



Royal Flying Doctor Service
Proudly serving Australia for 85 years

AirDoctor



From the Chairman & CEO



DEAR MEMBERS, partners, supporters, donors and friends, welcome to the first edition of AirDoctor for 2013.

It is a significant year for the RFDS. We turn 85 years of age on May 15, and two days later celebrate the inaugural flight of the Service from Cloncurry to Julia Creek on May 17.

In that year of 1928, the RFDS made 255 patient contacts. Last year it made in excess of 270,000 contacts – equivalent to someone every two minutes.

Everyone within the RFDS is delighted and extremely proud to be a part of this outstanding achievement and organisation growth, but we realise it is only possible with the support of our Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments and of course you, the members of our magnificent RFDS family.

As part of our 85th birthday celebrations we will be conducting a regional tour to acknowledge those among the community who continue to support our work. On this tour we will recognise our Auxiliaries and Support Groups, during which we will be presenting RFDS Birthday Meritorious Service Awards to the recipients.

These awards are granted at the Board's discretion, and can only be awarded to volunteers who have provided sustained service to our organisation.

We will also be holding birthday morning teas with our staff at all bases as it is really their efforts and commitment that makes us who we are.

Our final birthday celebration will be our Wings for Life Ball on Saturday June 1, to be held at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre.

This year has again moved very quickly and we can confirm we have several projects underway as forecast at our last AGM and they include:

- continued negotiations for longer-term tenure as the fixed-wing aeromedical provider in South Australia;
- our appointment as the fixed-wing provider for clinic charter services, transporting doctors and health specialists throughout Central Australia to provide clinical services;
- announcement of the construction of a staff housing development in Alice Springs (see story opposite); and

- appointment of an external Project Manager to assist our project team to scope the development of our proposed Centre of Excellence at Adelaide Airport, to bring all our operations and administration staff under the one roof.

This presents us all with many challenges and great adrenalin as we continue to seek greater tenure in our roles, enhanced opportunities in service delivery, and the establishment of staff housing in Alice Springs, together with the final base rationalisation whereby all Adelaide-based operational and administrative staff are employed within the same facility as they are now in Port Augusta and Alice Springs.

We are excited as we know we have a plan, a vision, to make the plan a reality and the knowledge that you are with us.

Together we will all rise each day with the knowledge that someone amongst our Organisation will make a difference to someone, somewhere, sometime each day and we do that with your support and encouragement.

Your contribution helps us make a difference.

Best wishes

DAVID HILLS

Chairman

JOHN LYNCH

Chief Executive Officer

OUR COVER Spinal injury patient Jo Rasche reunites to thank Adelaide-based RFDS Pilot, Craig Milner, and RFDS Flight Nurse, Michael Penno, who conducted her aeromedical transfer from Waikerie last year (see full story page 5). Image: Sarah Reed, The Advertiser.

AirDoctor is the official magazine of the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia Central Operations.

Street Address: 71 Henley Beach Road, Mile End 5031, South Australia

Postal Address: PO Box 381, Marlestone DC 5033, South Australia

Phone: 08 8238 3333

Email: enquiries@flyingdoctor.net

Fax: 08 8238 3395

Website: www.flyingdoctor.org.au

RFDS 'builds' investment in Alice Springs >

RFDS CENTRAL OPERATIONS has commenced construction of a \$6 million townhouse complex in Alice Springs to accommodate staff as part of its on-going commitment to serving the community.

"The staff housing project is a strategic investment in our Service to ensure that we can continue to attract and retain the best staff to deliver our emergency aeromedical and primary health care services in Central Australia," says John Lynch, CEO of RFDS Central Operations.

"The townhouse redevelopment not only has the capacity to meet current demand to accommodate permanent and contract employees of the RFDS and their families, but also cater for growth in staff numbers as we continue to expand our services in Central Australia," Mr Lynch says.

The redevelopment will transform the RFDS' existing staff housing precinct on Simpson Street from four townhouses to a modern, secure and energy-efficient complex of 11 two-bedroom and two three-bedroom units.

The units will feature security access, sealed driveways and private and communal recreational areas with arid region landscaping.

"Funds generated from RFDS fundraising programs in South and Central Australia will underpin this capital project, and we acknowledge the on-going support of our loyal donors and corporate supporters who enable us to deliver our service," Mr Lynch said.

Local building firm, Probuild NT Pty Ltd, was awarded the construction contract as part of a 'select' tender to local companies designed to support both local Alice Springs businesses and the Central NT regional economy.

NT Minister for Central Australia, Matt Conlan, praised the RFDS for its continued investment in the local economy and broader community.

"I commend the RFDS on its planning for the future work force, and I congratulate the RFDS on its on-going commitment to Central Australia," Mr Conlan said.

