



AirDoctor



From the Chairman & CEO >



LORETTA REYNOLDS
Chairman



JOHN LYNCH
Chief Executive Officer

WELCOME to the November edition of *AirDoctor*. As the festive season draws near, we look back on a busy year with great pride and many highlights including:

- assisting 51,231 patients – that's one person every ten minutes;
- providing 3,153 face-to-face GP consultations, 6,975 community nurse consultations and 7,660 mental health consultations;
- partnering with the national youth mental health initiative, headspace, to trial a mental health service targeting young people living in the South Australian outback; and
- celebrating staff milestones including June Andrew, Remote Area Nurse (35 years); Karen McBain, Flight Nurse (20 years); Ben Satterley, Finance Manager (15 years); with the following staff celebrating 10 years; Belinda Coutts, Flight Nurse; Chris Davenport-Klunder, Flight Nurse; Mark Dickson, Pilot; Steve Gore, Pilot; Jodie Hunter, Flight Nurse; Brett Mayger, Pilot and Rodney Moyle, Engineer.

Before the year draws to a close, we look forward to commencing charter operations from our new Darwin Base. In the coming months we will continue discussions with the Northern Territory Department of Health regarding our capability to assist and support with the transfer of low acuity patients, as well as expanding the transport of health professionals to remote communities in the region.

Next year is an extra special one, our 90th anniversary. As part of the many celebrations,

our Board will officially open our new Darwin Base as we will also mark our 79th year of operation in the Territory. We also look forward to visiting Port Augusta during NAIDOC week in July to participate in the celebration of the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We have been in operation in Port Augusta since 1956.

Preparation for the arrival of our first purpose-built aeromedical jet, the Pilatus PC-24, is well underway. The jet is due for delivery in December 2018, and will see us share experiences and expertise with RFDS Western Operations, who will have taken delivery of two medically-equipped jets before us. They are the Australian launch customer for this dedicated aeromedical jet

Available on the website, we recently published our 2016-17 Annual Report which we commend to you and includes several case studies on the advancement of our Service over the past year.

In the next five years it is anticipated our capital replacement program will require \$50.1m at current values including the purchase of a medically-equipped twin-engine jet (PC-24) and the option on a second twin-engine jet (PC-24), two medically-equipped PC-12s, together with medical, aviation and general equipment upgrades in excess of \$1m per annum.

We are pleased to report on the continuing appointments of the sitting Board members Dr Tim Cooper, Dr Ian Gould and Loretta Reynolds following our AGM on 19 October. All return unopposed. We can advise the following Board appointments:

- Chair: Loretta Reynolds
- Deputy Chair: David Hills
- Treasurer: Paul Prestwich

We thank our Staff for their valuable contribution this year. It is a privilege to work with a team of dedicated professionals who are committed to us providing the finest care to the furthest corner. We also sincerely thank the families of our Staff

who support them on our collective mission.

We thank our Board for their selfless contribution, as they shape the future direction of our great organisation by providing guidance, counsel and expertise, as well as our Volunteers, Support Groups and Auxiliaries, who also so generously give their time to raise much-needed funds and awareness for our cause.

Finally, we thank all those who so generously support the Flying Doctor. Thanks to the kind support of individuals, corporations, governments and the community, the RFDS has proudly served Australia for 89 years.

We wish you a safe and happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

LORETTA REYNOLDS
Chairman

JOHN LYNCH
Chief Executive Officer

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

Street Address: 1 Tower Road
Adelaide Airport SA 5950

Postal Address: PO Box 381
Marleston SA 5033

Phone: 08 8238 3333
Email: enquiries@flyingdoctor.net
Fax: 08 8238 3395

flyingdoctor.org.au/sant

facebook.com/royalflyingdoctorservice

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OUR COVER: Bridie Ferguson and Pippa Reynolds, North Moolooloo Station, Copley, with RFDS Community Health Nurse Mandy Smallacombe at the William Creek Gymkhana, SA.



Injured father and son are transferred from Alice Springs to the Burns Unit at Royal Adelaide Hospital.

RFDS responds to burns victims >

THE RFDS PLAYED A KEY ROLE in the mass emergency response following a car explosion at the recent Red CentreNATS drag-racing event in Alice Springs in September.

A total of 11 spectators were rushed to the Emergency Department of Alice Springs Hospital after burning fuel sprayed into the onlooking crowd.

