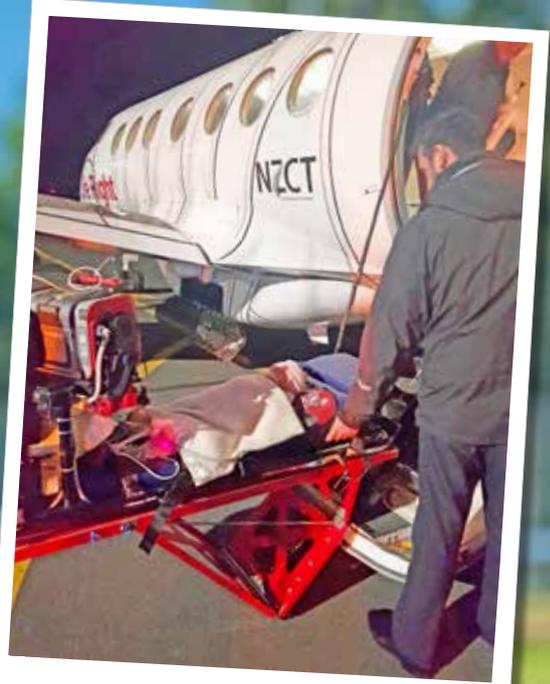




Elsa is now a healthy little girl, thanks to you!



Because of you, Elsa got the emergency care she needed.



Your support provided hope when Sarah and Mike received the shocking news that their gorgeous five-month-old daughter Elsa had a diaphragmatic hernia.

Little Elsa was rushed to Nelson Hospital for X-rays after falling very ill. Doctors identified the very rare birth

defect that caused her bowel to loop into her chest, filling her stomach with air and making her very sick.

There had not been another case like it for six years in New Zealand.

Fortunately, the Paediatric team that had operated on the previous case was still at Christchurch Hospital and,

Thanks to your support, Elsa was urgently flown to life-saving surgery.

Continued over >

Thank you for making stories like this possible.



Elsa's was the first case like this in New Zealand in six years.

thanks to your generous funding of Life Flight's Air Ambulance Plane, Elsa could be urgently flown there that night in time for life-saving surgery.

Our team was even able to fly her whole family on-board

with her which was comforting during such a distressing time.

We just cannot thank you enough for being there. Without this service Elsa wouldn't be here,"

– says Sarah.

At Christchurch Hospital the experienced medical team were able to perform the challenging surgery successfully and Elsa is now very happy to be home and on the road to recovery.

Sarah says, "We just cannot say thank you enough for being there. Without this service Elsa

wouldn't be here, it just means everything."

Thank you very much for your wonderful donations which help little ones like Elsa every day.



Your support got Elsa to the hospital in time for life-saving surgery.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:



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Marlborough
Masterton

TEAM SPOTLIGHT

Meet Phil H

Job with Life Flight

Air Ambulance Plane Crewman

How long have you worked for Life Flight?

I started working here in 1987 when I was asked to get a team together to volunteer as Crewmen. It was just after Peter Button's tragic passing.

What work did you do before that?

I worked for the Airport Fire Service for 13 years.

What attracted you to this job?

I had known Peter Button and been involved with happenings at the airport since I was 17. Ultimately, I like to help people. I have always put this in front of everything else in my life.

What is the best part of the job?

The ability to help those people that are less fortunate. It's very rewarding seeing people on their return flights, after having had successful life-saving care. I see people who were originally at death's door and they can now walk onto the plane and go back to their lives. It is a privilege to work for Life Flight.

Over your 30+ years with Life Flight what are some changes you have seen, and do you have any standout memories of past flights?

I've flown on five different airplanes for Life Flight over my time here. The first plane was the Golden Eagle and we used to do search missions with the plane then.

I remember one flight in the 1980s where we searched for a distress beacon far out to sea. We searched for hours until finally spotting a life raft.

