

The official magazine of the Royal Flying Doctor Service
CENTRAL OPERATIONS | ISSUE 259 | NOVEMBER 14



Royal Flying Doctor Service
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AirDoctor



From the Chairman & CEO

WE HAVE MUCH to be proud of in 2014 with many highlights as our staff work diligently to fulfil the mantle of safety begun by the Reverend John Flynn.

We have also sought to better understand what we do and the experiences of those who use our services with the external review of our primary health care delivery model from our Port Augusta Base.

Recently completed, the review has provided valuable insight and we thank all of those who took part including Remote Area Nurses, Allied Health providers and in particular, our consumers, for their engagement and participation.

Findings include high levels of satisfaction with RFDS GP and Community Health Nurse services confirming the Port Augusta team as the key primary health care provider for residents of northern and far western SA. It also reported a call for additional services to Oak Valley.

The review also recommended the introduction of electronic medical records together with an expansion in Healthy Living-style programs and opportunities to develop internet training programs as an integrated approach to prevent the onset of chronic disease.

We congratulate our Health Services Education and Development Manager, Rosemary Moyle, who presented the Kay Melmeth Oration on the role of Midwives in aeromedical services in Brisbane in September at the Aeromedical Services Australia, Flight Nurses Australia, and the Australasian Society of Aerospace Medicine Conference.

We are also delighted to announce the appointment of Dr Betsy Williams as a full time Medical Officer at Port Augusta Base, effective 17 November 2014. Dr Williams has for some years been part of the Rural Women's GP Service and acted as a locum.

The RFDS has signed the lease for our Adelaide Base development in what will become an aeromedical precinct at Adelaide Airport. We are proud to be a foundation partner in the new precinct with our service delivery partners of the State Retrieval Service, including the rotary wing providers and MedSTAR.

By the time you read this edition of *Air Doctor* we will be tendering for the construction of the new development which will get under way in 2015 with expected occupancy in 2016.

We have also welcomed some changes at the national office with the appointment in June of a new Chief Executive Officer, Martin Laverty.

DAVID HILLS
Chairman



JOHN LYNCH
Chief Executive Officer



The National Office has been renamed the Federation Office of the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

We strongly support the move and the focus of the Federation Office in managing its relationship with the Commonwealth and strengthening the RFDS advocacy voice for better health outcomes for country Australians.

We also recognise our loyal and hard-working volunteers not only for their outstanding fundraising efforts but also for their continued advocacy and representation across all of our service delivery areas. They do this in the real spirit of Flynn, with their efforts being solely for the benefit of others.

Spare a thought for the staff who will provide the 24-hour availability and Mantle of Safety over the Christmas and New Year period. As we sit down with family and friends, they will be responding to those in need, again making a difference to someone – somewhere and in the spirit of the RFDS.

And finally, to each and every one of you, we wish you and your families every blessing this Christmas and we hope that 2015 brings with it every joy and happiness.

DAVID HILLS
Chairman

JOHN LYNCH
Chief Executive Officer

OUR COVER: Alice Springs Base Flight Nurse Fran Neylon on a midnight primary evacuation from Docker River, NT. Photo by Grenville Turner.

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

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Night flight saves Gloria's life >

GLORIA PARKER, 57, never expected the severe abdominal cramps that had confined her to Cleve Hospital for a day and a half would result in a near death experience and two flights with the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS).

The pain that led to her admission at the small Eyre Peninsula hospital indicated appendicitis but it was coming from the wrong side of her abdomen.

Then, soon after midnight early on Friday 16 May 2014, Gloria's blood pressure plummeted, alarming nursing staff who called the doctor.

Following a teleconsultation by the doctor with a specialist at the Flinders Medical Centre in Adelaide it was decided Gloria, in increasing pain, needed urgent tests that were not available at Cleve.

Faced with a six-hour trip by road to Adelaide and no time to lose, the RFDS was called.

In acute pain, Gloria was wheeled out to the RFDS Pilatus PC12 by Pilot Matthew O'Keefe and Flight Nurse Jennifer Thompson at Cleve Airport at 1:50am and was soon bound for Adelaide.

Her condition was so critical a MedSTAR emergency medical retrieval team had travelled to Cleve to treat Gloria before take-off and during the RFDS flight.



"It was all happening so quickly, I didn't really have time to get worried – it was the first time I'd ever flown anywhere lying down!" Gloria says.