The two most seriously injured patients, a father and his 19-year old son from Millthorpe, NSW, were flown overnight by a RFDS aeromedical team from the Alice Springs Base to the Burns Unit at the Royal Adelaide Hospital for emergency treatment.

The patients, who had been enjoying a father-son weekend, were front line spectators and suffered

burns to 20 per cent of their bodies (face and limbs).

“The father and son experienced severe pain and required urgent transfer to a major burns centre for treatment,” says Flight Nurse Carolyn Illmayer.

The 1,500km journey from Alice Springs to Adelaide takes 16 hours by road – but the Flying Doctor covers this ground in just three hours.

“The son was very anxious – it was his first trip to Alice Springs and he didn’t have any other family members with him, just his Dad, so we were pleased we were able to transport the two patients together.”

Read more of our latest stories at
flyingdoctor.org.au/sant/news



The RedCentreNATS event in Alice Springs was cancelled after a burnout sent burning fuel spraying over spectators. Photo: ABC News

Night flight to save baby Scarlett's life >

When Morgan Wallis watched her 'normal' baby girl suddenly start to vomit after every feed, little did she know that they would soon be faced with a race against time.



Morgan & Scarlett Wallis.

SCARLETT WALLIS is a gorgeous blonde-haired little girl with a beautiful smile. Like many children her age she loves painting, playing outside and watching her favourite show, The Wiggles. She can't wait to celebrate her second birthday with a party and a Peppa Pig cake.

But little Scarlett has endured more in her 23 months than most of us do in a lifetime. When Scarlett was six-months-old, she began vomiting after every feed. Scarlett's parents, Morgan and Ben, rushed her to their local GP in Laura, in country South Australia, who suspected pneumonia and ordered urgent chest x-rays in Adelaide.

Scarlett's condition was now so critical that there wasn't time to make the two-and-a-half hour drive to Adelaide's Women's and Children's Hospital. The RFDS was alerted and a RFDS aircraft and aeromedical crew landed at Port Pirie

to evacuate Scarlett and Morgan to Adelaide in just 30 minutes.

At three o'clock in the morning, specialists diagnosed Scarlett with coarctation of the aorta – which was causing heart failure – and immediately scheduled open heart surgery at the Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne.

"It was terrifying", remembers Morgan. "In less than 24 hours we'd gone from 'your little girl has pneumonia' to 'she needs open-heart surgery.'"

Time was critical – driving the 700 kilometres to Melbourne by ambulance wasn't an option.

Once again, the RFDS and now a MedSTAR Kids retrieval team were there – ready to transfer Scarlett and Morgan for life-saving treatment in a RFDS 'flying intensive care unit'.

That's when the family were told the gut-wrenching news: there was only a 15 per cent

chance that Scarlett would survive the flight.

"What I felt on that flight, watching my little girl sedated and hooked up to machines, is indescribable. I just kept telling myself that we were in the best and safest hands possible," says Morgan.

"I don't think I took my eyes off Scarlett the entire way – though I remember being offered a warm jacket at one point. I must have been shivering. The team's compassion was amazing – looking after me, whilst their focus was on keeping my daughter alive," she says.

Upon arrival at Melbourne, there was more devastating news to come.

"We were told Scarlett's heart was three times bigger than it should have been. She was living off one lung and her tiny body was beginning to shut down," Morgan says.



Scarlett recovers in hospital, Scarlett before her hospital admission, Scarlett looking forward to her second birthday.

The consultant said the words no parent wants to hear – the likelihood of Scarlett surviving the operation was less than 20 per cent.

Scarlett was wheeled into the operating theatre and an agonising wait began.

Morgan says she'll never forget the consultant's update just three hours later: "the surgery was successful".

"Relief washed over my husband's face as I shared the first good news of 72 hours. Our precious Scarlett was a fighter."

Scarlett spent the next three weeks in Melbourne, before another aeromedical flight by the RFDS back to Adelaide's Women's & Children's Hospital to complete her slow but steady recovery.

"When we eventually left hospital, Scarlett needed three different medications – one of

Quite simply, if we hadn't had access to the Flying Doctor, Scarlett would have died.

Morgan Wallis

which we had to inject – and was fed through a tube in her nose," says Morgan.

"It was a lot to take in – and we knew we had a long road ahead – but we were just so happy to be taking our little girl home."

