



ROYAL
FLYING DOCTOR
SERVICE
OF AUSTRALIA

Central Operations Incorporated



A Bush Experience

airdoctor

issue 241 · september 2007



ROYAL
FLYING DOCTOR
SERVICE
OF AUSTRALIA

Central Operations Incorporated



Cover Page

Main image:

Heading to Pine Valley Station in
South Australia's mid-north.

Top left:

William Creek identity 'Whitey.'

Top right:

Saddling up on the Great Australian
Outback Cattle Drive.

From the CEO

Another financial year ends and from a management perspective, this provides a time for reflection and assessment of the 12 months just passed whilst we are of course always looking to the future.

One of our strategic goals for 2006/07 was to increase our role in the planning and delivery of Primary Health Services, and I am pleased to report that this was achieved, along with the attainment of greater effectiveness and efficiency in the provision of our aero-medical transport services.

A brief review of the past 12 months is quite revealing and reflects a period of activity of which all associated with RFDS Central Operations should be very proud. In particular, I would like to highlight:

- Increase in the total number of patient contacts
- Increased activity in Primary Health Care initiatives
- Increased hours flown
- Greater efficiency in tasking and aircraft coordination
- Cost per hour flown below budget and consistent with 2005/06
- Aircraft maintenance in accordance with our budget and serviceability/availability of the fleet was high
- Cost per dollar raised in fundraising below 21 cents.

We say a job well done and we are proud of the year and look forward to 2007/08.

Organisationally, David Hills was elected our new Chairman, with Grahame Marshall his deputy. The Board confirmed their commitment to the 2006 Strategic Plan and at the same time, were active drivers in the National Agenda, both from a governance and management perspective.

We appointed George Karlis, General Manager for Safety, Quality and Risk during the year to ensure we enhanced our commitment to the provision of a safe work place whilst delivering greater services in the presence of best practice.

This was the only change to our Senior Management Team and we are very pleased with this stability.

The partnership with the Li Ka Shing Foundation for funding to provide a Healthy Living Program for rural and remote communities in our traditional areas is an exciting one. This initiative, over 10 years, is the most sustainable program we have been involved in and we are excited at the prospect of making a difference for future generations.

The official opening of our new Port Augusta facility is scheduled for 23 November, 2007 and then our attention will turn to our Alice Springs Base.

As supporters, you can be reassured that we have concrete plans in place for future asset replacement which includes 4 new aircraft. In aggregate we have capital commitments of \$30 million over the next 4 years, so there is no shortage of challenges.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution received from all our government funders, our corporate partners, donors, members, volunteers and friends. Together we are a family providing services to those in need.

Your efforts, combined with the outstanding contribution from our Staff and Board, allow us to provide our services in a timely and efficient manner.

Together we make a difference. Central Operations and the RFDS Nationally look forward to tomorrow's challenges and we invite you to continue your significant contribution and participation in our journey.

John Lynch
Chief Executive Officer

The Great Australian Outback Cattle Drive

Earlier this year, Rosemary Moyle, our Senior Flight Nurse in Adelaide, saddled up with some of her colleagues to provide medical support to the popular Great Australian Outback Cattle Drive. We asked Rosemary to provide an overview of her experiences on this unique adventure which attracted participants from all over the world.

From 21 May until 10 June 2007, the RFDS was asked to support the Great Australian Outback Cattle Drive. The Drive commenced at Anna Creek Station and then followed the route of the historic Oodnadatta Track via William Creek, to finish in Marree in the northern reaches of South Australia.

Anna Creek Station is the world's largest working cattle station, covering an area of around 34,000 km², or 6 million acres and for many of the international visitors, this was almost impossible to comprehend.

Four RFDS Flight Nurses - Gabrielle Ransley, Ali Laidler, Steven Dounton and myself and four doctors - Lloyd Evans, Sally Cole, Terry Farquharson and Richard Wilson, all volunteered their time and each worked a leg of the Drive.

Following a great promotional job by Tourism SA, the event was a sell out, with approximately 80 guests on each of the four legs. Participants were all from interesting and diverse backgrounds whilst the age range was quite broad which also added to the overall experience. Each person came with the anticipation

of having fun and adventure and whilst most had some riding experience there were some novice riders.

Many had special reasons for doing the Drive, such as three ladies from Adelaide who were celebrating their 60th birthdays. Then there was the two elderly brothers who had come all the way from Scotland especially to retrace the steps taken by their ancestors who had settled at Anna Creek following a long journey in very harsh conditions at the time.

This diversity did not worry the very capable and experienced Outback drovers who had spent a great deal of time getting the horses prepared for their mounts. One could sense the thrill and romance of the old droving days once the riders mounted and the cattle started to push forward each morning.

