



New plane takes off thanks to your donations

Your kind gifts helped Lily and will bring hope to many more with the launch of our second Plane. Thank you very much!

A diagnosis of Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome meant only half of Lily's heart functioned normally. Diagnosed in-utero, Lily was born in Auckland so she could immediately start receiving speciality treatment only available there.

At two-months of age, after undergoing open-heart surgery, Lily could finally go home to Wellington for the first time.

Still in a very delicate state, Lily needed to be transported in a safe and sterile environment. Life Flight's Air Ambulance plane was

the best option to bring the family home.

With an expert medical team and a stock of high-tech medical equipment on-board, Lily was in good hands.

"I felt really looked after. It was the first time we had Lily outside of the hospital environment, but it didn't make me nervous because we were looked after so well," says Lily's mum, Veronika.

Their journey continued, and at just 2-years-old, Lily became New Zealand's youngest patient to receive a heart transplant.

Lily is now a happy four-year-old enjoying her first year at



The family bulldog, Millie, is Lily's protector and best friend

kindergarten. However, with her immune system constantly suppressed to prevent her body rejecting the donor heart, she must be hyperaware of germs.

Your support in helping launch a second Air Ambulance Plane means we can be there for more wee ones like Lily. Thank you for your wonderful support!

Photos: Courtesy of Lindsay Keats

Your New Ambulance of the Skies

Thanks to your generosity, the second Life Flight Air Ambulance Plane has taken to the skies and is busy saving lives every day.



The new interior of the plane after refitting work done.

Photo: Courtesy of Lindsay Keats

It has been wonderful to have your gifts and messages of support arrive – thank you!

In its first two months of flying, the new Plane has already helped 85 people in

need. Behind each of those numbers is a remarkable story of courage and survival made possible by you.

As you know, Air Ambulance Planes are critical for the survival of many Kiwis every year. Our beautiful country is full of vast, rugged terrain, and specialist medical care is often only available in one major centre (for example Starship in Auckland, or the Burwood Spinal Unit in Christchurch). This means the Planes you fund provide a vital life-line for our nation's sickest people.

The Planes are ideal for life-saving flights as they are fully pressurised, fast for longer distances, and have room for multiple patients, medical teams and accompanying family members.

Your gifts helped fund a full fit-out of the new plane, transforming it from a passenger carrier into a "flying intensive care ward".

With soaring demand for our Air Ambulance services, we decided to buy the plane by using reserve funds and taking out a loan. We felt it was the right thing to do because the lives of New Zealanders depended on it.

Fundraising for the new plane is going very well thanks to fantastic supporters like you. We still have a little way to go to repay the last part of the loan, we are close! And in the meantime the new Plane is making a difference every day.



Pilots test new plane and start saving lives thanks to you.

Check out your new Air Ambulance at the Life Flight Open Day on 18 March!



30 years of Intensive Care in the air

Did you know Life Flight has operated Air Ambulance Planes for more than 30 years? Peter Button first leased a small Cessna Golden Eagle in 1983 for long-range medical transfers of critical patients.

The plane was modified for air ambulance work and brought up to full life-support standard thanks to community support and the help of Dr Russell Worth and Peter's son Clive, who made many of the modifications by hand as he is a toolmaker.

The pictures show the small space that medics, pilots and crew had to operate in back then.

Your generosity makes continued innovation possible and ensures the best possible care for those in need.

Life Flight's Air Ambulance milestones:

- 1983 A Cessna Golden Eagle is fitted-out for intensive care
- 1994 Cheyenne Mark II plane is launched
- 2001 Life Flight upgrades to a Metroliner, it's the first plane in NZ that can transport two intensive care patients at once
- 2006 Life Flight is the first in Australasia to fly a patient on a heart and lung bypass machine
- 2012 The first J32 Jetstream air ambulance launched
- 2017 The second J32 Jetstream air ambulance launched



Life Flight co-founder Dr Russell Worth loads a patient by hand



Life Flight's first air ambulance plane 1983

We encourage you to look to the skies for the new Life Flight Air Ambulance – you are now part of its history. Thank you!

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TEAM UPDATE

A Frequent Flyer: Lois helps a 1,000 people in need

Flight Nurse Lois is a familiar face to many of the patients who have been flown in our Air Ambulance Planes and Westpac Rescue Helicopter.

"She recently undertook her 1,000th flight - an enormous milestone for Lois and for our Flight Service. Lois is passionate about this specialist area of critical care nursing. She has cared for critically ill patients, both adults and children, transporting them all over New Zealand," says her colleague Karyn.

Flight Nurses from Capital and Coast District Health Board are an essential part of the Life Flight team. They are highly-experienced, Intensive Care medical professionals who are

also specially trained to work in the air.

Lois has been an Intensive Care Flight Nurse since 2004. We often hear what a wonderful job she does, going above and beyond to not only keep her patients safe but also to comfort them and to lighten the mood.

"Lois's passion for the Life Flight service has been immense over the years. Many patients owe their lives and positive outcomes to her professionalism and dedication," says Life Flight Crewman, Steve Reeve.

We are thrilled to share Lois's achievement with you and we are sure you will join us in congratulating her!



Operations update

JANUARY – JUNE 2017

You helped achieve the below in the first half of 2017. We think you're fantastic.

