



Thank you for being a lifeline during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Keeping our community safe throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic has been a huge team effort. Thanks to you and our amazing supporters, Life Flight has been able to keep our emergency teams flying 24/7 throughout the crisis so far.

Your support meant 160 people were helped by Life Flight during the

Lockdown, including flying 27 premature babies to emergency care. Due to the challenge of operating during COVID-19, each call-out required an increase in effort, time and cost.

The start of the year feels like a lifetime ago...

Our team kicked off 2020 with many plans: Summer Rescues, Training Missions,



Pilot Krishneil preparing to fly through the pandemic

Equipment Upgrades, Fundraising Appeals, Events and more. But with Covid-19 taking hold, everyone quickly pivoted to focus on our response.

The team had to swiftly adapt the way we work to

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Life Flight Chief Executive, Mark Johnston, completing his COVID-19 training

keep everyone safe and keep saving lives. Each Alert Level required many things to be prepared for the children, women and men who find themselves in desperate medical need.

With your help, the following measures were put in place:

- Training additional staff (including our CE Mark Johnston) to provide added safety and care when flying patients potentially infected with COVID-19.
- Additional vital medical and cleaning supplies were purchased. Items that make a big difference in keeping everyone safe such as Respirator Kits, Disinfectant Spray and Hand Sanitiser.
- Ensuring only rostered rescue crews were at the base, with contact-less handovers between crews.
- Laptops were sourced and the support team worked from their homes.

We put the call out to our fantastic supporters. As well as kind donations, there were offers of PPE gear and hand sanitiser, we received many amazing messages which kept our spirits up, here's some of them:

- **Thank you to the wonderful team who are working so hard to keep New Zealanders safe.**
- **Thanks for being out there we know it is not easy at the moment.**
- **You guys do an amazing job and so good to know you are there if ever help is needed stay safe and BIG THANKS for all you do for us.**

Soon after Lockdown kicked in, Life Flight flew our first possible Covid-19 patient. Crewman Colin from the Westpac Rescue Helicopter recalls:

"We were on very high alert when the first call-out came, all our training

and preparation kicked in. COVID-19 meant a new and crucial layer of safety procedures were added to ensure everyone was protected.

Full PPE gear was loaded into our Westpac Rescue Chopper, we donned this prior to arrival on the scene. Our helicopter now has a special set of curtains separating the cockpit from the back of the aircraft to protect the Pilot.

Safely delivering the patient to the hospital Intensive Care Unit was a big relief... I didn't get a chance to think about that until I'd gotten home to my family, at the end of each Covid-19 mission there is a big cleaning job. Extra personnel are brought in for this regardless of the time of day or night, it takes a few hours to clean every surface thoroughly, including any medical equipment used."

Over the coming months, the Life Flight team will face many challenges in raising the funds needed to keep our flight teams in the air. It is anticipated that our flight teams will be called upon 30 or more times each week. We know it's tough out there, if you can, we'd be very grateful to receive a gift, no matter how big or small.

Thank you for your wonderful continued support.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:



Crofton Downs
Martinborough



Marlborough
Masterton

Thanks to wonderful people like you, daughters Linda, Jodie and Tracy still have their beloved Mum.

Helen was staying with her daughter Linda, in Otaki when she was taken ill with a mystery infection. Her condition went downhill with startling speed.

"I could hear an unusual noise coming from Mum's room in the middle of the night, so I went in," Linda told us.

"She'd turned herself around in the bed and was fighting with the blankets to get them off, but she felt really cold. She was incoherent and didn't want to wake up. I could tell something was very wrong, so I called an ambulance."

When the ambulance arrived, Helen was deteriorating fast. With her temperature dropping, she fell into a coma.

The paramedics realised Helen's life was hanging in the balance. They knew if she travelled to hospital by road, it would be too late – so they called Life Flight.

Thankfully, there was a field near to Linda's home where our Westpac Rescue Chopper could land.

Helen's condition was touch and go, our expert medical crew worked fast to stabilise her before the flight, to give



*Thanks to you
Helen is well on the
road to recovery*

her the best chance of survival.

Helen doesn't remember anything about her desperate

MEET THE SPONSORS



Bjorn from Westpac

What's your role at Westpac?

Commercial Manager – I work with customers who have businesses. A lot of my customers are not-for-profits which is really nice because they fit with my values. My role is to liaise between the customer and the bank and ensure they are looked after.

I changed careers to work at Westpac in 2017, and now look after the Life Flight relationship. I'm so proud of working with Life Flight as they saved my mum.

At Westpac we are encouraged to get involved in fundraising. It means so much to me as it's an opportunity to give back.

Tell us about your Mum's experience needing Life Flight

When my Mum was a kid she had rheumatic fever which causes complications of the heart. As she got a little bit older the heart started giving way and basically she was on half a heart - her decline was rapid. A simple visit to the kitchen was like watching her run a marathon. We managed to get her on the

heart transplant list, from here it was a matter of waiting.