Thankfully there were only two falls from horses on the whole drive and the RFDS staff were able to stabilise those patients quickly and transport them in an accompanying ambulance to William Creek. Here they were met at the airstrip by RFDS aircraft which then flew them down to Adelaide in around 90 minutes for treatment.



Above: Outside the famous William Creek Hotel are RFDS Senior Flight Nurse, Rosemary Moyle (right) with Dr Lloyd Evans who served the RFDS for many years as Manager of Health Services and then Board member.

Fantastic support for the drive was provided by the many volunteers and workers co-ordinated by Tourism SA. All the guests commented on how they thoroughly enjoyed the experience which had been superbly organised in all aspects.

The RFDS was also a beneficiary of a series of auctions that were held along the route and which raised over \$10,000 which was fantastic. We would like to thank Tourism SA for organising this and also to those people who purchased items, only to donate them straight back for someone else to purchase! Perhaps all those hours in the sun took their toll.

For our staff that took part in the Drive, it was a rare experience which is all part of the unique opportunity that working with the RFDS provides.

Rosemary Moyle
Senior Flight Nurse
RFDS Adelaide Base

New Flying Doctor TV Series



A new television series, aptly titled Royal Flying Doctor Service, will soon

be shown around Australia but the program will be quite different to those dramatic days when actors Andrew McFarlane, Peter O'Brien and Rebecca Gibney played starring roles.

Channel 9 will be showing a brand new observational documentary series that follows the daily working lives of the RFDS staff and the patients they treat. Produced in the style of the award-winning RPA series, this brand new real life documentary series invites viewers to share the lives of those Australians saved by RFDS doctors, flight nurses, pilots and communications and support staff. The series has recently been filmed in Broken Hill, one of the RFDS' most traditional bases and the geographic coverage of the cases will be extensive.

Channel 9's Director of Programming, Michael Healy, said: "The Royal Flying Doctor Service provides a vital service to thousands of Australians throughout regional areas and the outback. We are extremely proud of this new series, which will give viewers an insight into the extensive work they do, often in extremely difficult and dramatic circumstances."

Channel 9 is an important partner of RFDS Central Operations, providing air time, provision of TV personalities for major events and other support which helps to raise our profile. Watch your program guides as the new RFDS series is sure to be a ratings winner!



ROYAL
FLYING DOCTOR
SERVICE
OF AUSTRALIA

Central Operations Incorporated



Mitsubishi Employees Going the Extra Mile



In a show of extraordinary generosity, the Mitsubishi Employees Canteen Society made a donation of \$400,000 to the RFDS which will be applied to the medical fit-out of our next Pilatus PC-12 aircraft which is currently on order.

The canteen is based at Mitsubishi Motors Australia's head office at Tonsley Park in the southern suburbs of Adelaide.

Bill Greene, a long term Mitsubishi employee and a member of the Canteen Society commented, "All the workers associated with this donation are really thrilled that we have been able to make this kind of contribution to such a fantastic Australian service. It was really interesting for a group of us to be able to go down to the hangar and look around the aircraft and meet a number of the RFDS staff who are obviously so devoted to their work."

John Tobin, General Manager Public Relations & Marketing for RFDS Central Operations responded, "I would have to say that we were astounded when advised of this donation from the employees at Mitsubishi – it's an incredibly generous gift. Whilst Bill commented on the pride that we have in working for the RFDS, we couldn't help but notice the commitment and loyalty demonstrated by the Mitsubishi employees we met and the pride they take in the vehicles they manufacture here in South Australia."

The RFDS recognises that Workplace Giving is a growing area of interest for many companies and their employees and regardless of the size of the financial contribution, any level of support is most welcome. If you would like to learn more about workplace giving or other ways in which you can involve your company with the RFDS, please contact our Corporate Partnerships Manager, Simon Peucker, on tel 08 8238 3328 or email simon.peucker@flyingdoctor.net

Above: Richard Collette (left) and Bill Greene (right) from Mitsubishi with John Tobin from the RFDS.

Right: RFDS Senior Pilot, Brenton 'Farmer' Hissey on route to Alice Springs.

Australia's Most Trusted

For the second time in the past four years, the Royal Flying Doctor Service has been awarded the title of Australia's Most Trusted Charity in an independent national survey conducted by Reader's Digest.

In its latest poll, Reader's Digest surveyed 750 Australians to find out the professions, institutions and brands Australians trust & why.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service achieved the number one ranking in the charity category with St John's Ambulance and the Guide Dogs coming in as the next most trusted organisations.

Staff employed by the RFDS also ranked highly in the Most Trusted Professions list, with Nurses, Pilots and Doctors coming in at numbers 3, 4 and 6 respectively.