By 5:00am, Gloria was in the emergency department at Flinders Medical Centre and quickly diagnosed with a septic abscess and acute peritonitis.

Specialists determined that she had gone into septic shock and that they needed to operate as soon as possible to save her life.



> Gloria Parker

 It was a close call but I was oblivious to it at the time. 
Gloria Parker

Gloria says that her specialist later told her the inflammation had been far more severe than anticipated, requiring urgent treatment.

"They told me it was a fine line, the difference between me leaving out the front or out the back in a box," Gloria says.

"It was a close call but I was oblivious to it at the time."

It was the first time Gloria, born and bred in Cleve, had ever personally encountered the RFDS.

"You're always aware of the RFDS and you always hope you don't need them; but once you do a trip like that you'll never forget it and I'm so glad they are there," Gloria says.

After three weeks at Flinders Medical Centre, Gloria, treated with antibiotics was flown back to Cleve by the RFDS, this time, thankfully, sitting up. But she still had ahead of her a few more weeks in recovery at Cleve Hospital.

Although Gloria was back at work in her role as a Sales Support Officer at Elders Cleve within nine weeks, her ordeal was not finally over until the last week of September when she went back to Flinders Medical Centre to have her appendix out as a preventative measure.

For now, Gloria's grateful it's all over and she can get back to concentrating on her work and her family including her three preschool grandchildren who live in Port Lincoln.

One thing she's found since her own experience with the RFDS is the number of people she now encounters who tell her of their own flight or emergency care at the hands of RFDS aeromedical crews.

"If it hadn't been for the RFDS and the MedSTAR team arriving that night I most certainly wouldn't be around now," Gloria says.

"I'm just so grateful they could be there for me. But to be honest, I'm a bit over 2014; roll on 2015!"

Student program marks '1000th' milestone >

NINETEEN-YEAR-OLD nursing student Bethany Frith got a firsthand lesson of the specialised skills needed by Flight Nurses at the RFDS when she took part in a student attachment in August.

Bethany learned that an emergency aeromedical evacuation of a man with a punctured lung required the altitude of the plane and cabin pressurisation to be factored in when considering the risk to the patient's condition.

The second year nursing student from the University of South Australia was the 1000th student to take part in the Ride Along Program – a unique program sponsored by RFDS and the Rural Doctors Workforce Agency (RDWA) which provides medical and nursing students with a taste of life at the front line of the RFDS.

Bethany accompanied an RFDS Adelaide Base aeromedical crew to evacuate a patient in need of an urgent hospital transfer from Port Augusta to Adelaide.

"It was what I expected, and more; I hadn't really thought about the wider implications of transporting a patient with a punctured lung and that we needed to consider the aircraft altitude and its effect on the patient," Bethany says.

"Not only are there aeromedical aspects to consider but also the cultural aspects of working in rural and remote health.

"I am interested in a rural health career, preferably as a community health nurse, helping people in remote areas."



She found her day on the roster exceeded her expectations and fulfilled an interest in rural health as well as a desire to be around like-minded professionals working in rural health.

The Ride Along Program is an enduring partnership between the RFDS and the RDWA in which students are exposed to working in rural and remote conditions.

A medical or nursing student is placed with RFDS Central Operations to accompany



> RFDS Central Operations CEO John Lynch with Bethany Frith and RDWA CEO Lyn Poole.

 **It was what I expected, and more.** 
Bethany Frith

aeromedical crews on their flights, if possible, in an attachment at the RFDS Adelaide Base.

There have been more than 560 medical students and more than 330 nursing students, along with a small number of midwifery and paramedic students who have taken part in the program since its inception in 2000.

RFDS Central Operations CEO, John Lynch, said the Ride Along Program provides students with a great opportunity to get a taste of what it's like to be a part of a Flying Doctor aeromedical team.

"We're very proud of the Ride Along Program and place a high value on our partnership with the Rural Doctors Workforce Agency, and we will work to ensure it remains an important opportunity for medical and nursing students," Mr Lynch says.

"This program plays an important part in the RFDS long-term medical and nursing recruitment strategy."

RDWA CEO Lyn Poole, said the program gives medical and nursing students a greater understanding of the RFDS and its role in rural and remote Australia.

"For medical and nursing students who are already members of the university rural health club the opportunity for a one-day weekend attachment with the RFDS gives them a broader context of rural medical and nursing services," Ms Poole said.

"The Ride Along Program has been a highly popular and sought after attachment for our medical and nursing students who show an interest in rural health as they get a first-hand look at the health challenges faced by people living in the bush.