"Scarlett's progress over the last eighteen months is just incredible. Whilst she's needed some extra support along the way, she's doing

so well. She recently took her first steps – such a special milestone."

RFDS Flight Nurse Lovely Victor clearly remembers that important flight: "Baby Scarlett urgently needed cardiac surgery – it was absolutely time critical."

"It's such a privilege to care for not just our patients, but their families, during a crisis. To hear that Scarlett is now fighting fit, about to celebrate her second birthday, is just wonderful," Lovely adds.

"I don't like to think about the alternative outcome," says Morgan.

"'Grateful' doesn't even begin to describe it. Quite simply, if we hadn't had access to the Flying Doctor, Scarlett would have died."

Please show your support today and keep the Flying Doctor flying! Call 1800 813 318 or visit flyingdoctor.org.au/sant/donate

'Wings for Life' nets \$228,000 >

A VERY SPECIAL DATE on the RFDS fundraising calendar, this year's 'Wings for Life' Gala Ball saw 200 tonnes of sand fill the Adelaide Entertainment Centre to create the wonderful 'BAREFOOT Beach Ball' atmosphere. We are delighted to announce that the event raised an incredible \$228,000, thanks to the generosity of our 750 guests, sponsors, prize donors and supporters who raised

this fantastic amount for the RFDS capital-raising program for replacement of aircraft and medical equipment. We extend a special thank you to our event volunteers for their contribution. We look forward to announcing the theme of our very special 2018 'Wings for Life' ball, where we will celebrate 90 years of the RFDS.



1 > Kate Paterson with Fred and Sarah Howard, DogRidge Wines 2 > Ali and William Gebhardt with Steven Peters, Emirates 3 > Wings for Life event volunteers.

MAJOR SPONSORS >



Ahrens



MAJOR DONOR >



AIRCRAFT PARTNER >



Major sponsor extends support >

A \$7 MILLION ‘flying intensive care unit’ bearing the Senex Energy logo was recently unveiled as the oil and gas company announced the renewal of its major sponsorship of RFDS Central Operations.

Senex Energy has committed a further \$300,000 over three years to directly support the RFDS’ 24/7 life-saving operations and the health and well-being of those living, working and visiting rural and remote South and Central Australia.

The sponsorship renewal will take Senex Energy’s total support of the RFDS to \$600,000 over six years.

“Senex – and the oil and gas industry as a whole – has a responsibility for health and safety for people who live and work in the outback communities where we operate,” says Ian Davies, Senex’s Managing Director.

“It’s remarkable to think this RFDS ‘flying intensive care unit’ conducts two flights in South Australia every day – and our board, our management and our staff are really proud to play a role in helping to make that happen”, he says.



Loretta Reynolds, Chairman, and John Lynch, Chief Executive Officer, RFDS Central Operations with Ian Davies, Managing Director, Senex Energy and SA Treasurer Hon. Tom Koutsantonis MP.

‘November’ has already evacuated over 600 patients from regional and remote South Australia.

Ian Davies

Senex’s origins in South Australia extend back three decades and the company’s core producing assets are located in the remote Cooper Basin.

Delivered last year, VH-FXN (Foxtrot-X-ray-November) joined the RFDS fleet of nine aeromedically-equipped Pilatus PC-12 aircraft based in South Australia as part of its on-going aircraft replacement program.

Already in 2017, ‘November’ has evacuated over 600 patients from 44 regional and remote locations throughout South Australia – and

beyond – including 15 interstate evacuations, mostly newborn babies to The Royal Children’s Hospital Melbourne for life-saving cardiac surgery. RFDS Central Operations CEO John Lynch says Senex’s support will reach far and wide – and deliver lasting community benefit.

“Senex’s contribution will support our capital raising program for on-going upgrade of our fleet of medically-equipped aircraft that deliver emergency aeromedical and primary health care services throughout South and Central Australia,” Mr Lynch says.

“These major projects are critical to the RFDS maintaining its proven track record of innovation, outstanding patient care and the highest safety standards to benefit our staff, health delivery partners and the communities we serve.

“The on-going support from the entire community – our public donors, community fundraisers, volunteers and corporate sponsors like Senex Energy – are critical to us meeting our future financial challenges,” he says.

The furthest corner. The finest care. >

Whether conducted in an outback homestead, inside an aircraft or at a major community event, the RFDS Primary Health Care Service strives to equal – in fact, dares to exceed – the quality of primary care afforded to those living in our cities.



