

ANNUAL
REPORT
— 2020

Life Flight

Saves time · Saves lives

1,392
LIVES
SAVED
THIS
YEAR

THANK YOU FOR HELPING SAVE LIVES



Welcome

It's my pleasure to present the 2020 Life Flight Annual Report.

Through one of the most challenging 12 months in our history, Life Flight's Westpac Rescue Helicopter and fixed-wing Air Ambulance Planes have continued to play a vital role in life-saving missions throughout New Zealand.

Demand for our services continues to grow. In the past year, on average, every five or six hours someone urgently needed our help.

But with the arrival of COVID-19, our operational and fundraising strategies were, quite literally, thrown up in the air, with the forced cancellation of all event-based activity. During the different lockdown levels, our base at Wellington International Airport continued to operate – but under strict quarantine measures to ensure the safety of our patients and staff, particularly our Flight Teams.

At a time unlike any faced in living memory, our aeromedical teams went about their work – urgent medical emergencies, helicopter search and rescue missions, and air ambulance responses nationwide, including neonatal and paediatric aeromedical transfers. As normally as possible.

We rely on the generosity of everyday New Zealanders and businesses to keep us flying 24/7, 365-days-a-year. Donations cover about 50 per cent of our operational costs, and it's been hugely heartening to see our supporters dig deep to help us when we've needed them most. It really does make me proud to be part of such a supportive, loyal community.

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



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TO SEE OUR SUPPORTERS

DIG DEEP

TO HELP US WHEN WE'VE
NEEDED THEM MOST.”

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I also want to acknowledge Chief Executive Mark Johnston and his Leadership Team for their focus and collaborative spirit. The entire Life Flight family, comprising a dedicated team of Pilots and Crew, including Flight Doctors, Nurses and Paramedics, and Support Staff, along with our Ambassadors, Stakeholders, Partner Agencies, and fantastic Supporters can be justifiably proud of their achievements in these unprecedented times.

Best wishes,

Richard Stone
LIFE FLIGHT CHAIR

Greetings to you all



My first full-year here at the Life Flight base continued on a reasonably steady upward trajectory, prior to us hitting the COVID-19 pandemic headwinds that have engulfed everyone, right at the very end of our financial year.

The third Annual Life Flight Gala was held here at the base in our aircraft hangars back in September 2019, with almost 250 supporters helping us to raise just over \$100,000 on a fun-packed evening that was hosted by our long-standing friends at Hiremaster. This was closely followed by our first ever UpLift fundraising event in Blenheim, where we raised just over \$70,000 with the help of our fabulous partners at Mitre 10 MEGA Marlborough.

We continue to receive fantastic support from a growing number of individual donors and many long-standing corporate partners, including our Principal Sponsor Westpac, who renewed their sponsorship of the Wellington-based Westpac Rescue Chopper for a further three years in October 2019. Our relationship with the bank dates back almost 40 years, when the then Commercial Bank of Australia (CBA) partnered with Peter Button and Dr Russell Worth, Life Flight's founders, back in 1981 to help ensure that our rescue helicopter was available to help those in need on a 24/7, 365-days-a-year basis.



“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.”

Our strong community connections have continued to grow since then and still underpin our aeromedical service delivery today, with sponsorship and donations combining to account for almost half of our annual income. Without those very generous local contributions we simply wouldn't be able to keep helping those in need get to the best medical care as quickly as possible. Ultimately, it's that support that helps us to save time and save lives on a daily basis.