"South Australian students have been fortunate to have access to the Ride Along Program as it is not available anywhere else in Australia."

Jan's flight gives 'breath' to new life >

THE PROSPECT OF an interstate flight from Adelaide for an organ transplant had become Jan Kenner's final hope of a second chance at life, but it was a journey she anticipated with dread as much as optimism.

Left breathless and bed-ridden by a chronic respiratory condition, Jan was concerned the trip – even aboard an RFDS 'flying intensive care unit' – would worsen the anxiety that made her illness almost impossible to bear.

But it was a fear that vanished the moment she was placed into the care of RFDS Flight Nurse Karyn Paterson and Pilot Adam Cattonar in May 2012.

Diagnosed five years earlier with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF) – a rare disease with no known cause – the mother-of-two could barely breathe unassisted and was in desperate need of a double lung transplant.

With her lungs extensively hardened and reduced to a mere 20 per cent of capacity, Jan required bottled and humidified oxygen to give her the energy to do the most basic daily tasks.

"It was a real struggle even to have a shower," Jan says.



By Easter 2012 – having spent two years on the transplant waiting list – the then 58-year-old's condition became so bad that she was admitted to the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

Jan was then advised to relocate to Sydney due to fears her deteriorating condition would prevent her travelling there for the complex transplant surgery.

But within hours of receiving that advice, Jan was told donor lungs had become available and that she would be prepared for surgery the moment she arrived in Sydney.



> Jan Kenner now volunteers with the RFDS after making a full recovery from her double lung transplant.

 It was a real struggle even to have a shower. 

Jan Kenner

"The call brought an enormous amount of relief. It was like a 10-tonne weight had been lifted off my shoulders," Jan says.

"I remember flying into the twilight and spending most of the trip looking at the stars. There were three stars. I said one was our dad and the other two were my two boys, so they came over to Sydney with us."

A team of specialists worked for six hours to give Jan her new lungs.

Jan spent six more weeks in hospital followed by a month in residential care in Sydney before flying back to Adelaide, this time, on a passenger jet.

"It was such a big difference and an incredible feeling to be free," she says.

"I was on this plane and didn't have the oxygen bottle with me and didn't have to worry about oxygen bags or all the rest of the gear that had to come with me."

While she will spend the rest of her life taking medication including anti-rejection drugs to preserve her new lungs, Jan is immensely thankful for the lungs she received and the donor who made it possible.

Jan had been given a second chance at life, including the chance to welcome her first grandchild in early 2014.

Jan was inspired by the assistance she received from the RFDS to become a regular volunteer for the organisation.

"It was such a big thing to get me over to Sydney. If I didn't have that opportunity with the RFDS, I wouldn't have got there and I wouldn't be here now," she says.

"I want to do any little thing that I can to help. It will never repay what was done for me, but any little thing that I can help with, I am happy to do."



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> Chairman David Hills (left) and Mr Frank England.

Honour for benefactor Frank England >

ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE (RFDS) benefactor Frank England was honoured at this year's RFDS Central Operations Annual General Meeting with the announcement that henceforth our meeting room would be known as *The Frank England Room*.

Frank was presented with a plaque during the meeting to mark the occasion.

Frank's earlier support was acknowledged in 2011, when a plaque installed inside RFDS aircraft *Foxtrot Victor Foxtrot (VH-FVF)* was unveiled in recognition of the support he had provided to fund the medical interior of that aircraft.

"Frank's loyal support for our work has been nothing less than outstanding, and it gives us great pleasure to formally recognise his generosity once again," said David Hills, Chairman of RFDS Central Operations.

"Permanent signage will ensure that everyone who attends a meeting in that room will be reminded of Frank's amazing contribution."

Frank was delighted to be honoured. "It was a wonderful surprise. I think the work done by the RFDS is absolutely fantastic," he said.

At the 78th AGM, Dr Tim Cooper, Dr Ian Gould and Loretta Reynolds were re-elected to the Board of RFDS Central Operations and, subsequently, David Hills (Chairman), Loretta Reynolds (Deputy-Chairman) and Paul Prestwich (Treasurer) were nominated and elected.