General Practice



E-Health



Chronic Disease Management



Mental Health



Oral Health



Maternal and Child Health



Remote Area Nurses

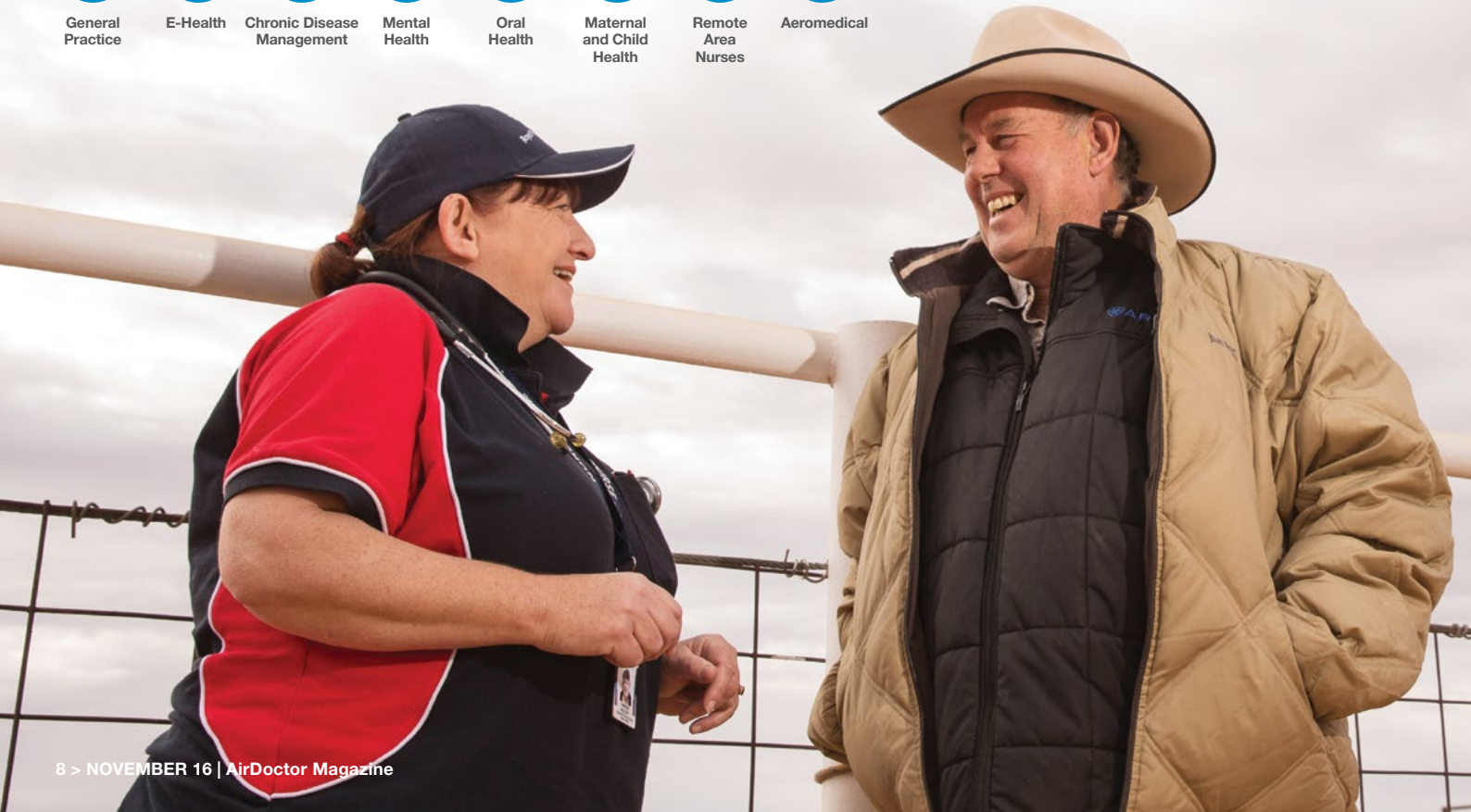


Aeromedical

THE UNITED TEAM has advanced its primary and preventative health care services delivered from the Port Augusta Base to match services offered by any metropolitan GP surgery, and recently gained industry accreditation to prove it.