RFDS Chief Executive Officer, John Lynch, commented "This nomination is one that should make all our staff, volunteers and supporters feel tremendously proud. Perhaps the recognition reflects the fact that we may not be the most prominent organisation in terms of everyday public exposure, but our crews are always there – 24 hours, every day of the year, come rain or shine. I think there is a heartfelt belief out there in the community that the RFDS can always be relied upon and this is reflected in the survey results."

Clare Valley Riesling Trail Bike Ride

The Clare Valley Riesling Trail Bike Ride is a new fundraising event on the RFDS calendar. Now in its third year, the volunteer organisers of this popular day out have chosen the RFDS as their new preferred charity of choice from 2007.

The Ride aims to encourage families and cycling enthusiasts from across South Australia to have a fun and enjoyable day out whilst riding through scenic vineyards and wineries along the picturesque Riesling Trail in the Clare Valley, South Australia.

The Clare Valley is undoubtedly one of Australia's most charming premium wine producing regions and the Riesling Trail links cellar doors with the historic townships that make this such a popular tourist destination.

The event will be held on Sunday 18 November 2007 (the week after the Adelaide Christmas Pageant) and offers riding opportunities for people of all ages, experience and skill levels. All rides commence at the beautiful Sevenhill Cellars and there are two broad categories as follows:

1. Clare Valley Riesling Trail (three options)

- 12 kilometre short course for children and less experienced riders and going from Sevenhill Cellars to Leasingham Wines (just on the outskirts of the Clare township) and back.
- 28 kilometre longer course going from Sevenhill Cellars to Mitchells Wines, then through the township of Penwortham and onto O'Leary Walker Wines before returning to Sevenhill Cellars.

- 40 kilometre option which encompasses both of the above rides by completing the 28 km option and then, instead of returning immediately to Sevenhill, first completing a loop to Leasingham Wines.

2. Clare Valley Road Cycle (two options)

This is for more serious riders and in particular, road cyclists, with two options of approximately 50 and 100 kilometres. The route starts at Sevenhill Cellars and travels into Clare past Leasingham Wines. Whilst traversing different routes, both rides travel out to Farrell Flat, then on to the idyllic township of Mintaro, passing old stone cottages and picturesque vineyards.

The shorter ride then winds back to Sevenhill Cellars while the longer journey heads further south to the township of Leasingham, then on to Auburn. Riders will then turn back, heading towards Clare via Penwortham where they will commence the John Horrocks loop, past Mitchell Wines then back to Sevenhill Cellars.

Fun Activities

At the completion of the ride there will be lots of fun activities taking place in the beautiful grounds of Sevenhill Cellars to provide for a great afternoon's entertainment.



This will include live music, games for the kids, gourmet food and wine tastings whilst a complimentary sausage sizzle will be available to all riders. Popular Channel 9 personality Sonia Madigan will also be joining us for the day.

How you can help the RFDS

Riders will be asked to pay a fee (highlighted on the right) to cover the costs of staging the event whilst we will also be asking riders to seek sponsors to support the ride (for instance an amount per kilometre or a straight out donation). Some great prizes will be available to the most successful fundraisers, with the first prize being a trip for two in premium Gold Class service aboard the Indian Pacific from Adelaide to Perth with return flights (value over \$3,000).

Major Sponsor



foundation

Media Partners



The Advertiser
Make the most of every day.

Registration fees:

Riesling Trail

- \$15 for under 16 years
- \$25 for adults
- \$60 for a family (two adults plus accompanying children under 16 years)

Road Cycle

- \$50 per rider

What to do now

Call the RFDS on 08 8238 3333 to receive a registration pack which will provide you with all the information you need. Come on.....get involved, get healthy and have some fun whilst supporting a very worthwhile cause!

The organisers of the Clare Valley Riesling Trail Bike Ride and the RFDS wish to thank the following sponsors for their generous support.



ROYAL
FLYING DOCTOR
SERVICE
OF AUSTRALIA

Central Operations Incorporated



Being a Bush Doctor

Ask most people about the work of the Royal Flying Doctor Service and they will generally be aware of our emergency services. However the public is often less familiar with the General Practice clinics that the RFDS provides to many remote communities across Australia which are a critical part of our preventative health care service which complements our emergency role.

In this feature, we have asked one of our 4 Port Augusta based General Practitioners, Dr Andy Killcross, to share some of his experiences in order to paint a picture of what it's like to provide medical consults in the vast Australian Outback.

Above left: Dr Steve Ballard from the RFDS at a community sausage sizzle in Oodnadatta.

Top right: The Clinic hut at Blinman

It's 7.30am on a typical weekday morning at Port Augusta Airport and the place is buzzing with activity. We're just a few minutes from take off and our clinic crew of GP, pilot, clinic nurse and mental health nurse are finalising our plans for the day ahead. The doors of our PC-12 aeroplane are open and we're loading our supplies up into the back of its cargo hold; an arsenal of bags crammed with everything from a portable pharmacy to surgical instruments, eskies (for the storage of blood samples) and a vitally important flask for that early morning hot coffee.