The townhouse project is the third major redevelopment of Alice Springs RFDS facilities in three years. In 2011, the RFDS completed an upgrade of its patient and engineering facilities at the Alice Springs Airport, while last year it officially opened its new-look Alice Springs Tourist Facility following a redevelopment of the site and experience for tourists.



> Alice Springs Tourist Facility Retail Coordinator, Lesley Prince, and Tour Guide, Sarah Kerr, with the haul of tourism awards.

Tourist facility wins awards >

THE RFDS has earned national recognition for the \$3 million redevelopment of its Alice Springs Tourist Facility in Central Australia.

The RFDS was awarded the bronze trophy for the *New Tourism Development* category at this year's Qantas Australia Tourism Awards.

The awards acknowledge the best travel and tourism companies and facilities across Australia, including tour operators, adventure trips, experiences and accommodation.

The RFDS Alice Springs Tourist Facility secured entry in the national awards after it won the *New Tourism Development* category at the annual Brolga Northern Territory Tourism Awards.

A leading tourism attraction in Alice Springs for more than four decades, the RFDS facility was re-launched last May following a major re-build of the site and rejuvenation of the experience for domestic and international tourists.

RFDS Central Operations General Manager Tourism & Retail, Michael Toomey, who led the redevelopment project, accepted the trophy on behalf of the RFDS, in front of more than 850 of Australia's leading tourism operators.

"It is an honour to receive recognition at the highest level within the Australian tourism industry for the work we have done to enhance the visitor experience at the RFDS Alice Springs Tourist Facility," said Mr Toomey.

"To have been amongst the high calibre of attractions including Sydney's popular new Madame Tussauds is a fantastic achievement."

> RFDS Engineer Tim McNaughton working on the propeller replacement of VH-FGR on Mt Allen via Alice Springs.



Roo strike sparks 'retrieval' of a different kind >

IT'S NORMALLY the medical teams that are involved in emergency retrievals by the RFDS, but a unique outback mission in the Northern Territory required engineers, not doctors and nurses.

In what is a surprisingly rare incident given the bush locations regularly flown to, a RFDS aircraft from the Alice Springs Base recently struck a kangaroo during a night landing on the remote Mt Allen strip, which serves the Yuelamu community 300 kilometres north-west of Alice Springs.

Fortunately the RFDS crew on board were not injured, but the aircraft was automatically declared 'unserviceable' as a safety precaution. A second aeromedical crew was immediately activated to complete the patient evacuation from Mt Allen to Alice Springs Hospital.

When RFDS Alice Springs Base Senior Engineer Adam Andrews was flown out to inspect the damage the next morning he realised it was going to require some mind-bending logistics to get VH-FGR back in the air.

The collision damaged the four-blade propeller of the Pilatus PC-12 aircraft. Repairing it meant not only replacing the propeller, but changing the power section of the Pratt & Whitney turbo-prop engine containing the reduction gearbox through which the propeller is powered.

Planning the recovery of VH-FGR was very much a team effort. Senior Base Pilot

Damien Heath worked with the engineering team to think through what had to be done and what would be required in the way of tools and equipment.

The first challenge was getting all the spare parts to the site. The power section had to be flown in because driving it over rough roads could have made it unserviceable; but the propeller was too big to fit in an aircraft.

"So the day before we went to do the repair, one of the other engineers flew out with the power section, while I spent the day running around picking up a hire truck, loading the propeller, the tooling and spare parts, and whatever else we needed," RFDS Engineer Rodney Moyle said.

The list was long. Apart from the obvious tools, they required a gantry, crane, hydraulic frame and various slings to lift the heavy components.

"Then we had to have a tail stand to support the plane because once everything came off the front it became tail heavy," Rodney said.

"When the kangaroo strike occurred the aircraft had enough fuel to get back to Alice Springs, but not necessarily enough to do some engine tests, so we had to take fuel for the aircraft as well as the truck.

"We also had to hire a generator to provide lighting and to help charge the aircraft's batteries," he said.

An engineer with more than 20 years experience, Rodney was accompanied on the assignment by RFDS apprentice, Tim McNaughton.

After working all day through temperatures that were high enough to melt their snake lollies, Rodney and Tim climbed into swags laid out on the edge of the airstrip under the wings of the aircraft.

The next morning Rodney and Tim cleared the decks and refuelled the plane before motoring the engine on the starter to build up oil pressure and check for leaks. Then it was time to start the engine and run a series of tests.

"Powering up on an unsealed strip is generally a recipe for stone damage, but there was nothing we could do about it," Rodney said.

By 10 o'clock, less than 24 hours after they started, the plane was ready to fly and return to Alice Springs.

According to Rodney the recovery mission ran smoothly, given the first-time nature of the exercise. "In the hangar it would have been routine," he said.