So again, 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



1,211

MISSIONS
ACCOMPLISHED
2019 | 2020



90

ACCIDENT RESPONSES

25

RESCUE MISSIONS

993

URGENT MEDICAL TRANSFERS

Helping people — nationwide

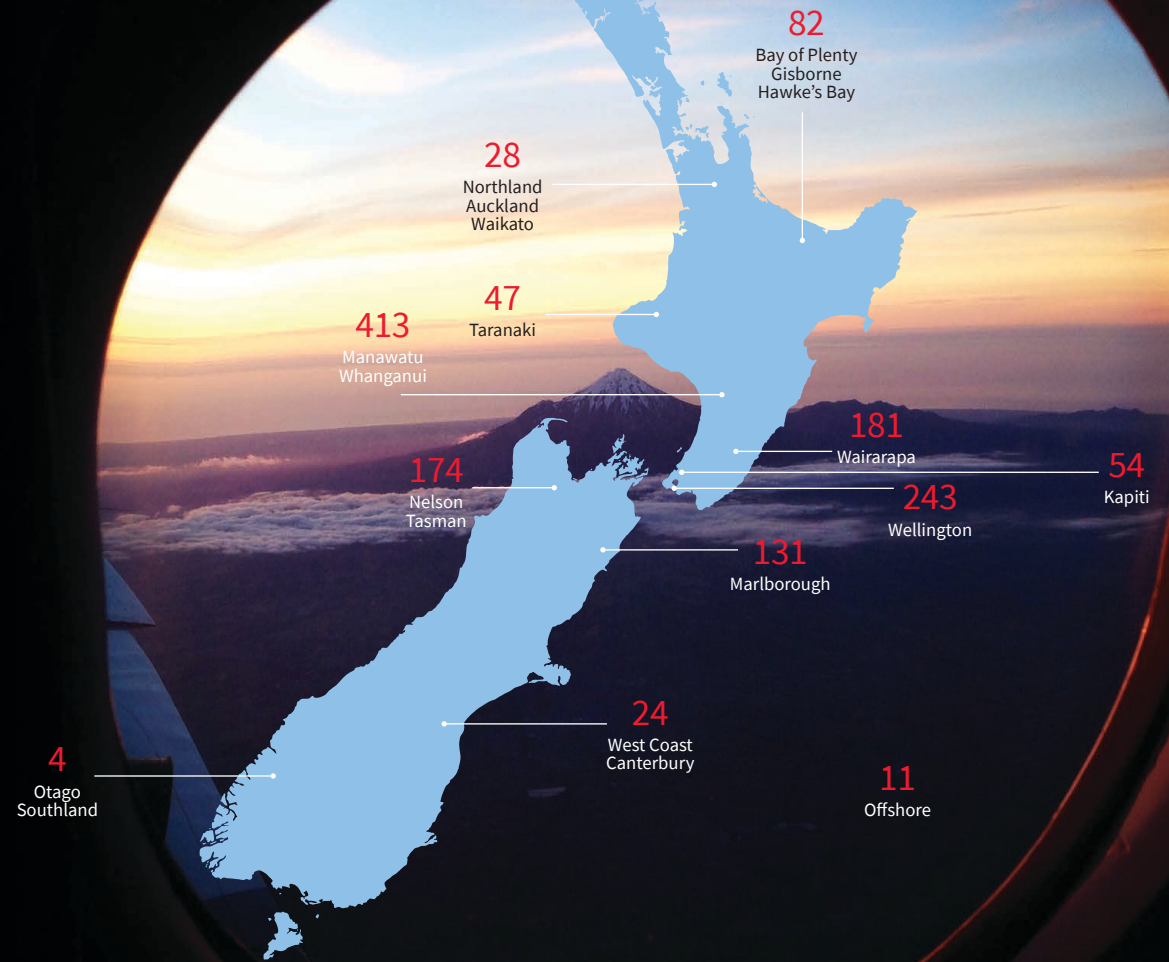
Wellington Regional Hospital is the tertiary referral centre for the lower North Island and upper South Island.

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.

When speed to hospital is critical or when the location is remote or challenging, Life Flight's rescue team is called upon. Our Westpac Rescue Helicopter serves the lower North and upper South Island.



1,211

TOTAL MISSIONS FLOWN

1,392

TOTAL PATIENTS FLOWN

608

NUMBER OF ACCOMPANYING WHĀNAU

Baby Avitaj's — Life-Saving Flight



After a blissful nine months of eagerly awaiting to become a Dad, Dilpreet's life suddenly turned upside down when the doctor warned him, he may lose his baby.

An emergency caesarian at Wellington Hospital brought baby Avitaj into the world while Dad waited nervously for the news. "All I know is I heard the first cries of the baby. I was sitting next to my wife and we were both very happy. I was like, 'Oh he's alive!'"

With Mum, Harchand, in recovery post-operation, the situation turned suddenly.

The right side of Avitaj's heart was growing bigger than the left because blood was being pumped straight back into the heart through the liver; a birth condition known as large congenital AV malformation.

The only option was to airlift Avitaj to Starship Hospital, where the Neonatal Cardiac Surgery team is located.

