



Baby Jessica's life was saved, thanks to your support

Photo credit: Bob Leask

Donations from amazing supporters like you help our life-saving work.

When Jessica was born in Wairau Hospital, oxygen deprivation caused her to stop breathing for around four minutes. But thanks to the swift actions of the local medical team and our Westpac Rescue Helicopter crew, she was quickly flown to the neonatal intensive care unit at Wellington Hospital for treatment.

"The Life Flight team prepared her to fly and reassured us that they'd be with her the whole time," remembers Jessica's mum Karyn. "I got to say farewell too, in case she didn't make it."

Karyn and her husband Arthur were terrified they might lose their precious child. So Life Flight flew them to join her a couple of hours later.

Jessica was in the neonatal intensive care unit for ten days. Then flew back on Life Flight's Air Ambulance Plane along with another person returning to Blenheim.

Thanks to the wonderful support of people like you, Jessica survived. She has grown into a bubbly little girl who loves art and playing in the backyard with her little brother, Josiah.

Jessica's fourth birthday last November was a cause for great celebration, but it was also a day her parents thought they might not see.

"The shock of having your baby born not breathing is hard enough to deal with. But with the support and amazing services of Life Flight, Jessica was able to



Photo credit: Fairfax Media / Marlborough Express

Thank you, Life Flight...tonight I cuddle our wee girl remembering all you did. We appreciate it every day! She's such a blessing.

get the care she needed to be with us today. They also ensured my husband and I could join her and brought us all back safely.

"Thank you, Life Flight, for taking such great care of us in what was such a traumatic time."

Your kind gifts helped Life Flight fly 1,451 patients in the Westpac Rescue Helicopter and Air Ambulance Plane last year.

Thank you so much!

A message from your new Chair – Dame Annette King

As a passionate, long-time Life Flight supporter, it is an absolute privilege to accept the role of Chair.

I join the Trust at a special time as we remember Life Flight Founder Peter Button, commemorating 30 years since his tragic passing. We are also approaching the 50th anniversary of the Wahine disaster, which was the inception of Peter's vision.

I attended a moving commemoration where Clive Button, Peter's son and one of the original crewmen, shared memories of his father and their early rescues. As a local hero, Peter's death sent shockwaves through the community. It is inspiring to see that despite his passing, his dream lives on thanks to your kindness.

His dream began on the Wellington shoreline after the Wahine ran aground. It was a tragic day that sparked new beginnings. I see Peter's spirit reflected in the generous donations and words of support that are

received every day at the Life Flight base – your genuine consideration for your whānau and for your community makes me proud to call myself one of you.

Life Flight's Westpac Rescue Helicopter was regularly seen flying above my electorate office in Newtown, and in my time there I often heard heart-warming stories from patients and their families. Within my first few weeks as Chair I was privileged to meet many of Life Flight's fantastic team members who made those stories possible. Their levels of training and equipment, is second only to the passion and dedication which drives them and fuels every mission. It really is a world-class service that you make possible – and all right here in our backyard!

I warmly thank all of you who have supported Life Flight in the years since Peter Button first envisioned a better way, and I look forward to the things we will achieve together.



Annette King, DNZM, Chair



A recent visit in 2017 by Annette seeing all the new aircraft and equipment that supporters help buy.



Crewman Julian explains the workings of the Westpac Rescue Helicopter winch system to Annette.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:



Marlborough
Masterton

TEAM UPDATE

Meet Ian M

What is your job with Life Flight?

Air Ambulance Plane Crewman

How long have you worked for Life Flight?

Since October 2016

What work did you do before coming to Life Flight?

I like a challenge. I have worked as an Aircraft Technician, Industrial Abseiler, Carpenter, Film Set Constructor, Agricultural Researcher, Commercial Fisherman and Gold Miner.

What attracted you to this job?

Life flight has always captured my interest and inspired me. My job is a perfect blend of a great team environment, logistics and aviation.

What is the best part of the job?

Seeing patients and their relatives relax a little when the Flight Team are there for them. It feels great to be part of that. And sunrises at 25,000 feet are pretty good, too!

What's the hardest part?

Saying good-bye at the end of a mission to patients

and families who are facing difficult times.

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

The seamless collaboration between the team at Life Flight, the hospital medical teams and the paramedics. A clever bunch who bring true caring.

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

I fly my hang glider as much as the Welly weather will allow. I also love to dive, fish, sail, surf and ski.

What is something that supporters might be surprised to find out about you?

In 2015 I was the NZ national sport class hang gliding champion.

What would you like to say to our wonderful supporters?

The service that Life Flight provides is a massive team effort, so a huge and warm thank you to all the Life Flight supporters. You're the backbone of the team!



Ian M in action at the base

Operations update

You have helped achieve the below so far this year. We think you're fantastic.

Thank You!