Sister June stars in salute to bush nurses >

Extract from 'Nurses of the Outback' by Annabelle Brayley

VERY EARLY ON Monday morning, December 6th, 1982, June Andrew took off heading north on her new adventure. Later in the day, still heading north from Hawker, up a seemingly endless dirt road, June admits she did wonder if she was ever going to get to Marree. She finally arrived in a cloud of late afternoon dust, just in time to see the last dental plane take off for the very last time from the old Marree airstrip. Noting that it wasn't that long since the Old Ghan stopped running, June giggles and says "I arrived in town just as everyone was leaving!"

Because it was the end of the year, the teachers were wrapping up and a number of people were leaving town so there were farewell parties most nights at which the remaining permanent residents welcomed June and the parting ones wished her luck. Meeting most of them in the dark, she found it difficult to recognize them in daylight which caused her a little confusion and lots of giggles in her first days in the Clinic.

She had a week's handover with the departing nurse. Then, as now, on any mid-summer day, when the temperature regularly tops out in the very high 40s, Marree almost hovers on the hot air waves of the simmering desert gibbers. In her first week, towards the end of a sixth or seventh year of drought, June shovelled foot high dunes of dust off the verandahs of the Clinic at the end of almost every day. "There was just no way of keeping it out. Depending on which way the wind blew, the dust storms just rolled straight in through the gauze screening. And the wind seemed to blow nearly all the time." She does confess to thinking, O-Kaay? What have I got myself into?

The dust wasn't her only challenge. She had to learn how to check the dirt airstrip and light the flares for night landings and departures by the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS).



> Sister June Andrew OAM.

Part of the job was checking there was no stock or kangaroos on the strip. "It was always interesting and you have to drive really fast to check the surface for the planes..." She giggles some more, secretly enjoying the excuse to whizz up and down the airstrip very quickly.

The other challenge she faced in those early days was mastering the VHF radios. Although the town got an automatic telephone service and television not long before June arrived, the pastoral stations didn't get their telephones back then and they still used VHF radios for communications. June well remembers the twice daily radio sessions were one of the trickiest things to learn. "There were two sessions a day and I would call in to either session and talk to a doctor about any problems. The hardest thing was learning to

tell the doctor what the problem was without saying much. You had to be careful what you put over the radio because half the State would hear it if they happened to be listening. The stations could call in throughout the day if there was an emergency. I kept the radio on all the time, just in case..."

As it happened, the alert for her first major emergency didn't come over the radio. Not long after she went there, a man walked in and said he'd come across a road accident about thirty kilometres south of town. He had brought in the two boys involved; one was dead and the other barely injured. June remembers the adrenaline kicking in as she saw the dead boy in the car.

See page 16 to order a copy of *Nurses of the Outback*.



A day in the life of the RFDS >

IN 24 HOURS you can fly to Europe; 24 hours is two shifts on a mining site.

The best part of 24 hours is how far many people living in remote and rural Australia need to drive to get the most basic medical and allied health services the rest of us have come to expect.

In just 24 hours, the RFDS delivers the finest care to the furthest corners: that is, the delivery of quality care, every 24 hours, seven days a week, 12 months a year.

Be it an aeromedical emergency retrieval of a critically injured victim in a desert highway motor vehicle accident, the delivery of mental health services to outback communities around Alice Springs, oral health care and education to school kids and families in isolated settlements, telehealth consultations by phone or radio, a rural women's GP clinic, or a fly-in primary care clinic bringing allied health professionals to rural communities: the RFDS is there.

From the fledgling aeromedical service assisting 255 patients and saving four lives

in its first year of operation in 1928, the RFDS today provides the finest care to more than 290,000 Australians each year – that's one person every two minutes.

The notion of the 'mantle of safety' for the outback formed the backbone of the Reverend John Flynn's vision for an aeromedical service that would provide medical care for people living, working and travelling in rural and remote areas of Australia.

On just one day, Wednesday 9 October 2013, RFDS Central Operations flew over 25,700 kilometres to provide emergency and essential health care services to 166 people throughout South and Central Australia:

- 24 patients flown on aeromedical flights;
- 21 patients treated at remote primary health clinics;
- 25 patients consulted by the Rural Women's GP Service;
- 18 patients assisted by mental health clinicians;
- Four patients consulted over the phone; and

- 74 patients treated by allied health clinicians.

This day (see opposite) began shortly after midnight when the Port Augusta night crew departed for Renmark to conduct the urgent inter-hospital transfer of a patient from Renmark to Adelaide. It concluded at 11:10pm when a crew from Alice Springs Base closed the doors on VH-FGT to conduct the primary evacuation of a critically ill patient from Giles airstrip over the Western Australian border, 750km south-west of Alice Springs.