"I have gone out to a couple of maintenance tasks at outstations previously. They were functionally important but not big jobs, so it was a case of fly out and fly back an hour or two later. This one was unique."

Wedding day turns into tragedy >

NO BRIDE plans to spend her wedding night in hospital.

But that is where Jo Rasche landed after her wedding ceremony, fearing she may never walk again.

Last New Year's Eve, in a post-ceremony cool down on the 43-degree day, new husband and partner of 10 years, John Rasche, was towing his bride and a friend in a tube behind a boat on the River Murray at Waikerie.

"All I wanted to do was get married and not draw attention to myself," Jo says.

But before the Freeling couple had even cut the cake, Jo was thrown from the tube and knocked unconscious.

She was rushed to the local hospital with serious neck and spinal injuries before an urgent aeromedical transfer by the RFDS to the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

"It happened when we were coming back in – I was looking at the water thinking it was like glass. Then, the next thing I can remember is that I had been unconscious under the water," Jo said.

"I realised I couldn't move my arms or legs; had I not been wearing a lifejacket I would not be here today," she said.

Jo was unable to move and in so much pain that passengers in the boat used a kneeboard to lift her into the boat.

She began experiencing excruciating pain described as 'electric shock sensations' travelling along her arms.

Diagnosis later revealed Jo's ligaments were torn, dislodging two spinal discs in her neck, with a further seven minor discs bulging from the neck to the lower spine. In surgery eight months after her accident, a vertebra in her neck and the discs above and below the vertebra were removed.

"The doctors said I was a miracle. I was told there was every chance I could end up in a wheelchair for the rest of my life," Jo said.



> Jo Rasche thanks pilot Craig Milner and medical team members Michael Penno and Dr Bill Griggs who conducted her aeromedical transfer. Image: Sarah Reed, *The Advertiser*.

"Two things stood out to me after my accident – the fact there was a country hospital open and operating within a kilometre of the accident, and that I could be airlifted by the RFDS to a major hospital," she said.

"Dr Fielke who cared for me at Waikerie Hospital was excellent; he told me that I was seriously injured and road transport could have drastic consequences."

Jo and John recently visited the RFDS Adelaide Base to say thank you to RFDS Flight Nurse Michael Penno, Pilot Craig Milner, and MedSTAR Retrieval Co-ordinator Dr Bill Griggs who came to her aid.

"I received excellent care and I am thankful

The doctors said I was a miracle. I was told there was every chance I could end up in a wheelchair for the rest of my life.

to so many people, as are my husband and five daughters," Jo said.

Jo has begun writing a book about her life challenges, featuring her fight during her road to recovery, and becoming a motivational speaker to business and community groups while also promoting the work of the RFDS.

WIN TOYOTA RAV4



ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE

Major Lottery

1st Prize - A 2013 Toyota RAV4

GXL, silver, automatic, 2WD, 2.0 Litre, 4 cyl includes on-road costs. Valued at \$37,379.

2nd Prize - A trip for 2 on The Indian Pacific

Adelaide to Perth return travelling Gold Class. Valued at \$7,000.

3rd Prize - 2 nights at Jacob's Creek Estate for 4 people

Two nights' accommodation for four (4) people at Jacob's Creek Estate Cottage and lunch for four (4) people at the Jacob's Creek Visitor Centre, Barossa Valley. Valued at \$2,150.

4th Prize - An Oris Limited Edition Watch

Oris Royal Flying Doctor Service Limited Edition Watch. Valued at \$2,100.

5th Prize - \$1500 cash

TICKETS
\$5

LOTTERY HOTLINE **1800 500 080**

Prizes generously
donated by:



JACOB'S CREEK

ORIS
Swiss Made Watches
Since 1904



Nancy Jean ("Nan") Young > 19 December 1925 – 26 November 2012

THE RFDS said goodbye to a remarkable lady and Flying Doctor legend when Nan Young BEM passed away on 26 November 2012, aged 86.

Nan's incredible volunteer involvement began in 1956 when she was appointed President of the RFDS Port Augusta Auxiliary.

In 1971, Nan was elected to the Council of the RFDS, SA & NT Section. In 1978 she was awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil) for Services to Health in the Queen's New Year Honours List.

Nan later served as Vice President (1981-82 and 1985-86) of the Council. During the years 1982-85 she was both President of the SA/NT Council and Central Section's Representative on the Federal Council of the RFDS. Nan remained a Councillor until 1997, when she was made an Honorary Life Member of RFDS Central Operations.

At a special dinner held to mark this honour, it was noted that Nan's involvement had spanned 41 years: "during which time she has travelled many hundreds of thousands of miles across the outback, attending functions in aid of the RFDS, representing the organisation at official functions and speaking to all who would listen about the work of her beloved service."