RFDS Practice Manager, Cheryl Boles, assuming the role just one year ago and bringing to it a wealth of knowledge from over 20 year of outback community nursing, has been instrumental in implementing changes that have brought the Port Augusta Primary Care Service in line with Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) standards.

“Previously, there was a traditional service delivered by five clinicians – myself included – who worked for decades in our model of care,” Cheryl says.



“Some communities had the same doctor visit for 25 years who looked after generations of families – from the dying grandfather to the newborn child and all family members in between.

“That was OK, and it served the immediate needs, but we were isolated from the wider health care industry.”

In 2014, the RFDS commissioned a report titled *Consumer Health Needs Analysis* to identify ways to improve the quality – and relevance – of its primary health care services provided from the Port Augusta Base.

A key recommendation was to establish a Practice Manager role to instil leadership, drive change and make the service more ‘needs based’ and contemporary, cementing its future in outback South Australia.

Another major step was rolling out an electronic patient record software system named *Best Practice*, which Cheryl attributes as the “big ticket” item that has underpinned improvement in the efficiency and quality of primary health care being delivered by the team.

Whether conducting a 24/7 tele-health consultation or out on a ‘fly-in’ health clinic, the team now access – and update – live patient records from their portable laptops.

“Previously, we used lever-arch files,” Cheryl says. “Now, blood test results come in and are updated automatically.”

“When going to an area without internet service we load the entire system on to laptops. The clinicians work offline and then upon their return to Port Augusta we upload (the files) to the main server and the notes are live again,” Cheryl says.

“Importantly, the *Best Practice* software system is linked across our three Remote Area Nurse (RAN) outposts to complete the patient recording and continuity of care by our nurses between the fly-in consults.”

Point-of-care testing has also been introduced allowing clinicians to conduct in-clinic testing with immediate results for chronic disease conditions such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease, checking cholesterol levels, assess renal function, as well as providing real-time information about a patient’s health.

Doctors can then work with patients to prescribe medication, develop an appropriate diet and exercise plan, and improve their overall well-being through chronic disease management. “Prevention is the key,” Cheryl says.

Specialist nursing expertise also features in the new service model. One full-time community health nurse has been replaced by two part-time community nurses – a midwife and chronic disease nurse – with a third, specialist cardiovascular disease clinician on the horizon.

A McGrath Foundation-funded breast cancer care nurse has also been engaged to educate and inform remote residents about breast cancer and raise awareness, while also providing advice to RFDS clinicians about breast cancer issues and management.

RFDS has also partnered with headspace, the national youth mental health foundation, as part of a trial to integrate a local community engagement officer with the team and provide outback teenagers suffering from mental health issues with relevant and specialist support and clinical referral where required.



Twenty-two weeks pregnant with her second child, Ashlee White, Cowarie Station, via Marree, has her entire family’s electronic medical records managed by the RFDS *Best Practice* database.



Betty Williams, Williams Cattle Co., receives diabetes management advice from RFDS Community Health Nurse, Mandy Smallacombe.



Dr Andy Killcross, RFDS Senior Medical Practitioner, discusses men’s health with Andrew Clarke, Allandale Station, via Oodnadatta.



McGrath Foundation Breast Care Nurse Judith Finlay with Erica Swertson, Eagle Rock Station, North West SA.

Image > Port Augusta Community Health Nurse, Therese McCourt, talking with Glyn Shackelford, Orroroo, at the William Creek Gymkhana.

Ain't no mountain high enough!

The RFDS is proud to partner with Inspired Adventures to offer an incredible wilderness hike with a difference...

Experience the diversity of Tasmania's Cradle Mountain, a stunning World Heritage area, as you trek through its rugged and striking landscapes. Visit cascading waterfalls, climb rugged mountains and relax in beautiful sub alpine forest. A hot shower and gas heater await you at the end of the day in each of the cosy private huts. Relax in the lounge or enjoy the surrounding scenery, as your guides prepare afternoon tea and delicious three-course dinners. Best of all, with every kilometre you cover, you will be helping RFDS deliver the finest care to the furthest corner.

- Walk the iconic Overland Track
- Experience the beauty and diversity of Cradle Mountain
- Cruise the Pieman River
- Raise vital funds to help keep the Flying Doctor flying

Want to know more?