This was an ordinary day like any other and shows why so many of our corporate and community supporters and our volunteers work hard to keep the Flying Doctor flying.

On any given day, in the dead of night or the clear light of day, the hard working staff are ready to provide the kind of assistance that has made the RFDS the most comprehensive and largest aeromedical service in the world.

Snapshot: 24 hours of care >

00:25 The day begins when a Port Augusta Base aeromedical crew takes off for the Riverland to conduct an inter-hospital transfer of a patient in need of a higher level of care from Renmark to Adelaide.

08:05 A team of allied health professionals including an Occupational Therapist, Child and Family Health Nurse and a Physiotherapist set off from Port Augusta to conduct a day-long clinic as part of the RFDS Primary Care Outreach Program.

12:05 A Primary Health Care team including Community Health Nurse Cheryl Boles arrives at Cowarie Station, nearly 1000km north of Adelaide on the Birdsville Track to begin a series of visits to families, workers and travellers at remote stations.

12:25 The RFDS Healthy Living Program Lifestyle Adviser Sophie Palyga completes a session on healthy eating as the HLP team prepares to conduct a physical activity and well-being class with adults in Roxby Downs.

14:30 Women at Inkawenyerre, a settlement in the Utopia community, north of Alice Springs, take part in a 'narrative therapy' session conducted by clinicians in the RFDS Mental Health Outreach Program, designed to instil positive mental health messages using Aboriginal story-telling and painting traditions.

16:00 Darwin-based Dr Roxane Craig, GP, sees the last of her patients as part of the Rural Women's GP Service at the remote traditional Aboriginal community of Lajamanu, situated on the northern edge of the Tanami Desert in the Northern Territory.

18:30 The on-call GP at the Port Augusta Base, Dr Betsy Williams, takes a call concerning a mine worker at an oil rig 40km outside of Moomba in the far north-east of South Australia.

23:10 Flight Nurse Fran Neylon prepares for a primary evacuation flight from RFDS Alice Springs Base to Docker River, near the WA border – about 900km by road – of a seriously ill woman to hospital in Alice Springs.





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Livestock producers unite >

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN livestock producers rallied together to take part in a new – and unique – fundraising campaign to help keep the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) in the air – and on the land.

The Great Australian Auction was held throughout the third week of October when farmers were encouraged to donate the proceeds of sheep, cattle and wool sold under the hammer at regular and feature livestock markets and wool sales.

“The concept of livestock producers donating the proceeds of sheep, cattle, pigs and wool sold at auction sales is not new – it happens on a random basis all the year round,” says Charlie Paterson, General Manager of Marketing & PR, RFDS Central Operations.

“What is new is that we’ve been asking farmers selling livestock and wool during

An RFDS Event
**THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN
AUCTION**

one week of the year to rally together and ‘donate one to the Doctor’,” Mr Paterson says.

Will Bray, “Fairvale”, Jamestown, was one of 31 sheep breeders who donated a total of 53 sheep at the Jamestown Blue Ribbon Sheep Sale.

“It’s an easy way to donate, and it’s easy to donate to such a great cause,” says Will, who donated one ewe from his family’s pen of 201 Merino ewes which sold for \$134 per head.

> Livestock agent **Scott Fleetwood**, Elders Jamestown, with client **Will Bray**, ‘Fairvale’, Jamestown.



Bears of care a gift from the heart >



> James Kavanagh holds ‘Scruffy’ alongside mum Lynette and students from Pembroke School.

A GROUP OF Pembroke School secondary students got to appreciate the fruits of their labour during a visit to the RFDS Adelaide Base when they donated teddy bears they had made themselves to be used as comfort for child patients as part of the school’s community care program.

Having spent nearly 15 hours making each bear, the students were pleased to meet 10 year-old James Kavanagh who was inseparable from his bear ‘Scruffy’, given to him by RFDS Flight Nurse Belinda Coutts on a midnight flight from Port Lincoln to Adelaide for emergency kidney surgery last year.

“Your bears provide enormous comfort,” Belinda told the students, “Don’t ever underestimate what these bears mean to the children.”

Volunteers raise \$900,000 >

OUR SUPPORT GROUPS and Auxiliaries have put in an almighty effort for 2014 raising a total of almost \$900,000 to keep the Flying Doctor in the air.

The 24 groups, some of whom have been operating for decades in their local communities, take the art of fundraising to a special level organising and hosting a range of events from the annual badge day, raffles to luncheons, silent auctions and progressive dinners.

