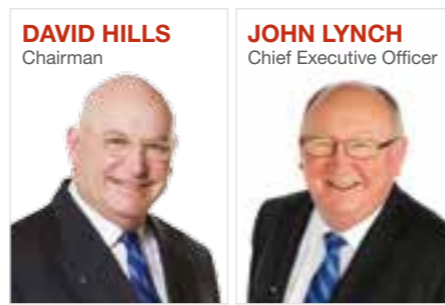




# AirDoctor



# From the Chairman & CEO



**AS WE HEAD** towards the festive season and look forward to a new year full of promise and new beginnings for us all, both individually collectively, we can look back on 2015 with great pride:

- We continue to deliver a broad range of health services including our GP and Nurse fly-in clinics, primary evacuations, inter-hospital transfers, telehealth services and allied health clinics to people living, working and travelling in South Australia and the lower half of the Northern Territory;
- Our *Mental Health Care Outreach Program* in Central Australia has gone ahead in leaps and bounds with a 51% increase in consultations totalling 6,192. This program is making a real difference by reducing the number of acute hospital admissions for mental health issues;
- Our *Healthy Living Program*, proudly supported by the Li Ka Shing Foundation, experienced a 27% increase in participation with 811 people living in remote areas involved in our diet and exercise programs during 2014/15;
- Our *Remote Oral Health Care Program*, proudly supported by Adelaide Airport Limited, consulted 117 patients during 2014/15, an increase of 21% over the previous year.

We aim to further strengthen the delivery of these services to outback communities and we have appointed Dr Steve Ballard as Senior Medical Practitioner and Jackie Roberts to the new role of Practice Manager, both based in Port Augusta, as the result of our Primary Health Care Review conducted during 2015.

The RFDS Federation Office in Canberra has raised the organisation's public profile in its policy development and advocacy for better health services for Australians living in rural and remote areas, releasing a research report in September highlighting gaps in oral health services for people living in the bush (see story on page 4).

In August we welcomed our new General Manager Health Services, Dr John Woodall, who joined us following the retirement in July of Dr John Setchell after 15 years in the role. We have also:

- congratulated long-serving Adelaide Base pilot 'Rocket' Rod McRedmond who retired in September after 34 years of service to the RFDS (see Rod's story on page 5);
- watched as our new Adelaide Base takes shape at the western end of Adelaide Airport where we plan to relocate in mid-2016;

- welcomed a new Pilatus PC-12 aircraft to our air fleet with the delivery of VH-FXJ in August, bringing the Central Operations fleet to 15 (see FXJ's journey on page 6); and
- had a great year with our fundraising, public and corporate donations bringing in \$12.3 million, returning a remarkable cost of 9.8 cents for every dollar raised.

Next year will see the roll-out of the third commercial in the major brand campaign we are running jointly with RFDS Western Operations which is aimed at raising awareness of the RFDS, particularly among the metropolitan audience in SA, WA and the NT.

Finally, we would like to thank our Staff and Board Members, our Commonwealth, State and Territory Government funding partners, corporate supporters, hard-working volunteers and donors for staying with us in 2015. We look forward to your support in the new year.

To each and everyone we hope that the Christmas period brings you great peace and joy and that you can all enjoy the company of family and friends.

We wish you all a happy Christmas and New Year and best wishes for 2016.

  
**DAVID HILLS**  
 Chairman

  
**JOHN LYNCH**  
 Chief Executive Officer

**OUR COVER:** Megan and David Henderson of Mount Vivian Station join the RFDS fly-in clinic at Glendambo Station airstrip, SA.

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

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# Crew keep Gene alive in the air >

**ALICE SPRINGS MAN** Gene Hildebrand is lucky to be alive after defying the odds in having his heart shocked back into rhythm 54 times during his emergency RFDS flight to Adelaide.

During the dramatic and frightening three-hour flight, Gene, 50, was mostly conscious and at times, he said later, he thought he wasn't going to make it.

"I said to myself, 'I'm not going to die on this plane'," Gene says.

Gene's ordeal began early that July morning at home and quickly worsened at work in Pine Gap resulting in him being taken to the Alice Springs Hospital.

Hospital staff quickly determined that Gene was having a major heart attack and, while they could treat him with clot-busting drugs to ease the blood flow to his heart, he needed life-saving heart surgery at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

The only way to get Gene to Adelaide quickly – and safely – was under specialist medical care in a RFDS 'flying intensive care unit'.

RFDS Flight Nurse Carol Illmayer recalls Gene looking "terrible and grey" as he arrived on a stretcher at RFDS Alice Springs Base.

The patient was stable but while waiting in the patient bay he had his first cardiac arrest.

Stabilised once again, Gene was loaded onto the medically-equipped Pilatus PC-12 for the flight to Adelaide accompanied by Carol and Alice Springs Hospital Emergency Retrieval Registrar Dr Chris Edwards.

"The minute we put him on the plane he arrested on us again; he probably arrested



> RFDS crew members Carol Illmayer and Mark Haldane reunite with Gene Hildebrand and his partner Carmen Uloth at RFDS Alice Springs Base.

another six times before we closed the doors on the plane," Carol says.