Then it's all aboard before cranking up the engine as we approach the runway and then hurtle down the strip, gaining pace before being fired up into a bright blue sky. We're on our way and en route to the day's remote clinic destinations in the north of South Australia.

Coming from the United Kingdom, I had never really comprehended what the Australian guidebooks described as 'big' when talking about the magnitude of this vast continent. It wasn't until I arrived at Brisbane airport as a medical student that the enormity of the

place truly hit home. I asked the giant of a man behind the information desk how long it would take for the coach to drive the 'short' distance (half an hour by my map reading prowess) between Brisbane and Rockhampton. Eleven and a half weary hours later my coach pulled into Rocky! 'Big' was truly the word.

The hundreds of thousands of square kilometres that the Port Augusta RFDS base covers is immense by most people's definition and it's one that's also filled with more intriguing places and characters than you could possibly imagine.

Like all populations, the fine folk of South Australia's bush are periodically struck down with illness and injury. Out in the remote areas there is a network of local clinics dotted around the place which provide a very high standard of health care to their neighbouring communities. Some clinics, such as those at Marree, Mintabie and Oodnadatta, are run entirely by nursing staff and health care workers with no permanent GP in residence.

Other locations, such as William Creek and Commonwealth Hill Station, have no resident medical staff at all. It's in both of these situations that we offer RFDS clinical services; whether to assist the local health care staff or to offer a complete family health care clinic where no such service is regularly available. The magnitude and frequency of such services is individually tailored to the identified need of the locations concerned, while the clientele are widely diverse, including Jackaroos, Lithuanian miners, Aboriginal elders and German backpackers stopping for a while to pick up some casual work.

One of the most satisfying and privileged parts of our job is the opportunity that we have to form long lasting relationships with many of our clients and their families. In the majority of cases we will be well acquainted with several generations of each family and may even have delivered their children or grandchildren. This is a really important part of community medicine and one that's particularly prominent in the remote communities that we serve. Many such people are hundreds



of kilometres from larger service centres and for them to have contact with health workers who are familiar with their history and circumstances is vital.

So what's a typical clinic day like and what kinds of challenges do our team face?

The environment in which we work shares both similarities and stark contrasts with the world of suburban city medicine that many of you will be familiar with. Whilst our practises are every bit as "evidence based" as any city surgery, the ways in which we deliver them often require a greater degree of invention and adaptation.

Take, for example, the clinic at William Creek. Our team consults people in an ATCO hut on the side of the runway and our clients have often travelled long distances over treacherous terrain to get to us. Patients wait in another hut across the path with the waiting room a real hive of activity, conversation and dare I say it, a bit of gossip on the odd occasion!

The clinics provide a great opportunity for people to catch up with 'neighbours' that they might not have been seen for weeks. All kinds of interesting challenges pass through our doors, be it immunising babies, checking on a pregnant mum or giving someone the chance to chat about their life's stresses – the latter being an increasingly important issue. Other patients might have returned home after a recent operation and need a check up or their stitches pulling out, while many people simply like to pop in and say G'day and catch up over a cuppa.

Along with the common General Practice style medicine that we see, we are also regularly provided with more unusual experiences. It's not uncommon to be asked to attend to the ailing family pooch or pull out a crumbling wisdom tooth. We've happily attended to patients in a wide range of locations, be it in their potting shed, the passenger seat of their ute or lying on the floor of the local road house.

One experience I'll never forget was listening to the pregnant tummy of a local farmer who was attending a gymkhana. We ran a medical clinic in a MASH style green combat tent perched along side the horse enclosure. As sounds of the unborn baby's heartbeat rippled through the canvas, I could suddenly feel the warm air of an inquisitive horse snorting through the tent's mesh window, keen to explore the noises within. Mum, like many of the locals remained completely unfazed by the whole experience. Having recently emerged from the comparatively sterile world of suburban General Practise it was certainly something new to a naïve young doctor from deepest Manchester.

One of the things that I've learned from my time with the RFDS is that distance is no longer the barrier that it once was. Thanks to technology we can now reach people more quickly, we have wider access to specialised diagnostic tests in ever more remote locations and we are able to seek the advice of specialist teams more readily. Some regional hospitals have "real time" video recording on site so that local patients can be directly linked

with major teaching hospitals in the city. Many remotely located families also possess internet access and digital technology such as cameras that allow them to be readily connected with the rest of the planet at the push of a button, such is the power of satellite technology.

