Any help you can provide is very much appreciated. Please fill in the details below and return in the self-addressed envelope provided or post to: Life Flight Trust, PO Box 14448, Kilbirnie, Wellington 6241.

MR  MRS  MS  MISS  OTHER  (PLEASE TICK ONE)

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

UNIT/FLAT/APARTMENT  FLOOR/BUILDING NAME

STREET NUMBER  STREET NAME

SUBURB

TOWN/CITY  POSTCODE

PHONE HOME  PHONE WORK

EMAIL

LIFE FLIGHT SUPPORTER NUMBER

**I'D LIKE TO MAKE A**

Donation of: \$500  \$200  \$100  \$55  \$35  \$25  other: \$

Individuals can claim a tax refund of up to 33% of their donation

**CHEQUE:** Make payable to Life Flight Trust

**CREDIT CARD:** Please debit card

VISA  MASTERCARD  AMEX  DINERS

CARD NUMBER

EXPIRY DATE

NAME ON CARD

SIGNATURE

**OTHER DONATION METHODS:**

ONLINE AT: [www.lifeflight.org.nz](http://www.lifeflight.org.nz)  
 ELECTRONIC TRANSFER: Bank Account 03 0578 0048481 08  
 Enter your name and address in reference fields to receive a receipt  
 Registered Charity #CC24283.

We respect your privacy. We'll keep your personal details secure, and use them only for our ongoing fundraising purposes and to keep you informed of our activities. You can see our full privacy policy by visiting the website ([www.lifeflight.org.nz](http://www.lifeflight.org.nz)). If you don't want to be contacted or to receive information from us all you have to do is email [info@lifeflight.org.nz](mailto:info@lifeflight.org.nz) or write to The Life Flight Trust, PO BOX 14448, Kilbirnie, Wellington 6241.