

# Life Flight

**Your kind donations help worried mothers like Katrina, get their children to the urgent specialist care they need.**

This Nelson-based family are no strangers to Life Flight's Air Ambulance planes. Both children have relied on your generosity on two separate occasions.

Katrina was urgently flown by Life Flight to Wellington Hospital's specialist neonatal unit to try and stall the premature labour of her first child - Abby. At only 29 ½ weeks, they needed to delay the birth to give her as much chance of survival as possible.

After getting to Wellington quickly, the staff managed to delay Katrina's labour for another week before a tiny, fragile Abby was born.

*Continued over >*



*Hunter in his full hip cast following his operation.*

# Supporter News

Stories of how your support saves lives



**Siblings Abby and Hunter have relied on your generosity on two separate occasions, both have required the air ambulance plane.**



*Abby finally on her way home for the first time thanks to your support*



*Hunter being transported for his hip operation*

*"I don't know if my daughter would have survived. Every extra day in the womb was critical to her survival. It was a rough time."*

After four weeks under the watchful eye of the



*Thank you for helping to bring Katrina and Mark's children Abby and Hunter home safely.*

experienced neonatal team, Katrina was excited to be able to take baby Abby home, but she says, "Abby spiked a temperature and her heart rate went up. I was told, I'm really sorry we have to make sure she's

okay. We had to go back to Wellington, and I had to cancel my wedding."

On the second attempt a week later, the relieved mum and bub finally made it home to be with Dad Mark.

The family's second-child, Hunter, was also premature but born with Cerebral Palsy. Recently it was Hunter's turn to be flown to Wellington Hospital for hip surgery, returning home in a full hip cast.

Katrina's family have grown closer through the difficulties in her children's early years, "It was a pretty rough start, having two children premature. It definitely brought us together and made us realise, if we can get through this, we

*can get through anything."*

*"Thank you so much for giving what you can to support such an amazing service that helps so many people of all ages and from every walk of life. Without your support for an amazing service a lot of people and children may not be living the life they are today."*

**Thank you for helping to bring Katrina and Mark's children Abby and Hunter home safely.**



*The Air Ambulance Plane you kindly helped fund.*

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:



## TEAM SPOTLIGHT Meet Kristy

### What is your job with Life Flight?

Fixed Wing Aircrew

### How long have you worked for Life Flight?

Five months

### What work did you do before coming to Life Flight?

Initially when I moved to New Zealand, I was working for the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) on a programme with a public health science and animal disease focus, prior to that I was a Paramedic for 15 years with NSW Ambulance in Australia.

### What attracted you to this job?

My role with MPI was interesting however as my true passion is human health, I was attracted to this role as it brought me back closer to my interests and expertise.

### What is the best part of the job?

The people that I work with daily who are all amazing, but in different ways. It's great to be a part of a small but dynamic team all working towards a goal that is bigger than any of us, where every day is different, I really enjoy that.

### What is the hardest part of your job?

Nothing feels hard for me in this job, which is great. I am lucky in that way.

### What was the main thing that stood out for you when you started working here?

How welcoming all the people were, that I now work with.

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

The last couple of years my spare time has pretty much been occupied with study, as I am currently completing a master's degree as well as working fulltime. I do however love whatever is happening here in Wellington, where there is always something to do as well as travelling, I am a bit of a self-confessed foodie – not that I get much time for that right now. Whenever I can I also head back over to Australia to spend time with my family and friends.

### What would you like to say to our wonderful supporters?

Thank you for all your support, people like you are essential to people like me being able to help others in their greatest time of need through the work that we do. That is greatly appreciated by everyone involved.