However despite all these advances, the true appeal of providing clinical services to these remote communities lies in the basics. These townships (or homesteads in many instances) and the people that live there are typified by a resilient community spirit, a great sense of generosity and a truly admirable fortitude, and generally hundreds of miles from the conveniences of the city. It's here that I have come to appreciate the simple pleasure of enjoying a cup of tea and a chat while catching up on the latest news in the bush. This is truly General Practice at its best.

Dr Andy Killcross

Above left: RFDS Pilot Matt Cosier making the coffees up north while the medical team attend to clinic patients.

Above right: An outback evacuation.



ROYAL
FLYING DOCTOR
SERVICE
OF AUSTRALIA

Central Operations Incorporated



Wings for Life Ball Flies Higher than Ever

On Saturday 30 June over 900 people converged on the Adelaide Entertainment Centre to celebrate what transpired to be one of the RFDS' greatest events, the 2007 Wings For Life Ball.

The main arena floor was filled with RFDS staff, supporters and corporate sponsors whilst other people were joining the RFDS for the first time.

In a divergence from our traditional opening, bushfire survivor Wayne Griffith recalled dramatically the day when his world changed forever as a result of the raging flames that swept across Eyre Peninsula, claiming his wife and two grandchildren. It was a confronting portrayal from an amazing man who, despite his personal trauma, wanted to relay the message that anyone, no matter where they live, may need to call on the RFDS. Throughout Wayne's speech you could have heard a pin drop despite the room being full to capacity.

Our MC for the night, the very witty and entertaining former Australian Test cricketer, Wayne Phillips, then took to the floor and he very quickly had our guests relaxed and laughing – often at his own expense.

After dinner a very quick but highly successful auction of six major items took place with Alex Candetti generously paying \$19,000 to take a group of eight on a magnificent journey aboard The Legendary Ghan to Darwin in their own private carriage. An original Pro Hart painting also proved extremely popular and sold for \$11,000.

It was then time for some song and dance which provided the cue to call up on stage the star of the evening, the brilliant Australian diva, Kate Ceberano, who gave a wonderful interactive performance which saw the dance floor full very early on in the evening. Kate went way beyond the call with her performance by even raising over \$7,000 herself by encouraging guests to join her on stage for a brief moment of fame in front of a very appreciative and generous audience.

Even South Australian Minister Patrick Conlon, who is responsible for the Energy, Infrastructure and Transport portfolios, succumbed to Kate's charms and, along with a bit of prompting from his friends at Adelaide Airport Limited, found himself up on stage to the amusement of all in attendance.

Not to be outdone, our CEO John Lynch took to the stage with local cover band Flirt and performed his annual rendition of Kenny Rogers' *The Gambler*.

By the end of the night a staggering \$211,000 was raised after all expenses were paid. We would particularly like to thank Beach Petroleum, Adelaide Airport Limited, Candetti

Constructions and a number of generous individual supporters who made significant donations at the end of the night and which ensured all records were broken and expectations exceeded!

Of course an event such as this is only possible with the generous support of our sponsors who are highlighted below. We are extremely grateful for their support. The bar has certainly been raised for 2008 – our 80th year!

Above left: Kate Ceberano in fine form. Right: CEO of RFDS Central Operations, John Lynch (left) was presented with a cheque for \$10,000 from Dr Tim Cooper on behalf of the Coopers Brewery Foundation.

Major Sponsors



Supporting Sponsors





Kokoda Trail – Anzac Day 2007

In April, RFDS Port Augusta Base Manager, Phil Moran, along with RFDS Flight Nurses, Steven Dounton (Adelaide) and Alison Laidler (Alice Springs) made the pilgrimage to Papua New Guinea to walk the Kokoda Trail. Alison filed this report on a journey which means so much to so many Australians.

With 17 other trekkers and 40 porters we left Kokoda village on 16 April, hiking for 9 days through thick jungle, humidity and a lot of mud. The daily briefings given by our trek-master, Adrian, generally consisted of the same information, "Today there will be some ups and downs, some mud, lots of tree roots and it is very slippery. You will need to go very slowly and be careful."

Our accommodation varied between our tents, which we discovered on our first night were not waterproof, and guest houses, which were essentially wooden huts consisting of a floor, half walls, and a roof. Often there would be 16 of us all lying side by side in these huts, which meant we got to know each other pretty well. We also soon discovered that our Port Augusta Base Manager is a very heavy sleeper although he managed to keep us awake with his snoring prowess!

Trekking along the Kokoda Trail was an amazing experience which enabled us to pay homage to those Australians who fought under horrific conditions, often grossly under-prepared and under-trained, to repel the advancing, and much larger Japanese army. Whilst the conditions in which we undertook the trek could not have been more different, the experience gave us a greater understanding of the history of the battles and a glimpse into the conditions endured by the soldiers as they fought gallantly to protect our country.