Port Augusta Auxiliary raised an

extraordinary \$100,000 while Roxby Downs Auxiliary raised \$80,000 and Naracoorte & District Support Group \$70,000.

“Our volunteers and supporters are the lifeblood for the RFDS in the local community and they never fail to surprise with their hard work and ingenuity in inspiring community support for the Flying Doctor,” RFDS Central Operations Volunteer Co-ordinator Deb Adams says.

“We thank them for their efforts – we simply couldn’t do without them.”



> **RFDS Gawler & District Support Group Committee.**



> **RFDS Port Augusta Auxiliary Secretary Jim Langdon, RFDS Volunteer Co-ordinator Debbie Adams, and Auxiliary President Helen Taylor.**

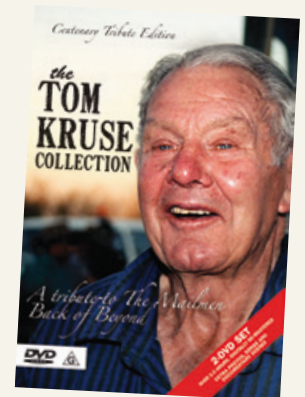
AUXILIARY / SUPPORT GROUP	\$ RAISED 2014
RFDS Adelaide Auxiliary * to be finalised, amount shows year to date	\$50,000
Alice Royal Flying Doctor Auxiliary Inc * total for 2013	\$45,000
RFDS Ceduna Support Group	\$7,000
RFDS Clare Support Group	\$25,000
RFDS Copper Coast & District Support Group	\$28,000
RFDS Cowell & District Support Group	\$5,400
RFDS Fleurieu Support Group	\$24,000
RFDS Gawler & District Support Group	\$9,000
RFDS Holdfast Bay Dinner Club	\$13,000
RFDS Jamestown & District Support Group	\$20,000
RFDS Kangaroo Island Support Group	\$15,000
RFDS Kingston & District Support Group	\$35,000
RFDS Marree Support Group	\$15,000
Millicent & District RFDS Support Group	\$43,000
Mount Gambier RFDS Support Group	\$65,000
Naracoorte & District RFDS Support Group	\$70,000
RFDS Port Augusta Auxiliary	\$100,000
RFDS Port Lincoln Auxiliary	\$60,000
RFDS in the Riverland	\$33,200
RFDS Roxby Downs Auxiliary	\$80,000
RFDS Sunryasia Support Group	\$39,000
Tatiara RFDS Support Group	\$42,000
RFDS SYP Support Group	\$39,000
RFDS Whyalla Support Group	\$40,000

A tribute to mailmen of the Outback >

HAD HE LIVED legendary Outback mailman and dam sinker, Tom Kruse MBE would have celebrated his 100th birthday on 28 August 2014. A special tribute to the Waterloo-born pioneer has been released following extensive research by Ian Doyle and Keith Webb.

The Tom Kruse Collection is a double DVD set including more than 3.5 hours of material about the rescue, restoration and re-enactment involving his 1936 Leyland Badger mail truck, the stories behind the making of *The Back of Beyond* and the past 100 years of history of the mailmen of the Birdsville Track.

For more information on *The Tom Kruse Collection* see the website www.tomkruse.com.au or see page 16 to order the DVD.



Odyssey goes bush >

THE OZ OUTBACK ODYSSEY fundraiser has been going strong for 22 years and for the first time chose the RFDS as its main charity for this year's 3200 kilometre event.

Car enthusiasts and adventurers spend every spare moment in the year leading up to the July event lovingly preparing their regulation pre-1985 vehicles for the gruelling eight day trek from Gawler to Broken Hill and through pastoral properties in New South Wales and Queensland.

Through a series of impromptu drag races in the desert and historic visits to the Silverton Hotel, homesteads, campfires and a bit of outback history, the bush bashers finish the race with a dinner in Stradbroke Island, near Brisbane.

Along the way, the intrepid group is supported by 4WD vehicles but this year the star was a large US-built emergency rescue flat-bed

truck known as "The Beast". Weighing in at 10 tonnes, The Beast was on hand to provide assistance for vehicles in need of urgent repairs.

Oz Outback Odyssey Chairman, Keith Finch, said this year's event was a huge success, raising a total of \$67,327 for the Flying Doctor, including \$5000 raised individually by cars 492 and 493.

"It's the journey itself that makes this event truly unique as entrants take in remote and iconic regions of outback Australia," says Keith, an Adelaide transport business owner.

