

# Life Flight

Saves time. Saves lives

Annual Report 2019



Thank you for helping save lives

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# Welcome from the Chair

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**Kia ora,**

It has been another busy year for the team at Life Flight. Demand for our services continue undiminished and the environment in which we operate continues to evolve.

This requires the team at Life Flight to constantly review how we operate. We have embarked on a major strategic review to ensure that we continue to provide services to the communities we are here to serve, safely and efficiently.

Of course our ability to do so is very much dependent upon the enormous support we receive from our service partners, donors and sponsors. We can never overstate our indebtedness to all of those people and organisations.

We were pleased to see so many supporter faces at this year's Life Flight Gala presented by Hiremaster. What a night that was. More than 200 people attended the third annual event held in our hangar and more than \$100,000 was raised to help us continue saving local lives. The community support was phenomenal with sponsors including PAK'nSave Petone and Hutt City, AV Media, Paula Bevege Events, Simply Food and our long-time friends at Hiremaster.

Of course, none of the life-saving work we do would happen without the fantastic Life Flight team. The dedication and commitment of everyone on the team is truly inspiring.

We are proud of how many people we have been able to help and are focused on ensuring we can continue to be there for anyone who needs us. It is a privilege to be involved with an organisation with such good heart.

Yours faithfully,  
**Richard Stone**  
Life Flight Chair



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Life Flight is a charity that provides the Wellington-based Westpac Rescue Helicopter and a nationwide Air Ambulance Plane service.

Front cover photo donated by Terri Rosenstock



# Foreword from the Chief Executive

Greetings to you all,

I joined the Life Flight team in March. I've come into an organisation that's in really good shape, courtesy of the fantastic leadership of my predecessor, Ian Pirie, and the great team that's in place here in Wellington.

In October 2018 we were part of a successful group bid to continue supplying helicopter rescue services locally across Central New Zealand. Our Westpac Rescue Helicopter continues to cover the Lower North Island and Upper South Island, as part of our partnership with the seven other rescue bases in the Central Air Ambulance Rescue Limited (CAARL) consortium.

My first week ended with our 2019 Open Day. More than 4,000 people attended on a very cold and windy Sunday here at our base. For me, just starting in a new role, it highlighted that teamwork remains at the heart of everything we do.

Our pilots, crew and support teams continue to work closely with Specialist Doctors and Nurses from Wellington Hospital, and Flight Paramedics from Wellington Free Ambulance on every mission.

Safety remains paramount across every aspect of our aeromedical services. We're continually reviewing our day-to-day operations to ensure our aircraft, and all the specialist equipment that they carry, are always ready for whatever challenges our crew might face on their next flight.

And, as I've discovered, keeping two air ambulance planes and a rescue helicopter ready to fly 24/7 takes a lot of time, effort and money. We're very fortunate to continue to enjoy amazing support from a growing number of corporate and community partners, and individual donors, which ultimately helps us to save time and save lives.

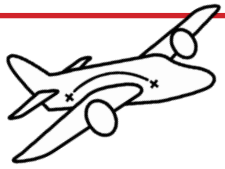
So, on behalf of the entire team, I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who's contributed to Life Flight for your continuing support.

With kind regards,

**Mark Johnston**

Life Flight Chief Executive





**Thanks to the community for your support!**



Thanks to everyone who joined us for our 2019 Open Day. Despite cloudy skies and a chilly Southerly, there were 4,000 supporters in attendance and \$32,000 was raised! Thanks to everyone involved and to our event partner Interislander for helping to make this event possible.



The third annual Life Flight Gala presented by our long-time supporter, Hiremaster, was an incredible success. More than 200 people attended the event held in our hangar, raising more than \$100,000! Thanks to all who made this night so amazing.