More recently, in March 2011, our newly-commissioned aircraft "Echo" (VH-FVE) was inscribed with Nan's name, honouring her as one of our "Pioneering Women", along with the late Dawn Prior OAM.

Words recorded at the time Nan was awarded her BEM are borrowed to make a fitting tribute still: "Mrs Young was a woman of incredible energy, a tireless worker and one whose pleasure in life was to help others. The service extends to her our sincere gratitude for her many years of devotion."

Nan is survived by her son Preston and family.

A career dedicated to serving the bush >

SOMEWHERE IN the Marshman family there is a photo of a three-year-old boy staring up intently at the clear, blue sky. Young David Marshman was watching an aeroplane fly over. Years later as a pilot at the RFDS Alice Springs Base, he relished flying across a similar expanse of blue, with the dramatic landscape of outback Australia spread beneath him. David is about to retire after more than 10 years with the RFDS, and what he describes as “the best job in the world”.

Originally from Hopetoun in north-western Victoria, he learnt to fly in Darwin where he was working as an electrician after spending two years at Ramingining in Arnhem Land helping the Aboriginal community to build its own houses.

By 1984, he had gained his commercial pilot's licence and was on his way to Papua New Guinea with his wife Jenny and their two young children, taking up a posting with Mission Aviation Fellowship – a non-denominational Christian organisation that supplies aviation services in some of the most isolated parts of the world.

David stayed with the organisation for 19 years. He returned to the Northern Territory in 1986 to help operate Aboriginal Air Services, an airline set up to serve isolated communities across central and northern Australia.

The experience made him a perfect candidate for what was meant to be a six-month stint with the RFDS, filling in for pilots taking leave.

In his time with the service, two flights stand out in David's mind, for very different reasons.

The first was the only in-flight birth on his



> David Marshman says flying with the RFDS has been the best job in the world.

watch – a baby boy who was safely delivered 14 weeks prematurely.

The last was on the other side of the ledger – the only time someone passed away during one of his flights. One of the last evacuations he flew, the patient was a tourist on holidays with his family.

“It was doubly sad because it was Christmas Day,” he said.

While he won't miss shift work or being on-call, David found his years with the RFDS incredibly fulfilling.

“I really enjoyed being able to contribute. I'll miss the camaraderie and I'll miss the flying,” he said.

Known for his willingness to take on extra duties, the dedicated pilot has left a lasting legacy with

the organisation, having combined his life experiences to build a full-scale mock-up of a Pilatus PC-12 fuselage at the RFDS Tourist Facility in Alice Springs.

David donated 230 hours of his time over eight weeks to create the model, paying meticulous attention to every detail.

“I wanted it to be perfect, and I'm a bit disappointed because it turns out it's four millimetres more than the real aeroplane from the floor to the roof,” he says, only half joking.

Now that he is retiring, those same skills are being put to good use, building a retirement home for him and Jenny near Echunga in the Adelaide Hills.

Generational care on outback Dulkaninna

WHEN DARYL BELL looks back over the cycle of life on Dulkaninna Station, from birth to old age, there is hardly a stage when the RFDS hasn't provided care for his family.

Well known for its emergency evacuation services, the RFDS means much more to the Bells, who have relied on it for essential health care services over five generations, starting with Daryl's grandparents.

The remote cattle station lies 80 kilometres north of Marree, at the start of the Birdsville Track in the Far North of South Australia.

Today it is home to Daryl and his wife, Sharon, Daryl's daughter Shannon, son David, and his wife Jess, and their son, Cody.

Daryl's father, George, was only 13 when the family walked from Adelaide to take up the station in 1932. His grandfather George Barrett held the lease in the 1890s but the station had been abandoned by its most recent owners because of drought, so his parents reclaimed it.

Dulkaninna was first visited by the RFDS in the late 1930s after a base was established at Broken Hill. Until then, the nearest doctor was more than 400 kilometres away at Hawker.

If someone was sick or injured they were driven over rough bush tracks to Marree, and then waited for a train, which came three times a week. The level of medical care made a quantum leap forward in 1938, when the

station got its first Alf Traeger pedal-powered radio. The Bells could now communicate direct with a RFDS doctor when someone was sick and, following the opening of the RFDS Port Augusta Base in 1956, the doctor could be there by aircraft in just a few hours if urgently required.

These days RFDS aircraft and crew from the Port Augusta Base carry a Doctor and a Community Health Nurse to remote stations and communities as part of scheduled GP health clinic runs that serve more than 35 locations, including Dulkaninna where the clinic is held once a month.

In between times, the Bells can drive into Marree where there is a full-time RFDS



> Shannon Bell and her father Daryl Bell, Dulkaninna Station, via Marree, on board a RFDS aircraft during their monthly RFDS health clinic with Community Health Nurse Cheryl Boles and Dr Stephen Ballard.

na Station >

Registered Nurse at the Marree Health Service, as well as a fortnightly GP health clinic. Allied health professionals flown in by the RFDS, such as a mental health nurse, dietician, diabetes educator, dentist and optometrist, also visit regularly.