Dad and baby were taken to the Life Flight base at midnight, while Mum was cared for in Wellington Hospital. They were flown to Auckland in Life Flight's Air Ambulance Plane while Dilpreet watched over his son anxiously. "That was just an hour-long flight, but for me it was second by second."

They got to Starship, Avitaj was taken straight in for life-saving surgery.

Three surgeries later, Dilpreet, Harchand and baby Avitaj returned to their home in Kapiti. Thanks to you, Avitaj is now a happy, bouncing baby, who turned one in July.



"I was very lucky, without that flight

**my son would not
have survived."**

— Dilpreet, Avitaj's Dad

George knew — he was in trouble

When he came to after falling eight metres down a sheer cliff, he was in a state of shock, he found himself on a tiny ledge. Below was a fatal 100 metre drop. George was on a trip to Nelson Lakes with his Dad.

Thankfully, he had an Emergency Locator Beacon with him. Recognising how dangerous his situation was, he pressed the button.

When the alarm sounded Life Flight Pilot Sam was sent on his way soon after.

Pilot Sam headed out in the Westpac Rescue Helicopter with Crewman Logan and Paramedic Nigel.

The beacon signal was bouncing off the valley making it incredibly difficult to find George. Crewman Logan managed to spot the dot that was George clinging to the cliff.

A plan needed to be devised quickly as fuel was running low after a long search, and George couldn't hang on much longer.

Pilot Sam recounted,

“I had to hover the helicopter quite a bit higher than we would normally to maintain a safe rotor distance from the cliff. Logan winched Nigel right onto the ledge where he was able to secure George.”

It takes an incredible amount of training and highly specialised rescue equipment to save a life in a situation like this. Following treatment, George has fully recovered. He and his family know that they have Life Flight – and generous New Zealanders like you – to thank for George's life-saving rescue.



“I'm very grateful to Life Flight and its supporters.

Everybody in our family, including George's twin sister Grace and brother John, is very grateful. If anything would have happened to George it would've changed all our lives terribly. When you donate to Life Flight, not only are you saving people's lives, but you are saving families.”

— Jude, George's Mum

Events

We send our sincere thanks to the wonderful supporters who organise events and raise life-saving funds. We were very fortunate to have many generous people and organisations volunteer their time to organise fundraising events last year, especially as we had to cancel and postpone all events when COVID-19 hit. We wish we could name you all, you're all amazing!



Our good friend Mark Sainsbury interviews the Archer family about little Phoebe's flight at the Life Flight Gala presented by Hiremaster



Westpac Chopper demo at the Life Flight Open Day alongside our event partner Interislander



Our Mazda fleet from our generous vehicle sponsor Fagan Motors, on display at the Open Day

Thanks to our sponsors:



Major Sponsor



Fagan Motors

Vehicle Sponsor



Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

Newstalk ZB



Vital



MITRE 10

MITRE 10
MEGA

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 2019 – 31 March 2020

Operating Revenue	\$6,346,482
Less Operating and Administrative Expenses	\$11,538,468
Operational Deficit	\$5,191,986
Fundraising Revenue	\$6,043,528
Operating Surplus for the Year	\$851,542



GRANT PROVIDERS

We gratefully acknowledge the following originations that provided charitable grant funding in the year to 31 March 2020.

Arthur N Button Charitable Trust	Nikau Foundation
Beverly Newton	Paraparaumu RSA Poppy Fund Trust
Bowen Trust	Pelorus Trust
Dorothy L Newman Charitable Trust	Porirua City Council
EM Pharazyn Trust	Pub Charity
F H Muter Trust	PwC Foundation
Gaynor Charitable Nominees Limited	Rannoch Charitable Trust
Hutt City Council	Ray Watts Charitable Trust
Jack Jeffs Charitable Trust	Rotary Club Of Johnsonville
James Smith Kersley Charitable Trust	Roy and Jan Mace Charitable Trust
Jessie, Alma and Adam Coxon Endowment Fund	SJ Shayle-George Charitable Trust
Kapiti Coast District Council	The Nick Lingard Foundation
Leonard Monk Charitable Trust	The Phillip Verry Charitable Foundation
Longford Trust	Wellington City Council
Marlborough District Council	WN Pharazyn Trust
McSyth Charitable Foundation	Zac Pearson Endowment Fund
New Zealand Community Trust	



Life Flight

Saves time · Saves lives

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Donations make a real
difference and are
gratefully received.

The Life Flight Trust
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Photography donated by Lindsay Keats