# Helping people nationwide

## Emergency flights 2018-19

1,370 Total missions flown

1,599 Total patients flown

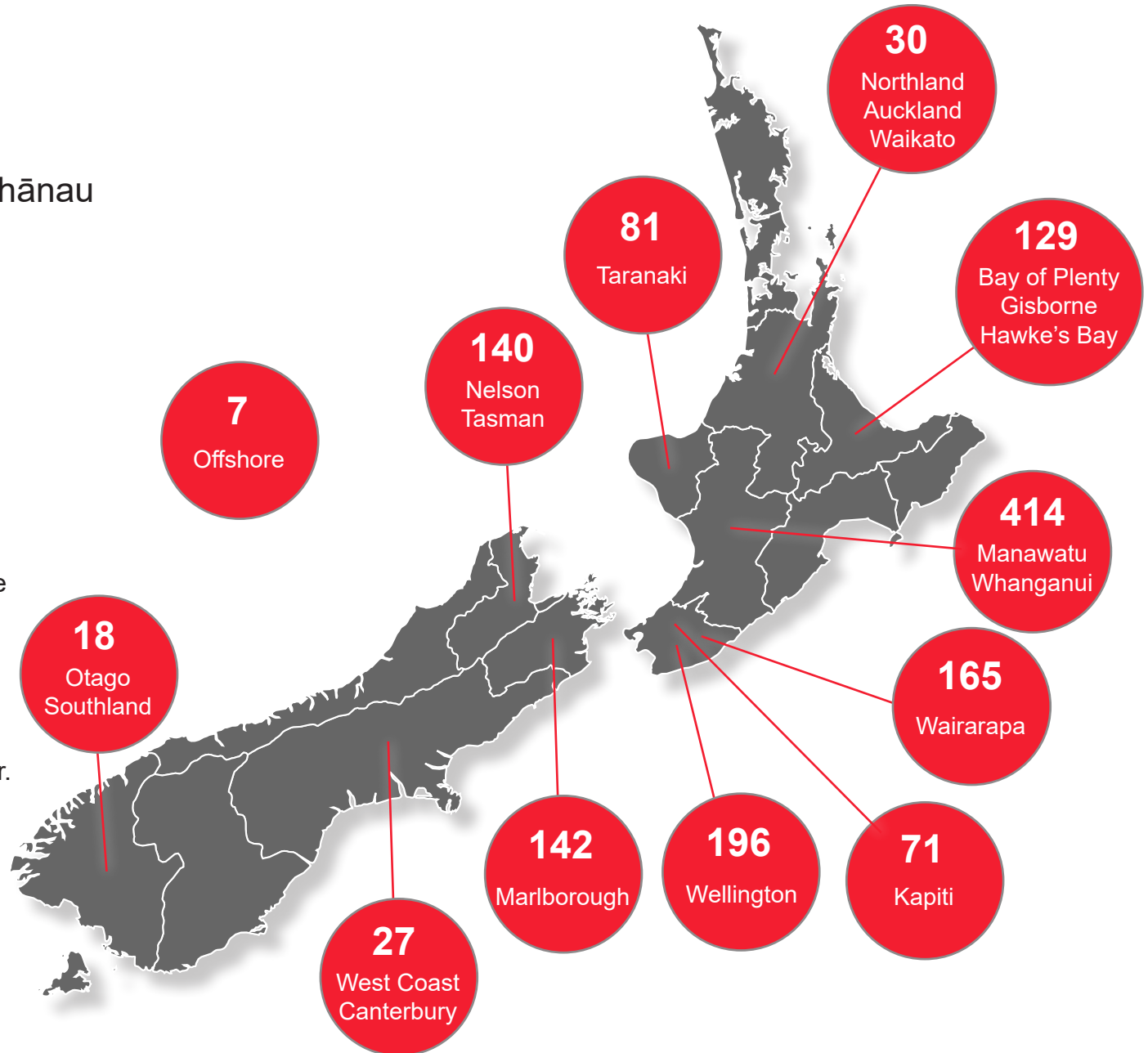
570 Number of accompanying whānau

Wellington Regional Hospital is the tertiary referral centre for the lower North Island and upper South Island.

The Hospital's Intensive Care Unit supports nine public hospitals: Wairau, Nelson, Masterton, Whanganui, Hawkes Bay, Palmerston North, Hutt and Taranaki.

Wellington Hospital is responsible for intensive care patients in those regions who cannot access the care they require locally.

To manage such a large area, the hospital uses Life Flight to perform the necessary emergency air transfers via plane or helicopter.



