



MEDIA RELEASE

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From Broken Hill to Belgium – RFDS a hit with overseas students

A group of school children from Belgium are a surprising addition to the RFDS' wide range of supporters around the world after a chance encounter with the Royal Flying Doctor Service base in Broken Hill.

Ten-year-old Benjamin Vercruysse from Brakel chose to give a presentation about Australia and the RFDS as part of a recent school project.

He became fascinated with the RFDS and Australia after hearing stories from his parents, who first travelled down under 15 years ago and say the RFDS' Broken Hill team made a lasting impression on them.

"We were sometimes quite afraid of the emptiness and long distances between villages when we were travelling through the Outback," Benjamin's mother Krista said.

"This made us realise how lifesaving the Royal Flying Doctor Service's medical care can be in such a huge country."

When Benjamin first chose the topic of his project, Krista decided to enlist the help of the RFDS South Eastern (RFDS SE) Section's online shop – the virtual version of the Bruce Langford Visitor Centre shop in Broken Hill.

"We already bought a lot of souvenirs with us from our trip but we wanted to get some new ones and support the Flying Doctor's work too," Krista said.

"Benjamin's presentation was a hit with his classmates and even the whole school. They were so interested in the important and quiet adventurous job the RFDS is doing in the remote areas of Australia."

RFDS SE Section Tourism Manager Sue Williams said her team found out about Krista's family story when tour guide Larry Angel received an email enquiry from Krista.

"We were thrilled to hear people from the other side of the world felt so passionately about our cause," Sue said.

"We love connecting with our customers whether it's in person or online, so we jumped at the chance to hear more of Krista's story and share it with our supporters."

Krista said Benjamin got a very good result for his project and was very happy with how his presentation was received.

To make a purchase from the Flying Doctor online store visit rfdsnsw.myshopify.com

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For more information or photographs, contact Ryan Young, Digital Marketing Communication Coordinator on 0427 392 475 or ryan.young@rfdsse.org.au

ABOUT THE ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE

The not-for-profit Royal Flying Doctor Service has been taking the finest care to the furthest corners of Australia since 1928. The service provides 24 hour emergency cover to 90% of the Australian continent, via a modern fleet of specially equipped aircraft. In the past year, the South Eastern Section facilitated almost 4,500 clinics, took over 5,500 telehealth calls, had over 49,100 patient contacts and transported almost 8,200 patients.