Thank you!

Statistics

Total missions	758
People helped	804
Average age	40
Oldest	98

Gender

Male	57%
Female	43%

Types of missions

Emergency accidents (e.g. road accidents)	124
Medical emergencies	101
Vital baby incubator transfers	117
Search & rescue	9
Intensive care transfers	439
Training	31
Others	21

Busiest day Thursday

Busiest month January

In the last six months we have rescued, saved and helped over 800 people thanks to you. These often challenging missions, once again underline the amazing pilots, crew and paramedics we have working here and that you very kindly support.

Upcoming events

Life Flight Open Day



Life Flight Open Day Sunday 18 March 10am-2.30pm

We'd love you to join us for another action-packed day at our Air Rescue Base! Last year was an epic day full of emergency service demonstrations, prizes, entertainment, delicious food trucks, and even puppies. Highlights included live winch rescue demonstrations from our Westpac Chopper and a dwarven transformation by the talented Weta Workshop team.

Next year's event will be the most exciting yet – you will have the opportunity to check out Life Flight's new Air Ambulance Plane. The Open Day is held at our rescue base in Rongotai Wellington. Keep an eye on our Facebook and website for more info www.lifeflight.org.nz/openday

Combined Lions of Kapiti Book Fair: 14-15 October

The Kapiti Lions Clubs huge annual charity book fair is back at Waikanae Memorial Hall. This year marks the 20th consecutive fair and there will be a hoard of books, CDs, games and puzzles to content all your hearts' desires. A portion of the proceeds will, once again, be generously donated to Life Flight. Donate your quality surplus reading materials to this event in the collection box at Coastlands Shopping Mall.

Pukemanu Boating and Fishing Club Fish Tournament and Auction: 10-12 November

This year's annual tournament will generously raise funds for Life Flight. The Martinborough club's tournament is held 10-11th of November, with their auction finale on the 12th at Queens Wharf Market, Wellington. With proceeds being donated to Life Flight, this is a fantastic opportunity to support whilst getting your hands on some fresh and tasty kaimoana.

The Great Wellington Truck and Transport Show: 25 March

Come and enjoy a fanfare of all things trucking and transport. With competitions, rides, demonstrations, food and all day entertainment to keep every member of the family happy, this large-scale event will offer something for everyone. The event is held at Trentham Memorial Park Upper Hutt and is hosted by the Lion's Club of Silverstream.



WineWorks Marlborough Wine Race: 1 December

Waikawa Boating Club will again host their illustrious yacht race across the Cook Strait, with dozens of crews competing to land the new Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc release on the capital's shores. A portion of the entry fees are donated to Life Flight. Yachts and crews wanting to register to take part in the race can email office@waikawaboatingclub.co.nz for more information.



**We send a sincere thank you to the wonderful supporters who organise events and raise life-saving funds!
Are you interested in organising or have you organised a fundraising event in support of Life Flight?**

Please contact 04 920 2242 or events@lifeflight.org.nz

Thanks to you, Ryan could welcome his new-born son to the world

The Upper Hutt dad was riding his motorbike with his mates in Akatarawa but, after bumping something and accidentally accelerating, he found himself hurtling down a cliff.

"The bike ended up perched in the trees. I just went straight over the handlebars and tumbled down the cliff for probably another 20 to 30 meters.

My mates tried to assure me I was okay, but I could feel my boots warming up and overflowing with blood."

Their isolated location meant it was a struggle to find mobile phone reception. After finally getting a signal and making the emergency call, Life Flight's Westpac Rescue Helicopter team went searching above the dense canopy.

Thankfully, they spotted one of Ryan's friends and followed him to a small clearing where they could land.

Ryan describes the sound of the approaching helicopter as "the best medicine they can give you."

He was stabilised and carried to the waiting chopper before being rushed to hospital with hypothermia, three serious fractures in his leg, a fractured shoulder, and blood clots in his lungs. He was lucky to be alive.

Ryan is still recovering, but showing improvement.

"I have nothing but gratitude and praise for everyone at Life Flight and those who donate.



Interislander generously supports Life Flight as a Family Sponsor. In May, one of their employees discovered first-hand the life-saving work they, and you, make possible.

Photo credit: Cameron Bunnell/Fairfax NZ

I was incredibly lucky that I didn't lose my life up there that day, and the only reason I didn't was because that helicopter pulled me out."

Thanks to your kind gifts, he was here to welcome his beautiful new-born son Asher to the world just two months later.



Our Westpac Rescue Helicopter team was able to land in a small clearing.

YES! I'D LIKE TO DONATE TO HELP SAVE LIVES.

Name Supporter No. (If known)

Address

Email (to receive updates)

I'd like to donate: (please tick) \$25 \$50 \$100 My choice: \$

Donation method: (please tick preferred option)

Credit card: Please debit my credit card VISA MASTERCARD AMERICAN EXPRESS DINERS

Number: Expiry: /

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Online: www.lifeflight.org.nz

Electronic transfer: Bank account 03 0578 0048481 08. Enter your Supporter Number in the reference field

I would like some information about leaving a legacy to Life Flight Trust in my Will.

Would you like to receive your receipts by email?

YES

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

Our privacy policy is available at www.lifeflight.org.nz/privacypolicy