Call **1300 905 188**

email info@inspiredadventures.com.au
or read more online at bit.ly/TrekWithUs

Fast Facts

Date > 8 to 13 March 2018

Registration fee > \$770 (non-refundable)

Fundraising target > \$4,000 (excludes travel)

Travel quote > \$3,299*, including taxes

Accommodation > Twin or group share in wilderness lodges

Minimum age > 18 (younger ages considered on application)

INSPIRED
ADVENTURES

The Flying Doctor says Thank You

Australia is a vast land — **hot and dry**. With more than 50% of our bodies made up of water, staying hydrated is a key component to health.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service is very proud of the national partnership with **Neverfail Springwater**, which provides spring water to offices and homes across Australia.

With a campaign called **'It's Cooler to Give'** Neverfail is donating **\$100 to the RFDS** for every new cooler order in the health sector, which helps to keep the Flying Doctor flying.



Royal Flying
Doctor Service

 Crafted in Switzerland

PC-12 NG



 **PILATUS** 

THANK YOU FOR FLYING PILATUS

From outback strips to city airports, the Pilatus PC-12 has operated day and night for over twenty years to keep the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) in the air. As a future operator of the new PC-24, the RFDS is set to continue its tradition as a loyal and valuable member of the Pilatus family. We are all extremely proud to be associated with the RFDS and their provision of the finest care to the furthest corners with our aircraft – yesterday, today and in the future.

Pilatus Australia Pty Ltd · Phone +61 8 8238 1600 · www.pilatus-aircraft.com

Meet the team: Flying high with Heather >

In this issue, we talk to Alice Springs Line Pilot, Heather Ford, one of the newest members of the RFDS family.



Alice Springs Line Pilot Heather Ford.

Tell us a bit about yourself.

I'm 32-years-old and have wanted to be a pilot as long as I can remember. I grew up in Ballarat in country Victoria and recently joined the team at Alice Springs Base. Outside of work I enjoy horse riding and competing.

What attracted you to the RFDS?

It's about being part of the team who deliver essential – and often life-saving – services to people in remote areas.



I'll never forget one of my first flights with the Senior Base Pilot to retrieve a young girl. I'll never forget the look on her grandmother's face when we stepped out of the aircraft; just sheer relief that the Flying Doctor had arrived, that they were in safe hands. It's very humbling to be part of that.

What are your first impressions?

I honestly can't wipe the smile off my face! This is the job I've wanted since I first started flying, and it's even better than I ever thought it would be. The operation runs like clockwork and I'm surrounded by a friendly and professional team.

Can you describe a typical week?

It sounds like a cliché, but no two days are the same. When people talk about the RFDS they tend to focus on our emergency aeromedical services in the outback; – but not so many people know that we also provide essential primary healthcare services and transfer patients between country and city hospitals. We even transfer people interstate for life-saving surgery, such as organ transplants and heart surgery on newborn babies.

 **The job is better than I ever thought it would be.** 

Heather Ford

What do you enjoy most?

I'm constantly flying into different areas, dealing with different weather conditions – and I'm on my own in the cockpit. It's totally different to working for a commercial airline, where you fly alongside a co-pilot. We fly in and out of remote areas, often landing on dirt or grass airstrips in the middle of nowhere. That's what makes it challenging – and so exciting!

What would you say to aspiring pilots?

That it's a lot of hard work – but so worth it. Joining an organisation like the RFDS won't be your first job, it takes several years, so prepare yourself and don't be disheartened if you're turned down the first time. Just go and get more experience then try again. Once you're in, you'll never look back.

Find out more about careers with the RFDS at flyingdoctor.org.au/sant



Oz Outback Odyssey committee members Robert Goode, John Bartlett, David Lane, Paul Price, Peter Kowald, Paul Dawe, Donald Fry and Keith Finch present Senior Flight Nurse Michael Penno with their generous contribution.

OZ rally raises \$140,000 >

AN ENTHUSIASTIC TROOP of 24 pre-1985 model 'bash' cars and 4WD support vehicles recently completed a gruelling eight-day journey through the Australian outback to raise funds for the RFDS.

The 25th OZ Outback Odyssey, with the backing of major sponsor CMV Truck Sales, departed Adelaide in convoy on a 4,000-kilometre trek took in some of the country's toughest terrain, culminating in Port Douglas, Queensland.

OZ Outback Odyssey Chairman and event participant, Keith Finch, said this year's event raised \$140,000 for the RFDS – taking its overall tally from previous years' event to a whopping \$500,000.