Mum was rung late evening on the 15th August 2015 to say they had a heart for her and she needed to get to Auckland urgently. She always had a suitcase ready for that moment. It was scary for me because on one hand you're like, "Yay, Mum's got a heart", and on the other, I realised that could have been the final



Bjorn and his Mum Gail

dash to hospital in the Westpac Rescue Helicopter.

"You can't imagine something like this until it happens to you, and you can't know how thankful we are that we were able to get Mum onto the Westpac Rescue Chopper and get her into the hospital so fast. When she got there, we were told it was a very touchy situation whether she'd pull through." Tracy and Jodie.

After a couple of days Helen came out of her coma, a week later she was able to go home to continue her recovery in the care of her daughters.

Helen still doesn't know what made her fall ill so

suddenly – her doctors were unable to pinpoint the cause but suspect a lung infection.

Thank you for your vital donations, ensuring our flight teams could be there for Helen when time was against her.



Helen is now back with her wonderful family

conversation with my Mum.

Life Flight flew her to Auckland at 11.30pm. She landed in Auckland 12.30am and was on the operating table by 2.30am. By 6.30am they were getting her up and moving about. Without that flight, it wouldn't have been possible, she wouldn't have her new heart.

Mum's become like a poster girl for heart transplants. She's completely changed her outlook on life. It's opened up so many doors for her.

How did COVID-19 impact your work?

We saw more electronic communication with people contacting us through those channels.

Many businesses needed help, Westpac's been great



Bjorn enjoying some time out on the water

and said, 'We know you need help and this is what we can provide'. The relationship between business and customer has changed, people now want to take the time to meet and get to know you.

What would you like to say to Life Flight supporters?

Keep supporting Life Flight, it really is saving lives.

Lives you have touched



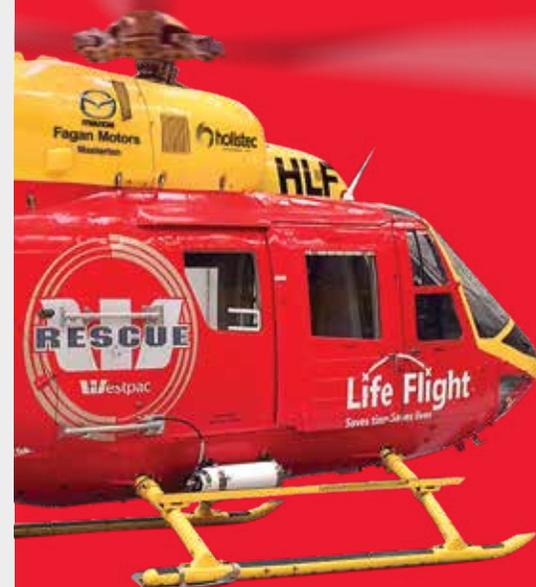
Because of you, hundreds of people have been helped in the first half of 2020.

Thank You!

Statistics: Jan' - Jun' 2020

People helped
633

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!



Juliet Best is currently Life Flight's artist-in-residence and over the last three years she has been such a delightful addition to the Life Flight family.

The talented artist began her residency after nearly needing our Westpac Rescue Helicopter to help her son after a fall in Abel Tasman National Park. "We were fortunate there was a nurse in the same DOC hut as us," says Juliet. "She was able to tend to my son and her family helped us get back to the boat. But, it made me consider how lucky we are to have Life Flight in our community."

Following the struggles of COVID-19, Juliet approached us because she wanted to support Life Flight during the recovery period. She has generously donated a pair of



Juliet Best

amazing prints to The Life Flight Trust. Every donor who gives \$10 or more before 30 September goes into the draw to win these prints. These beautiful limited-edition prints feature hand applied 24 carat gold-leaf and are generously framed by Art for Art's Sake here in Wellington.

You can head to lifeflight.org.nz for more information.

To see Juliet's incredible artworks, both limited edition prints and originals, you can head to julietbest.com. You'll be able to see how her paintings are so beautifully inspired by the light – *"That is the soul of my paintings. My love of New Zealand and all its beauty is the passion for my work. I paint with strong horizon lines, elegantly blended colours, highly textured landscapes and lots of luxuriously layered gold-leaf"*

Juliet with one of the beautiful limited-edition framed prints

Governor General visit to the Life Flight base

Her Excellency The Right Honourable Dame Patsy Reddy, patron of Life Flight, and His Excellency Sir David Gascoigne paid us a visit on the 24th June to see how we are all doing after the strict lockdown period during COVID-19. Our history of patronage with past New Zealand Governor-General's began in 1987 after the tragic passing of our founder – Peter Button.



Chief Pilot Harry shows Her Excellency the ropes

We were honoured to give Their Excellencies a tour of the base for the first time and explain about our life-saving mission and proud shared history. She extended her thanks to you, our amazing supporters, whose wonderful donations keep our life-saving service operating.



Their Excellencies meet Life Flight's Westpac Rescue Helicopter team