For Sharon Bell, easy access to the Marree nurse when she first moved from Sydney offered not only peace of mind, but the rare opportunity to talk to another woman.

“You fall in love and don’t think about things like health care,” says Sharon, who has now been on Dulkaninna Station for 36 years.

“Having a baby brought it home to me, but it was very reassuring to know the Flying Doctor was there.”

At the other end of life, Sharon and Daryl truly appreciated the support that enabled George to see out his days on Dulkaninna.

The outback identity died in the Port Augusta hospital in 2007, a few weeks before his 89th birthday, but he was able to stay at the station almost until the last.

“He couldn’t have done that without the Flying Doctor. He didn’t want to go into a home, and they made it very easy for us to look after him here,” said Daryl.

The RFDS monitored his medication and general health at the monthly clinics and through regular home visits by June Andrew, the RFDS Registered Nurse at Marree. They delivered prescriptions and showed Sharon how to administer his medication, gave advice on diet and fluid intake, and sent an assessment team that helped organise equipment that made it easier for George to be mobile.

Daryl said he felt very privileged with the level of care provided, and the long-term relationship established with the RFDS’ Dr Alistair Miller, who has been the family GP for 18 years.

“The RFDS is vital in our region and for all outback people. What they do is a wonderful service,” he said.



TRUE REALISATION of just how far she was from the sort of primary health care services that many urban Australians take for granted hit Jess Bell for the first time when she fell ill with Ross River Virus.

Jess grew up at Berri in the Riverland where she could drop into the local surgery when she was sick, or in an emergency, visit the hospital or be airlifted by the RFDS to Adelaide.

In 2005 she moved to Dulkaninna Station to join husband David (pictured with their son Cody). “My dad thought I was falling off the face of the earth,” Jess said.

She was almost convinced he was right when she developed heart palpitations and a raging fever. “The virus hit me suddenly and severely, and it made me freak out a bit because we are so far away from instant care,” Jess says.

“But the RFDS was fantastic. The doctor explained how quickly they could be here, and I realised that they are pretty much a flying hospital. As soon as they get here, you are in the best care.”

The experience made Jess feel far more confident when she found out soon afterwards that she was pregnant. The RFDS provided pre- and post-natal care and advice through its GP clinic runs to Dulkaninna and its health services at Marree.

“We organised shared care with my obstetrician in Adelaide and they were very happy to do that. I would go to Adelaide for major check-ups like ultrasounds, but I would see the Flying Doctor every month at home,” Jess said.

“The RFDS nurses on the health clinic runs all have to be midwives so they are a great source of information and experience. They kept reassuring me I could call them at any time and if I ever felt uncomfortable or had any questions, I could go into the clinic in Marree.”

There was only one ‘scary’ experience during the pregnancy, when Jess suffered renal colic. “I had no idea what it was and I was in a lot of pain,” she said. “It was my first emergency evacuation and they were cool, calm and collected.”

Once Cody was born, the RFDS looked after his immunisation program and any other health issues along the way.

“My parents who are both pharmacists are very impressed with the level of care we get,” Jess said.

She and David are now counting the weeks until their second child will be born, knowing that the RFDS will be there for this baby too.

A 'Will' to save lives >

HAVE YOU considered remembering the RFDS in your will?

"After loved ones have been provided for, including your favourite charity in your will is a powerful way to extend your charitable giving beyond your lifetime," says Ross Curtis, Donor Relations Manager of RFDS Central Operations.

"The bequests received by the RFDS, no matter how large or small, are always of great value to us, because we know they will provide crucial financial support for our work in future years."

In fact, bequests have played a vital role since the very beginning of the RFDS. Reverend John Flynn's dream of launching an aeromedical service to serve the isolated residents and travellers of the Australian outback was made possible by a bequest, from philanthropist Hugh McKay.

And now, 85 years later, this time-honoured means of giving is as relevant as ever.

"Imagine leaving the legacy of a contribution to the cost of an RFDS aircraft – a flying oasis in the Australian outback – carrying skilled care to the sick and injured, wherever they may be, for year after year," says Ross. "This is the opportunity."

A booklet, *'A Will to Save Lives'*, is available to supporters who may be considering such a gift, or who may wish to give thought to such an arrangement in the future.

For more information, or to make a no-obligation request for a copy of the booklet, call Ross Curtis on (08) 8238 3333.



> Trevor Schache delivering his second road train of scrap to Sims Metal in Adelaide.

Scrap recycled to \$17,000 donation >

LATERAL THINKING and an unyielding dedication to his favourite cause has converted years of accumulated scrap metal at a remote mine site into a \$17,000 donation to the RFDS.