## Lives you have touched



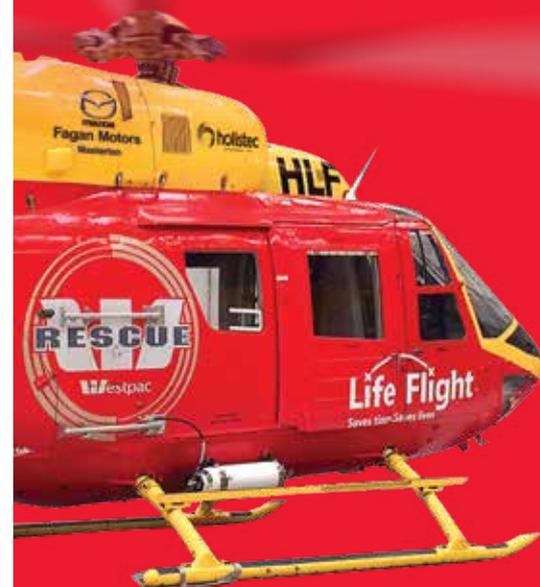
Because of you, hundreds of people have been helped in the second half of 2019.

Thank You!

Statistics: Jul' - Dec' 2019

People helped  
**703**

For each person helped there is a ripple effect that goes on to touch their family, friends and neighbours. Thank you for saving lives and keeping whānau together. You're amazing!



## Upcoming Events

# Life Flight

[lifeflight.org.nz/openday](http://lifeflight.org.nz/openday)

# Open Day

Sunday 1st March, 10am-2.30pm

**The Life Flight Open Day is coming up. Join us at our Air Rescue Centre in Kilbirnie 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 Rescue Chopper demonstrate a live rescue winch.

It's a great way for us to say thanks, meet you - our wonderful supporters - and raise life-saving funds to help keep us flying. It's a fun and exciting day for you, your family and friends!

Entry by koha to Life Flight – ***your support helps save lives.***



Visit our Facebook page or [lifeflight.org.nz/openday](http://lifeflight.org.nz/openday) for event info including kids' costume contest details, emergency services in attendance and Open Day schedule.

Thank you to our Event Partner Interislander for supporting Life Flight and helping make this day happen!



### **The Great Wellington Truck and Transport Show** **23 February**

In support of Life Flight, the Silverstream Lions are once again hosting this exciting event.

Entry is a gold coin donation.

### **Castlepoint Races** **14 March**

The iconic beach race day will support Life Flight.

[facebook.com/CastlepointRacingClub](https://facebook.com/CastlepointRacingClub)

### **Life Flight Golf Day; Sponsored by Fieldair Holdings** **26 March**

A new Life Flight fundraiser taking place at Miramar Golf Club. Keep an eye on our website for updates on how to register a team and support the day – [lifeflight.org.nz](http://lifeflight.org.nz)

### **ANZAC Day Road Races Runs/Walks** **25 April**

Supporting Life Flight. Registrations: Ray Wallis, 06 377 0703

### **Westpac Chopper Street Appeal** **15 May**

Across Marlborough and 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](mailto:events@lifeflight.org.nz) or phone 04 920 2242

**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](mailto:events@lifeflight.org.nz)



## Dave's escape from a falling tree

*down and it hit me again. I landed with my head and shoulders over another tree."*

Dave immediately knew the seriousness of his injuries and screamed through his walkie talkie for a helicopter. Dave's two workmates got to him after 10 minutes where they found him crushed with internal injuries.

*"My back was like a horseshoe when my colleagues lifted the tree. If they hadn't done that I would've died there".*

When our Westpac Chopper team arrived, they were aware time was short. Paramedic Hannah said it was the hardest rescue of her career. Not only did she need to keep them both stable in the air, but she had to keep Dave calm - who was literally fighting for his life.

Dave was urgently flown to Wellington Hospital where he spent 30 hours in an induced coma. Upon waking from the coma, the tending medical team gave out shouts of surprise and delight.



*A special moment - Dave visiting the base and meeting Crewman Mike who winched him to safety*

Dave is aware of how lucky he is and praises the quick work of everyone involved that day. Thanks to your amazing donations, the fast response of our team and some remarkable hospital care, Dave is now able to walk unassisted after spending eight weeks on his back.

It was a very special moment to have Dave visit our base recently to meet crewman Mike, who winched him out of the Reikorangi bush to safety.

Thank you for ensuring we could get to Dave when he needed us most.

**When a routine job went wrong, your support meant Dave got urgent care when every moment counted.**

Dave's everyday life went from normal to critical in half a second while cutting down a dead tree that suddenly slid sideways and caught him from behind.

*"It hit me once, and I was thrown onto the ground. Then the root system came*

### **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!**

### **33% REFUND**

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