"As always, there was a great deal of support for us and our fundraising, but equally as important was the economic benefit to outback communities through event catering and donations for community groups, as well as fuel, beverage and tourism sales," Keith says.

It was the fourth year the event had been a major fundraiser for the RFDS and, for the second time, the RFDS entered its own car. RFDS Central

Operations General Manager of Marketing & PR, Charlie Paterson, was one of four entrants in 'Car 1928' – a 1970 Ford Fairlane numbered after the year the service was founded by Reverend John Flynn.

Visiting various stations and roadhouses for lunches and dinners, they heard plenty of stories illustrating the importance of the RFDS.

"Every day somebody walked up, put money in the tin and said 'if it wasn't for the Flying Doctor, I wouldn't be here'," Charlie says.

"As you'd expect driving through some of the most remote parts of Australia, where the RFDS is a lifeblood, we met people every day and they shared their stories."

Expressions of interest are now open for the 2018 OZ Outback Odyssey – Adelaide to Cotton Tree (Sunshine Coast) – 14 July to 21 July 2018.

Visit ozoutbackodyssey.com.au or email Robert Goode enquiries@ozoutbackodyssey.com.au

Celebrating 90 years >

PLANS ARE WELL UNDERWAY as the RFDS prepares to celebrate its milestone 90th anniversary in 2018. A commemorative '90 year' logo will be in use throughout the year, and a special calendar of celebratory events will soon be revealed, including the RFDS 'Wings for Life' Gala Ball and Flying Doctor Race Day at Port Augusta, both to be held in May.

Many of our regular readers will know of the organisation's rich and vibrant history, which started with the dream of a Presbyterian minister, Reverend John Flynn, whose face features today on the Australian \$20 note.

Ordained in 1911, Flynn initially worked in rural and remote Australia setting up hostels and bush hospitals for pastoralists, miners, road workers, railwaymen and other settlers. He witnessed the daily struggle of pioneers living in remote areas and his vision was to provide a 'mantle of safety' for people of the bush.

On 15 May 1928, his dream became a reality when a long-time supporter, H.V. McKay, left a large bequest for 'an aerial experiment'. This enabled Flynn to open the Australian Inland Mission Aerial Medical Service in Cloncurry, Queensland (later to be renamed the Royal Flying Doctor Service).

From that first flight in a single engine, fabric covered bi-plane, Flynn expanded the service to include the first 'tele-health' services for those in the bush using the early radios of the time (which later led to the establishment of the famous School of the Air, which also still operates to this day).

**90
YEARS**





A little help from our (Facebook) friends >

WHEN CORPORATE PARTNER MGA Insurance Brokers generously pledged to donate \$10 every time one of our Facebook community 'liked' or 'shared' a short video on the RFDS Facebook page (up to an incredible \$25,000), we couldn't have imagined the outcome.

More than 9,500 of our followers jumped to support this great initiative, resulting in a significant donation from MGA.

Thank you MGA – and our online community – for keeping the Flying Doctor flying.

Flight Nurse Anthea Sims, Engineer Brenton Keneally, Allan Amber, Deputy Executive Chairman MGA Whittles and Flight Nurse Jodie Hunter.

RFDS a winner at Mitchell Street Mile >



MORE THAN 50 ENTRANTS JOINED

Team RFDS at this year's Lottoland Mitchell Street Mile in Darwin. The fifth fastest runner in the world over 1,500 metres, Silas Kiplagat stretched his body over another 110m to take home the \$15,000 winner's cheque. His time of three minutes 58 seconds was only 15 seconds outside the world record and a \$1 million bonus, proof of the pace of the race despite the heat and a blustery wind. But it wasn't all professional athletes who were on show at the annual event. Hundreds of locals also took part, some 'amateur' runners, some 'fun' runners, some 'fancy dress' runners, as well as the *Team RFDS* entrants who proudly wore our striking red running shirts to raise awareness and funds for the Flying Doctor.

A prosperous year in Port Pirie >



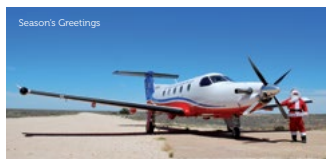
CENTRAL OPERATION'S newest fundraising volunteers, the Port Pirie RFDS Support Group, celebrated their one year anniversary in July. The group had the opportunity to thank the Port Pirie community for its generous support and this year's Smelter's Picnic, whilst handing over their very first cheque (for \$5,000) to RFDS Fundraising Manager, Anthea Rice, on stage.