Trevor Schache, an operator-mechanic working at Beach Energy's Western Flank operations in the Cooper Basin, had previously watched recyclable scrap from the company's Callawonga Camp disposed of via a waste disposal contractor.

But during his January and March leave breaks, Trevor transported three years of accumulated scrap into two road trains and hauled them over the 1,100-kilometre trek to Adelaide.

The recyclable scrap was sold to Sims Metal Management and the Scout Recycling Centre, and over \$17,000 was raised and donated to the RFDS. Amcor and Scout Recycling also contributed \$250 each to the cause.

The RFDS was chosen by Trevor because of its invaluable service supporting remote communities, including Beach Energy's field staff. The funds raised will benefit the RFDS capital-raising program for the purchase and medical fit-out of replacement aircraft – at a cost of \$6 million each.

RFDS Central Operations' General Manager of Marketing & PR, Charlie Paterson, praised Trevor for his dedication to the Flying Doctor, and the broader community.

"This donation and the effort that has gone into this project is a fantastic display of community spirit from Trevor, who took the initiative to spend the best part of his leave negotiating floodwaters to make this donation happen for the RFDS," he said.

"It's people like Trevor who epitomise the community spirit of the outback.

"Beach Energy has been a long-term Corporate Partner of the RFDS, and it's just fantastic to see this support demonstrated at an individual level by employees like Trevor."

It is expected that a single road train of recyclables and scrap steel from the Cooper Basin will be delivered every year.

Special thanks go to Beach Energy's Cooper Basin Production and Drilling Departments, Roger Thomson from Outback Logistics, Amcor, Scout Recycling Centre and Tony Fox and David Davis of Sims Metal.

Volunteers drive community events >

VOLUNTEERS CONTINUE to underpin the RFDS community engagement program, conducting both local and regional fundraising events in their own right or assisting with the delivery of major initiatives and events of the organisation.

Members of the 24 RFDS Auxiliary and Support Groups in SA/NT selflessly volunteer their time throughout the year, with financial proceeds from this financial year's activities set to break the \$700,000 mark – a truly remarkable achievement.

In March members of the **Naracoorte & District RFDS Support Group** helped local transport operator and RFDS supporter Mark Wellington conduct his third annual Welly's Poker Run which raised \$14,000 for the Flying Doctor.

Over 300 people – driving 115 motor bikes and 65 cars – took part in the day's trek and fundraising challenge which departed from Naracoorte for Frances, followed by Bordertown where they were served a cracking lunch prepared by the **Tatiara RFDS Support Group**. The return trip to Naracoorte via Padthaway concluded with a BBQ and band that evening at the Naracoorte Showgrounds.

In addition to its year-round contract catering program, the Tatiara RFDS Support Group partnered with members of the local community to conduct a Neil Diamond Tribute concert in late March. More than 400 people attended the concert at the Mundulla Oval to watch Adelaide band Acoustic Juice deliver a fabulous performance at the event which raised \$15,000

thanks to the hard work of the committee and outstanding support received from businesses and members of the local community.

On the Eyre Peninsula, the **RFDS Port Lincoln Auxiliary** has brokered a formal partnership with its local Woolworths Supermarket to conduct a fortnightly fundraiser. Every second Friday the group conducts a BBQ for Woolworths customers which is already proving a successful fundraiser thanks to our volunteer workforce.

The RFDS participated in a major display at this year's South East Field Days at Lucindale, thanks to the volunteer support of off-duty staff, members of RFDS Support Groups in the South East and the *Stock Journal* newspaper which sponsored the site.

The new RFDS Simulator (full-scale replica fuselage of medically-equipped PC-12 aircraft) was a hit at the event which attracted more than 22,000 people, many of whom took the opportunity to step inside the aircraft, feel what it is like to be a patient at 15,000 feet and talk to off-duty RFDS pilot Dave Marshman.

Members of the **RFDS Kingston & District Support Group** hosted the merchandise stall, while members of the Naracoorte & District RFDS Support Group assisted with the simulator presentation over the two days.

The RFDS Simulator will again be on display at the *Stock Journal* stand at the Yorke Peninsula Field Days at Paskeville on 24 to 26 September 2013.



> Glenyse and Stewart Meyer, Kingston RFDS Support Group, selling RFDS merchandise at the South East Field Days.

Upcoming RFDS Auxiliary and Support Group events >

ROXBY DOWNS > Roxby Downs Golf Day, 21 September 2013

RFDS ROXBY DOWNS AUXILIARY. Contact Cherie Gaskin on (08) 8671 2924.

MILDURA > MS Mundoo Breakfast, 11 September 2013

RFDS SUNRAYSIA SUPPORT GROUP. Contact Lew Burke on (03) 5022 8299.