The Dawn Service on ANZAC Day at the Bomana War Cemetery where over 3,700 soldiers are buried was a very emotional experience and a fitting conclusion to the trip. We felt extremely proud to be Australian and are forever indebted to the soldiers who fought for our country.

Left: RFDS staff members Phil Moran, Alison Laidlaw and Steven Dounton.

Australia's Top Drop Pushing the RFDS Barrel

Jacob's Creek has been a wonderful supporter of RFDS Central Operations over the past 4 years, providing their outstanding range of Reserve Collection wines at many of our major events at no cost to our organisation.

We are delighted to announce that, through its parent company, Pernod Ricard Pacific, Jacob's Creek is extending its support nationally to support all RFDS operations.

John Tobin, RFDS General Manager Public Relations & Marketing commented, "It really is a great fit as we are 2 of Australia's most internationally recognised brands. The RFDS prides itself on its capacity to deliver a quality service, every hour of every day, whilst Jacob's Creek is known the world over for its consistency, quality and approachability. There's a nice synergy there!"

For those of you that appreciate history, when William Jacob first surveyed the Barossa region of South Australia in 1839, he and his brother John took up land in the Hundred of Moorooroo. The creek was later renamed Jacob's Creek after William Jacob and the Jacob brothers' small cottages still stand, overlooking Jacob's Creek. In 1846 a German immigrant, Johann Gramp, purchased land further up stream. A year later he planted the Barossa Valley's first commercial vineyard, on the bank of Jacob's Creek. His first vintage was in 1850, and he continued to make wine in his small ironstone winery beside Jacob's Creek until his death at the age of 84.

Today, Jacob's Creek is a true Australian icon and the world's best known wine brand, offering an outstanding range of award winning wines. The RFDS wishes to thank Jacob's Creek for its support and for those of you that like the occasional drink (in moderation of course) we highly recommend their Reserve range of premium varietal wines.



ROYAL
FLYING DOCTOR
SERVICE
OF AUSTRALIA

Central Operations Incorporated



Far Left: Tatiara RFDS Support Group Joint President 2006, Brian Miller, presenting a cheque to Jan Ward, RFDS Volunteer Coordinator.

Left: The RFDS Adelaide's Auxiliary's Sunday Brunch attracted 165 guests.

RFDS Auxiliaries & Support Groups

Port Augusta in Boom Times

John Lynch, CEO of RFDS Central Operations, was delighted to accept a cheque for \$40,000 from the RFDS Port Augusta Auxiliary at their annual Morning Tea, held at the Port Augusta Yacht Club in July. The members had another outstanding year, working tirelessly in the local community and achieving a great result.

Fundraising activities have included catering, a Melbourne cup luncheon, a High Flying Musical Extravaganza whilst local businesses, individuals and community groups have also provided generous support.

Jan Holberton from the town of Cook (population has varied recently between 2 and 4) was welcomed to the morning tea as a special guest. Jan has a small shop in Cook which she opens for passengers of the Indian Pacific and to whom she sells souvenirs, magazines and books. In the past year Jan raised in excess of \$7,000 which was a magnificent effort.

We would also like to extend special congratulations to long term member, Barbara Rasmus, who earlier this year was named Port Augusta Citizen of the Year.

Whilst Tatiara Remains Bullish!

The Tatiara RFDS Support Group held their Handover Dinner on Friday 6 July and presented their annual fundraising total of \$25,000 to Jan Ward, RFDS Volunteer Coordinator.

During the year the group had an abundance of catering jobs offered to them and because of this it was decided to form a catering committee. This committee performed incredibly and raised \$7,357 from their catering efforts which exceeded previous fundraising results by a long way. Their cuisine is now highly sought after by local clubs and individual members of the community!

In the next few months the group is undertaking a membership drive in Bordertown and would like all the community to join the Support Group in their 'fun' in fundraising efforts.

For enquiries please ring secretary Kaye McCarthy on 08 8752 0870.

And it's not only Oysters that are Growing in Cowell

The RFDS Cowell & District Support Group, which has only been going for two years, had an excellent year of fundraising in their small but charming town on the Eyre Peninsula. They doubled their fundraising dollars and this year donated \$3,900 at a luncheon held at the Commercial Hotel.

Their result was underpinned by a donation from a Bikeathon around the Arno Bay, Cowell, Darke Peake and Cleve areas, a contribution from the Cowell Button Club, the sale of merchandise through the local Craft Shop and finally, a very successful trading table at the annual badge day.

There is currently only a small number of members involved in this group and they would love to hear from anyone who would like to become involved in helping them to raise funds whilst socialising with other

members of the community. Please contact the Secretary Marj Cox on 08 8629 2264.