The organisers of Oz Outback Odyssey have made the RFDS the event's main charity of choice for three years including the 2014 event.

Next year's Oz Outback Odyssey will travel from Alice Springs to Darwin in July.

For more information
www.ozoutbackodyssey.com.au



> Oz Outback Odyssey event Ambassador Russell Ebert, event Chairman Keith Finch, RFDS Volunteer David Reeves, and major sponsor Mogas Chairman Greg Patten.



Ebony rides again >

WHEN EBONY NEWMAN is on to a good thing she sticks to it. The keen trail rider led her second Cowell to Cummins Trek on the Eyre Peninsula over the Easter Weekend in 2014 and raised nearly \$18,000 for the RFDS.

Ebony began the trek in 2012 to honour the memory of her grandfather Laurie Newman. The inaugural four-day 200 kilometre trek raised \$20,000 for the RFDS as she rode through a series of towns.

This time Ebony was joined on the ride by friends Sam Carmody, Erin Keough and Cheryl Ganley.

Ebony said they received "massive support" from towns they visited along the trek, adding it was important to involve communities along the way because, "it's not just about raising money, it's also about raising awareness".



> Jessica and Dave Adamson



> Meg Jolly and Kate Cooper



> Charmaine and Ian Davies

Wings for Life Gala Ball becomes Moroccan Bazaar >

THE RFDS annual Wings for Life Gala Ball did not disappoint. The May 2014 event was a sell out, confirming it as one of Adelaide's premier charity events.

This year the Adelaide Entertainment Centre was transformed into a Moroccan Bazaar where 930 guests were serenaded by star attraction Kate Ceberano, who led the night's entertainment.

Guests enjoyed a three-course meal, fundraising auctions, lucky dips and a prize draw including a return trip for two to a European city of their choice flying Emirates.

Thanks to our volunteers, donors and guests, the Ball raised a tremendous \$190,000 for the RFDS. Thanks to our Major Sponsors: Alinta Energy, BAE Systems, Adelaide Airport, MGA Whittles, Iluka Resources, Beach Energy and our Major Donor: Raw Pearls.



> Raelene Masters, Fiona Clampett and Jo Henshall

Your gift can make a difference >



New!

RFDS Single Christmas Card

RFDS unique design with Christmas message inside. 21cm x 10cm with envelope.
\$1.00 each



New!

Christmas Card Pack

Three unique designs with Christmas message inside. RFDS message of support on the back. 20cm x 11.5cm with envelopes.
\$6.00 (6 cards in a pack)



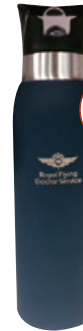
2015 Calendar

Featuring 12 unique Australian images. 30cm x 21cm with envelope.
\$15.00



Mantle Of Safety Cookbook 3

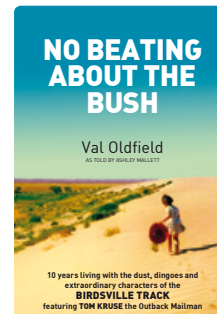
Recipes from the hearts and homes of RFDS volunteers.
\$15.00



New!

RFDS Drink Bottle

New BPA-free, double-walled 500ml stainless steel bottle suitable for hot and cold drinks.
\$20.00



No Beating About The Bush book

Val Oldfield's story of 10 years living on the Birdsville Track, including many experiences with the RFDS.
\$32.00



New!

Nurses of the Outback book

Annabelle Brayley's account of 15 intrepid nurses from Outback Australia, including RFDS' own June Andrew OAM.
\$30.00



New!

The Tom Kruse Collection Double DVD

Featuring new release documentary, *The Mailmen Back of Beyond*, Ian Doyle's complete history of Tom Kruse MBE and stories behind a century of mailmen of the Birdsville Track.
www.tomkruse.com.au
\$39.95 (includes postage)

Your order form >

RFDS MERCHANDISE	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
RFDS Single Christmas Card	\$1.00		
Christmas Card Pack	\$6.00		
2015 Calendar	\$15.00		
<i>Mantle of Safety Cookbook 3</i>	\$15.00		
RFDS Drink Bottle	\$20.00		
<i>No Beating About The Bush</i> book	\$32.00		
<i>Nurses of the Outback</i> book	\$30.00		
<i>The Tom Kruse Collection</i> DVD * <small>includes postage</small>	\$39.95		