Statistics: July - December 2017

Total missions 561

People helped 631

Average age 40

Oldest 95

Types of missions

Emergency accidents (e.g. road accidents) 56

Medical emergencies 53

Vital baby incubator transfers 108

Search & rescue 12

Intensive care transfers 257

Training 34

Others 16

Busiest day Tuesday

Busiest month October

In the last six months we have rescued, saved and helped over 600 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 18th March 10am-2:30pm

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

This year's Open Day will be our most exciting yet – you will have the opportunity to get up close and personal with Life Flight's new Air Ambulance Plane. Come along to see the plane that you have helped launch to the skies, as well as an extended area with a range of exciting new sites!

Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for more info www.lifeflight.org.nz/openday

The Great Wellington Truck and Transport Show – 11th 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 will be held on Sunday March 11th at Trentham Memorial Park and is hosted by the Lion's Club of Silverstream.



Castlepoint Races – 17th March

A historical race day where spectators can listen to the thundering of hooves as the horses' race along Castlepoint Beach. This family picnic race day boasts over eight races plus other activities including children's games and a fun fashion parade, offering a fun day out for the whole family. A portion of proceeds come back to Life Flight.



Tauherenikau Races – 25th March

Enjoy a day out at picturesque Tauherenikau for the Masterton Racing Club's annual meeting. All of the gate takings are donated to Life Flight.

Street Appeal – 4th and 18th May

Life Flight's annual Street Collection will be held on Friday 4th May in the Greater Wellington Region, and the 18th May in Marlborough, in partnership with our sponsor Westpac. Interested in volunteering? Please email events@lifeflight.org.nz

**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

Home for Christmas, **thanks to you**

Your new Air Ambulance Plane has already helped many. Alena is one of those people, and we are grateful she has offered to share her story with you.

At just 25 weeks pregnant, Alena began to go into early labour. The Palmerston North medical team suppressed the labour, but Alena needed to get to specialty care at Wellington Hospital quickly. Life Flight's Air Ambulance Plane was called.

The team got her to Wellington Hospital, where labour was suppressed for an additional five days before she gave birth to her son, Yannick. At 965 grams, he was just a tiny wee thing.

Too fragile to return home, they spent six more weeks in Wellington Hospital until little Yannick was strong enough to fly back to Palmerston North for further care closer to home. After nearly three months in hospital, and growing to a healthy 3kgs, the family were thrilled to finally bring Yannick home – just in time for Christmas!

Following Yannick's homecoming, proud grandparents, Miranda and Nick, sent us a lovely thank you letter. As Wairarapa residents, a region we often fly to, they are well aware of Life Flight's importance.

They have been Red Angels for years, but this is the first time they have personally needed the service.

"Thank you so much to everyone who keeps Life Flight flying."

We need you, and your friends, to help us save more lives!

To continue helping others like Alena and Yannick, we must raise more to finish paying off the new Air Ambulance Plane.

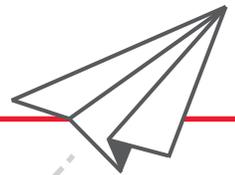
We took a chance (and a bank loan!) to buy the second plane. We've had amazing and generous support so far, now we need your help to raise the funds needed to pay off the plane and ensure it belongs to the community it serves.

We are crowdfunding to raise at least \$50,000 and we would love you and your friends to get involved. Visit www.lifeflight.org.nz/yourplane to find out how.

Top tip: Start practicing your paper airplane folding!



Your support helping babies like Yannick to sleep with big smiles



Your support, like Gordon's saving lives everyday

Generous donations like yours allow our Westpac Rescue Helicopter to attend serious road accidents where speed to urgent medical care is crucial.



Our Westpac Rescue Helicopter arrives to help at the scene and take Gordon to hospital.

During a motorcycle ride to Cape Palliser, Gordon looked in his mirror just in time to see his wife, Vicki, going into a ditch. "I put on the brakes and ended up losing control. My next clear

memory was being surrounded by emergency services."

Thankfully Vicki just had a few bruises, but Gordon was in pretty bad shape. "I was in a lot of pain. Hannah, the helicopter paramedic, came to me and she was just fantastic. She got me focussed as I was being assessed to determine if my spine had been damaged. She, and the rest of the team, were really reassuring."

Fifteen minutes after being loaded into the helicopter on a stretcher, Gordon was landing on the Wellington Hospital rooftop where medical teams were waiting.

He spent eight days in hospital with a broken thumb, seven broken ribs and damage to his lungs.

A Life Flight supporter already, Gordon plans to

continue his support. "Life Flight saved the life of my son's best friend following a motor accident 20 years ago. He's made a full recovery and we have supported Life Flight ever since. In the Wairarapa we see the chopper go overhead all the time. This time I needed them and they were fantastic. Thank you."



Gordon and his wife, Vicki, have been riding motorcycles together for more than 40 years. Vicki finally got her dream motorcycle, an Indian Scout, and the two went out for a ride toward Cape Palliser.

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: My choice: \$

Donation method: (please tick preferred option)

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

Number: Expiry: /

Name on card: Signature:

Cheque: Payable to The Life Flight Trust

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