



Media Release

29 October 2014

“Around The World” in Seven Days in aid of the Flying Doctor

For the fourteenth straight year a team of fifteen dedicated pilots and support crew from WorldFlight Australia will “fly” a Boeing 747-400 cockpit simulator “around the world” to raise funds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS), South Eastern Section.

The team’s virtual flight “takes-off” from Sydney on Sunday 2 November and will visit 45 cities including: Moscow, London, New York, Beijing and Bangkok before arriving back in Sydney a week later.

WorldFlight Australia organiser Terry Scanlan says the annual event will cover 40,000 virtual nautical miles during the seven-day, 130-hour non-stop trip.

“In 2013 we raised \$20,000 for the RFDS, enabling us to hit the \$200,000 mark since we began in 2001,” said Terry, who will be “piloting” the aircraft and performing air traffic control duties during the course of the week.

“For aviators, especially those from Australia, there are few more deserving causes than the Flying Doctor who have been serving Outback communities for 86 years.”

“We have widened our fundraising effort by encouraging the virtual aviation community to form their own teams to join us for WorldFlight week through the Everyday Hero website everydayhero.com.au/event/Worldflight2014

WorldFlight uses a full motion cockpit simulator created, built and owned by local Sydney pilot, Matt Sheil. The simulator is almost an exact replica of a Boeing 747-400 cockpit. It uses authentic hardware from retired aircraft and is so hi-tech it requires 9 computers and 42 programs to drive it. Being full motion means that actual weather reports can be fed into the software so pilots and crew can experience the weather conditions in the regions they are flying through.

“When the pilots look out of the cockpit windows they see a computer generated photo realistic view of what they would see if they were actually flying a plane to these locations,” explained Terry.

“To make the experience as realistic as possible for the WorldFlight crew, a virtual Air Traffic Control Centre will be manned 24-hours a day by a team of volunteer air traffic controllers and 400 in-flight meals will be provided by Qantas Flight Catering.”

WorldFlight Australia was founded in 2001 to raise money for charity and has grown from one cockpit to six.

WorldFlight Australia gives all aviation buffs and big kids the chance to fly a 747 simulator and donate to charity at the same time. A one hour flight costs \$150, 2 hours \$200 and 3 hours \$350, all proceeds generously donated to the RFDS.

“WorldFlight has been one of our most loyal and long-standing fundraisers and we congratulate them on reaching the \$200,000 mark – a great effort by any measure,” said Greg Sam, Chief Executive Officer of the RFDS South Eastern Section.

“The RFDS relies on donations to help us deliver a 24/7 emergency evacuation service and over 5,000 healthcare clinics to those living in rural and remote Australia.”

No experience is necessary as an instructor will teach you how to pilot the aircraft and negotiate the challenging approaches to and landings at the world’s most iconic airports.

Flights can take place anytime. Simply call Terry Scanlan on 0438 647 409 or email tscanlan@bigpond.net.au

There will be a **special media opportunity between 8- 11 am on Monday 3 November** for photographs and filming at the World Flight HQ situated in the Hy-way Truck Accessories building, 45 Governor Macquarie Drive, Chipping Norton.

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For more information or photographs, contact:

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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 flew the equivalent of 6.25 round trips to the moon as it conducted over 5,000 clinics, took over 6,000 telehealth calls, had over 53,000 patient contacts and transported almost 8,400 patients.