Royal Flying Doctor Service
SOUTH EASTERN SECTION

Thursday 13 May 2010

Primary schools celebrate Flying Doctor Day

40 primary schools in NSW and the ACT will celebrate Flying Doctor Day tomorrow; marking the 82nd anniversary of the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS).

Flying Doctor Day is a fun dress-up day where students learn about the Royal Flying Doctor Service and raise awareness in their school community about issues affecting people in the vast Australian Outback.

Students and teachers at primary schools are encouraged to dress up as pilots, doctors, nurses, dentists and patients at school and make a gold coin donation to the RFDS.

Flying Doctor Day coordinator Rachel Fyfe says the event is a great opportunity to teach students about the role the Flying Doctor has played in Australian history, and the role it continues to play in remote Australia today.

“The Flying Doctor is an Australian icon; as Aussie as meat pies, kangaroos, and Uluru, and ours is a great story of the success of one person’s dream to help others,” Ms Fyfe said.

“The RFDS began as an idea by the Rev. John Flynn who wanted to deliver health care services to rural and remote communities. Rev Flynn’s dream was realised when the first Flying Doctor flight took to the skies in May 1928.

“It’s a little known fact that Rev. Flynn’s achievement is considered so important that both he and the first RFDS aircraft, Victory, are featured on the $20 note.

“Today, the Flying Doctor continues Flynn’s dream of providing free emergency aeromedical and essential health care services to the people who live, work and travel in Outback Australia, and we rely on donations from the community to help us keep flying,” Ms Fyfe said.

All funds raised by the primary schools will be used to purchase vital medical equipment and new aircraft so that the RFDS can continue to bring the finest care to the furthest corners.

Participating schools also have the chance to win a FUJIFILM FinePix HS10 camera, kindly donated by FUJIFILM Australia, by sending in photos from this week’s Flying Doctor Day.

- Ends -

For more information or photographs, contact Rachel Fyfe or Ruth Redfern, RFDS (South Eastern Section) on 02 9941 8888 or via rachel.fyfe@rfdsse.org.au or ruth.redfern@rfdsse.org.au.

Schools participating in Flying Doctor Day in NSW/ACT are as follows:

- Raleigh Public School, Raleigh
- Dooralong Public School, Dooralong
- Burnside Public School, North Parramatta
- Oaklands Central School, Oaklands
- St Anthony’s Primary School, Girraween
- Pera Bore Christian School, Bourke
- Boomi Primary School, Boomi
- Oakhill Drive Public School, Castle Hill
- Yetman Public School, Yetman
- Met School Wagga Wagga Campus, Wagga Wagga
- Toongabbie East Primary School, Constitution Hill
- St Ives Park Primary School, St Ives
- Ballimore Public School, Ballimore
- Blackett Primary School, Blackett
- Holy Trinity Primary, Curtin
- Colo Heights Public School, Colo Heights
- Green Point Christian College, Kincumber
- St Mary’s Parish Primary School, Hay
- St Therese’s Community School, Wilcannia
- Tooraweenah Public School, Tooraweenah
- Bellbird Public School, Bellbird
- Grong Grong Public School, Grong Grong
- Pooncarie Public School, Pooncarie
- Met School Leeton Campus, Leeton
- Buronga Public School, Buronga
- Jerilderie Public School, Jerilderie
- Tabulam Public School, Tabulam
- Met School Young Primary Campus, Young
- St Joseph’s Primary School, Wingham
- Coffs Harbour Bible Church School, Toormina
- South Granville Christian School, Granville
- Megalong Public School, Megalong
- Gillieston Public School, Gillieston Heights
- St Joseph’s Primary School, Condobolin
- Windsor South Public School, Windsor South
- Murwillumbah Public School, Murwillumbah
- Manning District Adventist School, Tinonee
- Burrabadine Christian School, Dubbo
- St George’s Christian School, Ramsgate
- Macquarie Primary School, Jamison.