Adelaide Auxiliary Firing on all Cylinders

The RFDS Adelaide Auxiliary had another very busy year with many fundraising activities, including their annual card day, badge day, Caulfield Cup luncheon, popular Sunday brunch featuring Dr Bill Griggs, a number of sausage sizzles and a sold out film afternoon. It seems there weren't too many Adelaide suburbs that weren't infiltrated in some form or other! Congratulations on an excellent effort in raising \$54,000 over the past year.

This year the Auxiliary also received a donation of \$21,000 from Alan and Dorothy Head who run the Hangar Op Shop at Murray Bridge. We would like to pay special tribute to Alan and Dorothy who are two tireless volunteers for the RFDS. We also wish to thank the Henley & Grange Woodworker Group which manufactures and sells toys with all proceeds supporting the RFDS.



Kimberly-Clark helping us to Fly Higher

Kimberly-Clark and its Millicent Mill employees recently presented the RFDS with a cheque for \$25,000 as a final contribution to the Wings for Life Appeal. This takes their total contribution to \$100,000 over four years which represents a wonderful contribution.

Ross Nugent, Kimberly-Clark's Millicent Mill Manager, said "The commitment made by our employees over the past four years is outstanding. They recognise the importance of the RFDS to the South East region which has been demonstrated by their willingness to put their hands in their pockets to support the Appeal. It was also great to see the company lending its financial support."

Kimberly-Clark is the name behind famous Australian brands such as Kleenex, Cottonelle, Scott, Huggies and Snugglers. In 2006 the RFDS made 782 landings in the South East, an average of more than two per day. Landings are made in Mount Gambier, Naracoorte, Bordertown, Millicent, Kingston and Keith.

Wilpena Under the Stars 2008

Thank you to the many people who have been enquiring about Wilpena Under the Stars 2008. This unique and wonderful event will occur on **1 March 2008** and as always, it will be a spectacular evening of premium food and wine whilst guests will again be entertained by a stellar Australian artistwatch this space!

Please note that we had planned to hold the event one week earlier but this was changed once the announcement was made that the

Clipsal 500 would be held at that time which causes considerable difficulty with resource availability. Furthermore, we know from experience that there are a considerable number of "petrol heads" amongst our supporter base so we have opted to allow you to attend both events!

The next edition of Airdoctor will contain more information but to make ticket reservations call Michelle Foy on 08 8238 3333 or email events@flyingdoctor.net



Above left: Simon Peucker and John Tobin from the RFDS with Roger Taylor, John Downes (holding cheque), Mark Plunkett, Kevin Millie and Ross Nugent from Kimberly-Clark Australia.

Above right: Jackie Corbett, Marlene Elliott, Anna Pietrafesa and Emma Joyce from KPMG with Simon Peucker from the RFDS

KPMG Charity Quiz Night

On Friday 27 July more than 400 of KPMG's clients and friends made their way to AAMI Stadium for the 4th KPMG Charity Quiz Night & Auction and this year supporting the RFDS.

The aim of the evening was to match the 2005 record of \$50,000 but the support and generosity of the guests proved to be overwhelming and at the end of the evening, KPMG Chairman of Partners, Peter Siebels, proudly announced that this figure had been surpassed.

Hosted by TV and radio personality John Deane, the evening consisted of a variety of themed questions which tested the most knowledgeable of academic brains, and an auction featuring some rare items such as the chance to be a clown at this year's Christmas Pageant.

The RFDS was well represented with Board Chairman, David Hills and Board members Tim Cooper and Glenise Coulthard enjoying proceedings along with our CEO, John Lynch, who as usual entertained the crowd in characteristic style.

Special thanks to the KPMG Committee, in particular Marlene Elliott and Emma Joyce, for their energy and enthusiasm in organising this wonderful event.





ROYAL
FLYING DOCTOR
SERVICE
OF AUSTRALIA

Central Operations Incorporated

A publication of the
Royal Flying Doctor Service,
Central Operations Inc
PO Box 381
Marleston DC, SA 5033
Ph (08) 8238 3333
Fax (08) 8234 5640
www.flyingdoctor.net/central

Calendar of Events

August

29 - Sept 25 Outback Push Bike Trek, Charleville to Adelaide

David Steer is embarking on a marathon bicycle ride from Charleville to Adelaide via Broken Hill and Port Augusta in support of the Flying Doctor. For more information call David on 0448 717 391.

September

9 Port River Cruise & Lunch, Port Adelaide

Join the RFDS Holdfast Bay Dinner Club for their first fundraiser - a great afternoon on the Port River where you can view the massive transformation of the old Port area – and possibly a few dolphins! Enjoy a two hour cruise on the MV Port Princess, including a hearty lunch of schnitzel served with a fresh garden salad and all for just \$20 per person. Call Jan on 08 8238 3333 to book your place.