ADELAIDE > RFDS Adelaide Brunch, 14 July 2013

RFDS ADELAIDE AUXILIARY. Contact Sheila Dickinson on (08) 8362 2739.

ADELAIDE > Buffalo Luncheon, 23 June 2013

RFDS HOLDFAST BAY DINNER CLUB. Contact Sheila Cotton on (08) 8298 8659.

CLARE > Melbourne Cup Lunch, 5 November 2013

RFDS CLARE SUPPORT GROUP. Contact Trish Lampard on (08) 8842 4265.



PILATUS

From remote outback stations to inner city airports the PC-12 operates day and night to keep the Royal Flying Doctor Service in the air. With over thirty aeromedical PC-12's in operation throughout Australia the Royal Flying Doctor Service is an indispensable member of the Pilatus family. We invite you to call and find out more information about the PC-12 aircraft.



PILATUS.
COME FLY THE PC-12 NG

www.pc-12rightnow.com

+61 8 8234 4433

Midnight flight restores 'normal' life >

BRENDAN WELLS is sitting in the garden of his parents' suburban Adelaide house, road-testing a new tent annex they have purchased for a camping trip to the Flinders Ranges.

The Wells family are even more excited at the prospect than most because only two years ago such a holiday would have been unthinkable.

Brendan was born with Crigler Najjar Syndrome, a rare genetic disorder that meant his liver was unable to process and remove bilirubin. The toxic chemical is a by-product created by the body during the natural breakdown of red blood cells.

To reduce the amount of bilirubin in his bloodstream and control the severe jaundice that it caused, Brendan spent about six hours of every day sitting in an ultraviolet light box.

All that changed in 2010, when he was flown to Melbourne in the middle of the night by the RFDS for a liver transplant.

While the cause of his illness was rare, the evacuation was routine for RFDS Central Operations, which makes at least one interstate flight per week for Adelaide residents requiring life-saving or specialist surgery at an interstate hospital – day or night.

In fact, unknown to many, one in 20 patients transferred by the RFDS in South Australia has an Adelaide home postcode – these may be Adelaide residents working or holidaying in the bush, newborn babies requiring specialist cardiac surgery or organ recipients like Brendan.

Brendan made a rapid recovery after his surgery, and now has the freedom to travel.

"A couple of years ago that was completely out of the question," said his father, Tim.

His school's Year 7 camping trip to Kangaroo Island was completely off the agenda, and even Christmas holidays visiting relatives at Port Pirie were difficult.

Tim would have had to spend half a day dismantling the light box to take it with them, and the transplant team at the Royal Children's



> **Brendan in his UV light box prior to his liver transplant.** Image: Dylan Coker, Sunday Mail.
Inset: **Brendan enjoying life soon after his successful liver transplant.**

Hospital in Melbourne had to know their every move in case a liver became available.

Ideally, Brendan was meant to be no more than 30 minutes from the Adelaide airport so he could be flown out quickly. "So simple things like a school camp became a real dilemma," said his mother, Janene.

Life today is not without its complications. The 14-year-old must take an anti-rejection drug every 12 hours for the rest of his life.

It suppresses Brendan's immune system so he has to be very conscious of avoiding infection. Side effects from the drug also mean that he

has to stay out of the sun and drink plenty of fluids to limit kidney damage.

"But I don't have to go under the lights any more. And I don't have to worry about people at school asking, 'Why are you yellow?' which they did a lot," he said with a smile.

"Brendan knows the gift he has been given and he is highly respectful of the opportunity," Tim said. "It is why we are very happy to promote the 'Flying Doctor' and organ donation.

"Your money goes where it is needed, and it makes a difference. Brendan has the scar to prove it."

Thank you for your donations >

Nova Group auction raises \$8,820 >

Nova Group of Companies (Nova Systems, Auspace, Catops and Aeronautical Engineers Australia) held its annual mid-year function at the Adelaide Zoo. A fundraising auction at the function boasted prizes ranging from works of art, fine wine and pampering sessions to surfing lessons and jet plane flights, with the \$8,820 proceeds to benefit the Flying Doctor.



> **Mike Aitchison, CEO of Aeronautical Engineers Australia, presents the \$8820 cheque to RFDS Community Fundraising Coordinator Gemma Snewin.**

Woolworths stores raise \$30,000 >

Woolworths supermarkets throughout South Australia and the Northern Territory nominated the RFDS to be the charity partner of this year's Easter fundraising drive which raised more than \$30,000.

Each store sold Easter egg tokens and collected donations, with some adding to their fundraising tally by holding community BBQs with the support of local RFDS volunteers.

Business SA donates defibrillator for Marree >

> **Business SA CEO Nigel McBride presents the defibrillator to RFDS Central Operations CEO John Lynch.**



SA's leading business membership organisation, Business SA, has donated a defibrillator to the RFDS.