Map depicts the number of patients who reside in each region who were flown between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019

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## Elsa's flight for life

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**“We just cannot thank you enough. Without this service, Elsa wouldn't be here.” - Sarah, Elsa's mum**

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

Little Elsa fell very ill. She was rushed to Nelson Hospital for x-rays. Doctors identified the very rare birth defect. It 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 operated on the previous case was still at Christchurch Hospital. Thanks to your generosity, Elsa could be flown in our Air Ambulance Plane that night, in time for life-saving surgery.

Her whole family was even able to be flown with her, which was comforting during such a distressing time.

The experienced medical team at Christchurch Hospital performed the challenging surgery successfully. Elsa is now very happy to be home and on the road to recovery.

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

**Thanks to your support, Elsa was urgently flown to life-saving surgery and she is now a healthy little girl.**



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## Joe's bush rescue

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**“My wife, Suzanne, and I offer you our most heartfelt thanks.” - Joe**

Joe and his friend Dave were in the Aorangi Forest Park. After a long day out in the bush, Joe was heading down a steep hill when the ground gave way and sent him sliding down a cliff face.

He fell six metres, badly injuring his leg in the process.

“On the way down my boot got caught in some bedrock sticking out from the side. It cranked my foot at right angles, ripped all the ligaments off my ankle and broke one of the bones below the knee.”

In addition to a broken leg, it was also getting dark and cold. Joe would not be able to walk out on his own in his condition and hypothermia was a very real threat.

Fortunately, Joe was carrying a personal locator beacon with him. His emergency signal was sent.

The Life Flight team soon received the call. Within minutes our Westpac Chopper team was on its way.

Arriving at the scene, our team immediately knew it wasn't going to be an easy rescue. It was pitch black and very windy, and Joe was stuck in a steep valley.

Crewman Mike says, “Darkness was one of the big challenges. We do operate in the dark but there are varying degrees; it ended up being a particularly dark night”.

**It was challenging, but because of the team's incredible training – made possible thanks to your amazing support – Joe was safely and swiftly rescued.**



Photo kindly donated by Pete Monk

## Financials

Fees that we are able to charge government agencies for services make up approximately 50% of the funds required to keep our service operational.

This means there is a significant annual funding shortfall, which our wonderful supporters donate toward.

Life Flight also keeps at least three months' worth of operating costs in reserves.

1 April 2018 - 31 March 2019

Operating Revenue	\$5,852,943
Less Operating and Administrative Expenses	\$10,931,841
Operational Deficit	\$5,078,898
Fundraising Revenue	\$6,104,353
Operating Surplus for the Year	\$1,025,455

## Grant providers

We extend our warmest thanks to the following grant providers who supported us throughout the year:

Grants awarded 1 April 2018 - 31 March 2019

Beverley Newton  
Bowen Trust  
Carterton District Council  
Dorothy L Newman Charitable Trust  
EM Pharazyn Trust  
F H Muter Trust  
J & A Mauger Charitable Trust  
Jack Jeffs Charitable Trust  
Kapiti Coast District Council  
Longford Trust  
Marlborough District Council  
McSyth Charitable Foundation  
Morgan Foundation  
New Zealand Community Trust  
Pelorus Trust  
Porirua City Council  
PwC Foundation Rannoch Charitable Trust  
Ray Watts Charitable Trust  
Roy and Jan Mace Charitable Trust  
The Nick Lingard Foundation  
The Phillip Verry Charitable Foundation  
Upper Hutt City Council  
Wellington City Council  
Wellington Community Trust  
WN Pharazyn Trust



# Thank you so much

To everyone who supports Life Flight, we send a heartfelt thank you for making every mission possible.

## Patron

Her Excellency The Right Honourable Dame Patsy Reddy, Governor-General of New Zealand, is Life Flight's Patron.

## Trustees

As at 31 March 2019

Richard Stone (Chair)

Stephen Ward (Deputy Chair)

Dr. Alex Psirides

Catherine Taylor

Christine Lowry

Greg Bishop

Ian Pirie

Rachael Fletcher

Ross Martin

Sally McKechnie

Thanks to our sponsors:



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Martinborough

HIRESMASTER  
YOUR VISION : OUR EXPERIENCE



MITRE 10  
MEGA  
Marlborough  
Masterton



**Thank you very much for your support!**

Donations make a real difference and are gratefully received.



Photo donated by Lindsay Keats

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