12 Mundoo Breakfast, Midura

Join the Sunraysia Support Group for Breakfast and cruise on the PS Mundoo on the River Murray in Mildura. There are hundreds of prizes for the raffle and a healthy rivalry between tables to collect the largest number of prizes! For further enquiries please phone June on 03 5023 5338.

20 Fashion Parade & Morning Tea, Adelaide Oval

The Adelaide Auxiliary will be holding a fashion parade and morning tea at the Gil Langley Room at Adelaide Oval. Fashions are by Chelsea Fashions of Kensington Park. Tickets are \$25 per person. Please call Rosemary on 08 8369 1951 for bookings.

22 Roxby Downs Golf Day and Giant Auction, Roxby Downs

Get out your golf clubs and enjoy a wonderful day with the Roxby Downs Support Group and the local police at the annual Roxby Downs Golf Day and Giant Auction. This is a huge family day of fun and fundraising. To register a team or to find out more call Marie on 08 8671 0228.

22 Lawn Sale (Trash & Treasure), Alice Springs

The Alice Springs Auxiliary will help you to find that long awaited treasure at the Annual Lawn Sale, RFDS Alice Springs Base, Stuart Terrace, Alice Springs. For further information please call Coral on 08 8952 3931.

25-27 Yorke Peninsula Field Day

Come and meet the Copper Coast Support Group in the Stock Journal Tent at the Yorke Peninsula Field Days. RFDS merchandise will be available from the stall. For further information call Anne on 08 8824 2209 or visit the Field Day website at www.ypfielddays.com.au

30 Roseview Gardens Open Garden (Hawson Rural, Port Lincoln)

Take the opportunity to visit this magnificent garden between 10am & 4.30pm and support the RFDS. The cottage gardens of Roseview feature more than 500 roses, tulips, ranunculus and anemones. To get there from Port Lincoln turn at KFC roundabout into Flinders Highway and proceed past golf course to Little Swamp Lane (third on right). For more information call Vicki Rice on 8684 2031.

October

6 Alice Springs Race Day, Alice Springs

Enjoy a day out at the Alice Springs Race Day and meet the Alice Springs Auxiliary. For further details please call Coral on 08 8952 3931.

9 Antique & Collectables afternoon, Clare

The Clare Support Group invites you to an Antiques & Collectables Afternoon at 2pm at the Lutheran Hall, Sabine Street, Clare. Antiques and collectables will be on display and appraisals will be available on the day. Items need to be at the hall by 1pm. Admission \$8 and includes afternoon tea. Further details are available from Shirley on 08 8842 2214.

18 Caulfield Cup Luncheon, Plympton

This is a day not to be missed! A buffet smorgasbord at The HWY (formerly Highway Inn) Anzac Highway, 11.30am for 12 noon start. Happy hour between 12-1pm. Best Ladies & Gents hat parade, sweep, TAB facilities, big screen. Tickets are just \$35. For bookings call Peter on 08 8371 4966.

21 Coast FM Open Day, Glandore

Come and meet the Adelaide Auxiliary on Sunday 21st October 2007 at the Coast FM Open Day, Naldera Avenue, Glandore. Arrive early and get the bargains.

23 Blood Sweat & Shears

Click go the shears as generous shearers far and wide donate part of today's earnings to the RFDS. De Irwin is the instigator behind this great idea and her mobile phone number is 0429 159 539. Please lend a hand if you can.

26-28 Blanchetown Country Music Campout, Bindmurra Station

Country music lovers, this is a weekend not to be missed! Enjoy a weekend at Bindmurra Station with the RFDS Blanchetown Support Group and a variety of great country artists including Graeme Hugo & Ironbark, Heartland, Slim Connor, Dave Croser, and many others. For further details phone Lorna 08 8540 5404 or Judy 08 8540 5183 or visit www.saccm.com

28 Walkerville Village Fair, Walkerville

Enjoy a day out at the Walkerville Village Fair. Come for a sausage sizzle, buy some souvenirs or bric-a-brac from the RFDS Adelaide Auxiliary stall. For further details ring Rosemary on 08 8369 1951.

November

3-4 Open Garden Weekend, Sevenhill

The RFDS Clare Support Group invites you to enjoy a day out in the beautiful Heritage Garden at Sevenhill, via Clare. Admission \$9 and includes coffee/tea and scones or wine, cheese and biscuits, with live music provided by "Tamarisque". Wine and rose products will be available to purchase. For further information call Shirley on 08 8842 2214. To book on the bus tour leaving from Adelaide call Jan on 08 8238 3333.

6 Melbourne Cup Luncheon, Kingston SE

Enjoy Melbourne Cup festivities at the RFDS Kingston & District Support Group's Melbourne Cup Luncheon – one of the group's new fundraisers at the Kingston Football Clubrooms. Tickets just \$25. For further details ring Joy on 08 8767 2487.