We circled what we believed to be two people in the raft while we waited for the helicopter team to arrive and winch them up. After winching the first two survivors everyone was surprised to discover there were actually five people down in the raft! To make room for the extras the fuel drums in the helicopter had to be emptied and, after all this extra time winching, it had become dark so those of us in the plane had to fly ahead of the chopper and guide it back to land.

What do you do when you're not at work?

I take trips. My next trip is to China.

What would you like to say to our wonderful supporters?

Please keep supporting! We truly appreciate what you do for us. Thank you!

Lives you have touched



You helped achieve the below in the last half of 2018. We think you're fantastic.

Thank You!

Statistics: Jul' - Dec' 2018

People helped

820

Whānau and support people flown

296

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 who you very kindly support.



Life Flight Open Day

Sunday 10th March

A day to say 'thanks' to you



The Life Flight Open Day is coming up. Join us at our Air Rescue Centre in Rongotai between 10am-2.30pm for another amazing day of action, entertainment, prizes and delicious food.

Get up-close with a dozen emergency services and watch our own Westpac Chopper demonstrate a live rescue winch. We look forward to seeing you, our wonderful supporters! Entry by koha to Life Flight.

Visit our Facebook page or lifeflight.org.nz/openday for more info.

Big thanks to our event sponsor, Interislander, for helping to make this day happen!



A very warm thanks to our print and document sponsor!



Since the 1990s, Fuji Xerox has been generously donating their printers and paper to Life Flight. Their sponsorship also includes the servicing and support of the printers and this means our team can have a worry-free and reliable print environment and focus on what we do best – saving lives!

Managing Director Peter Thomas says "We've been partnering Life Flight for more than 20 years and are extremely proud to be part of an organisation that performs such an important role for our community."



*Crowd having fun at
Fuji Xerox's Paper Plane
Competition booth at the Life
Flight Open Day.*



Upcoming Events

PwC Relay – 22 February

Get involved at pwc.co.nz

Wings over Wairarapa – 22-24 February

The largest aviation event in the North Island celebrates its 20th year! Life Flight will take part. wings.org.nz

Castlepoint Races – 9 March

The iconic beach race day will once again support Life Flight. facebook.com/CastlepointRacingClub

Paraparaumu Rotary Charity Golf Tournament – 14 March

Supporting Life Flight. Registrations:
Bob Hamilton, 04 2988012, Rht.hamilton@gmail.com

Life Flight's Westpac Chopper Street Appeal – 10 May in Marlborough and 24 May across Greater Wellington in partnership with our Major Sponsor Westpac.

Interested in volunteering? We'd love to hear from you!
Please email events@lifeflight.org.nz or phone 04 9202242

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

Sheila will always be thankful to you for helping save her life

Sheila was on a coach tour of the Wairarapa when things took a turn for the worse. She initially thought she was simply suffering from severe indigestion, but after becoming violently ill an ambulance was called to rush her to Masterton Hospital.

The pain became almost unbearable. *"I thought I was dying,"* she says.

By chance, Life Flight's Westpac Rescue Helicopter was already in Masterton helping someone else when

Sheila arrived, and she could be flown immediately to Wellington Hospital, thanks to your wonderful donations. In Wellington, doctors had to perform an urgent quadruple bypass to save her life.

"I'll never ever stop being thankful for that helicopter and the people who support it."

– says Sheila.

When she awoke, the medical team revealed that minutes were the difference between life and death and without the chopper she likely would not have survived.

Sheila has since recovered perfectly and says, *"I'll never ever stop being thankful for that helicopter and the people who support it."*

Photo credits: Lindsay Keats



Sheila could be flown immediately to care thanks to your donations

A big shout out to all who helped with this newsletter!

Like everything we do here at the rescue base, this newsletter was made possible with a generous team effort. We send sincere appreciation to Fuji Xerox for donating printer paper, NZ Post for discounted postage, photographers who donated images, and the wonderful patients who volunteered time and shared their remarkable stories.

Thank you!



Did you know that individuals can claim a tax refund of up to 33% of their donation? For more info, visit IRD's website, give us a ring on 04 920 2242 or email info@lifeflight.org.nz.