Vice-Regal visit for Port Augusta >



RFDS CREWS AND VOLUNTEERS were privileged to meet Australia's Governor General, the National Patron of the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia. Their Excellencies, The Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia and Her Excellency Lady Cosgrove, toured the Port Augusta Base in September, including the Operations Coordination Centre, a medically-equipped aircraft and morning tea with RFDS staff and volunteers from the RFDS Port Augusta Auxiliary.

Christmas gifts that save lives >



RFDS 2017 Christmas Card

Santa visits the RFDS in this unique card with Christmas message inside.

21cm x 10cm with envelope.

\$1.00 each

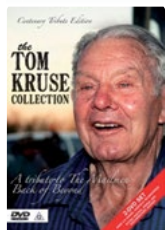


RFDS 2018 Calendar

12 stunning images highlighting our unique landscapes including all key dates throughout 2018.

34cm x 24cm with envelope.

\$18.00



The Tom Kruse Collection DVD

Featuring the 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. tomkruse.com.au

\$39.95 (includes postage)



RFDS Cap

Be prepared this summer with these stylish brushed cotton caps. One size fits all. Available in red or navy.

\$20.00



RFDS Apron

Stand proud at the BBQ this summer with this 100% cotton navy apron with white RFDS logo.

\$20.00

Visit our Doc Shop online to see our full range of fantastic official RFDS merchandise.

rfdosalicesprings.com.au/royal-flying-doctor-online-doc-shop

Chippie community to 'chip' in >

OVER 1,200 STAFF of discount variety store chain Cheap as Chips will rally together – along with their customers – over the next three years to help keep the Flying Doctor flying.

Cheap as Chips staff nominated the RFDS as its new charity partner, and will raise vital funds through personal donations via payroll deductions, in-store collections and product sales promotions, community events and corporate sponsorship.

Cheap as Chips staff – along with their mascot 'Mr Chip' – were on hand to step inside a RFDS 'flying intensive care unit' at the partnership launch at RFDS Adelaide Base, as well as hear from their Managing Director Shane Radbone.

"We are delighted as a proud South Australian company to sign a three-year agreement to financially support the life-saving work of RFDS operations in South Australia, Victoria and Broken Hill," Shane said.

Community partnerships - such as this with Cheap as Chips - are so important to the RFDS – the work they do on the ground will help to keep crews in the air for the tens of thousands of patients that the RFDS assists every year.

Look out for RFDS donation tins at your local Cheap as Chips store.



RFDS staff Jonathan Brown, Michael Penno, Peter Docking, Craig Van Cooten, Kristen Newlyn and Matthew O'Keefe meet Cheap as Chips staff with mascot Mr Chip.

Your order form >

RFDS MERCHANDISE	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
RFDS 2017 Christmas Card	\$1.00		
RFDS 2018 Calendar	\$18.00		
RFDS Apron	\$20.00		
RFDS Baseball Cap - Navy	\$20.00		
RFDS Baseball Cap - Red	\$20.00		
The Tom Kruse Collection DVD *	\$39.95		

Order Subtotal

Postage & Handling charges (for above value)	TOTAL
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Order value: \$1 - \$15	P&H charge: \$5.00	
Order value: \$16 and over	P&H charge: \$10.00	
*The Tom Kruse Collection (postage is included in \$39.95)		N/A

YOUR DONATION – THANK YOU

(tax deductible over \$2)

RFDS Christmas Gift Cards (includes postage)

Midnight Mission	\$25.00		
Mercy Dash	\$25.00		
Highway Landing	\$50.00		
Bush Legend	\$50.00		

Order Total

Orders received after Monday the 11th of December cannot be guaranteed delivery before Christmas Day.

Your details >

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

Title	First Name
Surname	
Supporter number (Seven digit number located above your name in the accompanying letter.)	
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

- 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 an 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).



Save lives from the ground >



As an RFDS Regular Giver, we make it easy for you to help us deliver urgent care in regional, rural and remote areas throughout South and Central Australia.

You can arrange automatic donations with your credit card, or by direct debit from your bank account – you choose the frequency and the amount – and we look after the rest! With one receipt summary issued annually we also make it easy for you at tax time.

To begin your regular giving today, please call 1800 813 318 or visit flyingdoctor.org.au/sant/regular



Royal Flying
Doctor Service