"The RFDS does amazing work throughout the State, and we are delighted that the RFDS has identified its Marree Health Service in the state's Far North as being the suitable recipient of the defibrillator," said Business SA CEO Nigel McBride.

The RFDS Marree Health Service provides a Registered Nurse outpatient service, home visiting service, referral service and short-stay facility.



> **Campbelltown Rotary Club members Malcolm Hansen, Jim Silvestri and Milton Lewis with RFDS Community Fundraising Coordinator Gemma Snewin.**

Kubota tractor to Alice Springs >

Kubota Tractor Australia has donated a Kubota L3200D tractor valued at \$23,333 to replace the aircraft tug at the RFDS Alice Springs Base – the second tractor donated to the Flying Doctor in as many years. Peter Gloury, Kubota National Sales Manager of Agricultural Equipment, says Kubota recognises its social responsibility, and is proud to be supporting an organisation which provides essential services for people living remote locations and communities throughout Australia.



> **Kubota representatives Peter Gloury, Drew Sutton and Dean Martin with RFDS General Manager of Northern Territory Michael Toomey (seated) and Deane Crowhurst, Airpower, Alice Springs, who will service the tractor.**

Rotary car trek raises \$40,000 >

The fourth Campbelltown Rotary Outback Experience (CROE4) conducted by the Campbelltown Rotary Club raised its fundraising target of \$40,000 – sufficient funds to purchase a new Zoll X Series Defibrillator for the RFDS Port Augusta Base. The bi-annual 4WD outback experience took participants on a journey from Athelstone through Barmera and on to finish in Blinman in the Flinders Ranges.

Ute convoy gifts \$10,000 >

At the formation of the convoy a group of ute enthusiasts set out from Port Augusta to Daly Waters in the Northern Territory to raise 'a bit of money' for the RFDS. What the group ended up doing was amazing, with online fundraising, collections at workplaces and donations collected along the journey over Easter tallying over \$10,000.



> Members of the Convoy to Daly Waters arrived safely at their destination.

Austvending support continues >

Proceeds from vending machine operator Austvending Pty Ltd continues to grow, with the latest quarterly contribution taking its total to \$56,294. Since 2007 Austvending has donated a percentage of its license fee income from its vending machines in South Australia and the Northern Territory to the RFDS.



> Austvending's Mark Sandgren and Luis Nevares present the \$56,294 cheque to RFDS General Manager of Marketing & PR Charlie Paterson.



OZ BASH Outback Odyssey signs new charity partner >

BACKED BY two decades of successful car treks throughout outback Australia, organisers of the annual Outback Odyssey have nominated the RFDS as its major charity partner for the next three years.

Departing from Gawler (just north of Adelaide) on August 2, this year's OZ BASH Outback Odyssey will span nine days traversing rugged, spectacular and remote New South Wales and Queensland before arriving at magnificent Stradbroke Island on August 10.

OZ Bash Outback Odyssey participants take part in the event driving pre-1985 vehicles with 4WD support vehicles.

"Entrants will be treated to the finest in country hospitality, enjoy the good-natured rivalry and camaraderie of fellow participants and have the opportunity to soak up the complete outback experience for which Australia is renowned," says Keith Finch, Chairman of OZ Bash Outback Odyssey.

"We are delighted and extremely proud to be raising funds for the RFDS – to help the Flying Doctor continue its great work providing life-saving and essential primary health care services to regional and outback Australia."

Entrants in this year's OZ Bash Outback Odyssey will visit iconic outback locations such as Silverton Hotel, overnight station stays, one pub towns and camping under the stars, as well as various "roadblock" activities along the journey where teams will be put to the test in a variety of fun events.

For information on the 2013 Outback Odyssey visit www.ozbash.com.au or contact Keith Finch on 0418 501 055 or email enquiries@ozbash.com.au



Proudly supporting

Royal Flying Doctor Service



SNOW BALL

A MAGICAL NIGHT TO ENCHANT YOU

FEATURING

Björn Again

SATURDAY 1 JUNE 2013

ADELAIDE ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE

TICKETS CALL RFDS (08) 8238 3333

OR ONLINE FLYINGDOCTOR.ORG.AU/SNOWBALL

LET THE ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE
SHAKE YOUR WORLD AT THE 2013
WINGS FOR LIFE GALA BALL.

TICKETS \$150 EACH (\$1500 PER TABLE OF 10)
INCLUDES DINNER, DRINKS, DANCING AND
FABULOUS APRÈS-SKI ENTERTAINMENT.

6.30PM START. STRICTLY BLACK TIE.

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE

An RFDS Event

**WINGS
FOR
LIFE**

Major Sponsors



Major Donor

Supporting Sponsors



An RFDS Event