Order Subtotal

POSTAGE & HANDLING CHARGES (for above value)		TOTAL
Order value: \$1 - \$15	P&H charge: \$3.00	
Order value: \$16 - \$30	P&H charge: \$8.00	
Order value: Over \$31	P&H charge: \$12.00	

*The Tom Kruse Collection includes postage N/A

YOUR DONATION – THANK YOU
(tax deductible over \$2)

RFDS CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS (INCLUDES POSTAGE)

Mercy Dash	\$25.00		
Highway Landing	\$25.00		
Night Flight	\$50.00		
Outback Clinic	\$50.00		

ORDER TOTAL

For all orders of \$50 or more[§] received by 5 December, a free Wings Badge will be included.



[§] Does not include P&H charges.

Your details >

Items and receipts will be delivered to the nominated address below.

Title	First Name
Surname	
Address	
Suburb/Town	
State	Postcode
Daytime telephone ()	
Email	

Method of payment

Cheque/Money Order enclosed and made payable to:
RFDS Central Operations.

Visa Mastercard AMEX

Card number

Expiry /

Cardholder's name

Signature

CVV

*The last three digits of the number printed on the signature panel on the back of your card. (AMEX: four digits on the front)

Please send me information about arranging a regular donation to the RFDS.

Please send me information about including a gift to the RFDS in my will.

I have included the RFDS in my will.

Please check carefully that: the order form is fully completed, including allowance for postage and handling, and your details and payment completed. Use the reply paid envelope enclosed or post to: Royal Flying Doctor Service – Merchandise PO Box 381 MARLESTON SA 5033 or Fax: 08 8238 3395.

All prices are inclusive of GST. All postage prices are for postage within Australia only. If you have any questions, please call us on 08 8238 3333 during business hours. Thank you for supporting the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

'Donate' a Christmas gift that saves lives >

Buy a RFDS Gift Card

Are you looking for a great Christmas solution for that hard-to-buy-for person? This Christmas, make a donation to the RFDS and we will send you an RFDS card for you to give to the recipient.

Each Gift Card showcases a signature image of our RFDS aircraft at work, making it the perfect addition to the mantelpiece.

Save on postage and give a Gift Card that makes a difference.

It's simple!

1. Four Gift Cards are available, with values of \$25 and \$50. Each Gift Card includes a printed Christmas greeting and mentions that a donation has been made to the RFDS as your Christmas gift to them.
2. Choose one or several, and complete the order form inside the *AirDoctor* magazine, or call us to order on (08) 8238 3333.
3. The amount you pay for Gift Cards is a tax deductible donation to the RFDS – we will send you a receipt.
4. We will send you the Gift Cards, with envelopes. Just add your name (and personal greeting if you wish) before giving your Gift Cards to family and friends on Christmas Day.

RFDS Christmas Gift Cards indicate you have given a Christmas donation to the RFDS with your recipient in mind. They have no cash value and are not redeemable for purchase of RFDS merchandise.

Card size: 99mm x 210mm wide (DL).



Season's Greetings

Dear _____

As my Christmas gift to you, I have made a donation to the Royal Flying Doctor Service, to help provide 24/7 emergency aeromedical and primary health care in remote and rural Australia.

Celebrate our journey

20 YEARS UNDER THE STARS

Rally your friends to be a part of history and join the Royal Flying Doctor Service to celebrate 20 years of our iconic bush event Wilpena Under the Stars.

An evening of glamour and sparkle awaits at the base of the rugged and spectacular Wilpena Pound where you will experience one of the most magical sunsets in the South Australian outback.

As dusk fades to night, bask in the spectacular beauty of the Flinders Ranges as you wine, dine and dance under a kaleidoscope of stars at this unique event.

Indulge in a special '20th Anniversary' three-course menu, complemented by superb Jacob's Creek reserve wines and finely-crafted ales from our friends at Coopers Brewery before dancing the night away to live entertainment under the outback glow.

Strictly black tie | Tickets PRE-SOLD only | \$200 per person*

*Includes dinner, refreshments and local shuttle bus to and from event

SATURDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2015
6:30PM – 12:30AM

TICKETS ON SALE
8.30AM MONDAY
1 DECEMBER 2014

To purchase your tickets please contact the Royal Flying Doctor Service (08) 8238 3333

All proceeds benefit the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

An RFDS Event
WILPENA
UNDER THE STARS 2015

MAJOR SPONSORS



SUPPORTING SPONSORS



AN RFDS EVENT