Faced with the decision to return him to the local hospital where he most certainly would have died without surgery, the crew decided to press on to Adelaide in the hope that they could keep Gene alive long enough to get the heart surgery he needed.

"He didn't give up so we didn't give up," Carol says.

 I said to myself, 'I'm not going to die on this plane'. 

Both Flight Nurse and Doctor were kept busy on the flight and ended up using just about every drug on the aircraft to keep their patient stable.

"It was very, very busy; it challenged both the doctor and myself in our skills. It tested all of our ECG knowledge; we had to draw up multiple drugs to get him through, his blood pressure was dropping," Carol says.

But 50 minutes from landing in Adelaide the drama intensified when Gene went into cardiac arrest.

"We had to conduct CPR; we were quite

worried whether the two of us could handle another 50 minutes of CPR," Carol says.

They lost count of the number of defibrillator shocks they had to administer to Gene and it wasn't until they landed they could check the equipment and discovered he had been shocked 54 times.

Gene recalls that during the flight he experienced an intense feeling of tiredness, "as if the life had been sucked out of me".

"There were times there when I thought, 'this is the end, I'm not going to make it'," Gene says.

Less than four weeks after Gene's mid-air drama, he and his partner Carmen Uloth, had a chance to meet Carol and RFDS Pilot Mark Haldane again to say thank you.

Carmen recalled the dread she felt when it was decided Gene needed to be flown to Adelaide.

"It was the worst moment of my life. He's the love of my life – we've been together for 33 years," Carmen says.

But her fear turned to tears of relief once Gene had his surgery to insert a stent to keep his artery open.

As for Gene, he's just grateful to be here.

"I'd have to be the luckiest person in Australia," he says.



# Tooth decay doubles in the bush >

**CHILDREN LIVING IN** remote Australia are twice as likely to have tooth decay, filled teeth and gum disease as children living in our capital cities.

New research by the RFDS has found the quality of oral health worsens the further a person lives from a major city.

*Filling the Gap: disparities in oral health access and outcomes between major cities and remote and rural Australia* prepared by the RFDS Federation Office finds that one quarter (23%) of adults living in major cities have untreated tooth decay compared to more than one third (37%) of remote residents.

Childhood cavities are 55% higher for remote area children than children in major cities, and the number of filled teeth in remote area children is double that of city children.

The RFDS research found that the disparity in oral health outcomes between city and country people is directly related to a lack of available dental care in remote areas.

“On average, more than six in ten major city adults visited a dentist in a year, compared to little more than four in ten in remote areas,” the report found.

The findings came as no surprise to RFDS Federation CEO, Martin Laverty, who said the tooth decay experienced by country people, particularly children, is entirely preventable.

“Studies show links between oral health and avoidable illness; periodontal (gum) disease is a risk factor of cardiovascular disease and oral infection is also linked to kidney disease,” Mr Laverty said.

Mr Laverty released the report in September 2015 with a call to the Commonwealth Government to increase funding to the RFDS so it can expand its oral health care programs.

The RFDS provides rural and remote oral health care programs to around 15,000 every year in SA, Queensland and NSW.

4 > NOVEMBER 15 | AirDoctor Magazine



> Final-year dental student Dona Nguyen conducting an oral health examination inside the Mungerannie Hotel on SA's Birdsville Track.

On average, more than six in ten major city adults visited a dentist in a year, compared to little more than four in ten in remote areas.

The oral health care programs are currently made possible through corporate, philanthropy or charitable foundation support.

RFDS Central Operations runs a *Remote Oral Health Care Program* (ROHCP) in conjunction with the University of Adelaide Dental School

which provides basic dental care and oral health education to remote communities in outback South Australia.

Funded by Adelaide Airport Limited, the ROHCP conducts two-day clinics twice a year in Kingoonya in the Gawler Ranges, Marla, Mintabie, and Mungerannie on the Birdsville Track.

The ROHCP plays an important role in providing oral health education to people for whom a visit to the dentist can involve taking precious time off work and travelling hundreds of kilometres and back to the nearest major town to see a dentist.

# ‘Rocket’ Rod signs off after 34 years

**FROM MEETING THE** late British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to the first man to walk on the moon, Neil Armstrong, Pilot Rod McRedmond has had a fair few adventures in between during his 34 years with the RFDS.

With a career spanning over 18,600 flying hours – 16,000 of them with RFDS Central Operations – Rod ‘Rocket’ McRedmond has decided to hang up his wings.

Aside from his brushes with fame, Rod says the most amazing people he’s met during his time with the RFDS have been his colleagues: the medical professionals, pilots, engineers and administrative staff.

“The countless friendships that I have formed with these wonderful people are very special to me,” Rod says.

“Flying all over Australia has also given me the opportunity to enjoy friendships with some extraordinary people in the outback including the late Tom Kruse, the outback mailman. The people who live and work in the outback are unique.”

Rod was among the first pilots put on the RFDS Central Operations full-time roster at Port Augusta Base in January 1981 while in the two years prior he’d been flying as a contract pilot for the RFDS with Williams Aviation.

In those days, RFDS had one Beechcraft Baron and one Piper Navajo Chieftain.

Rod then worked at RFDS Alice Springs Base and in later years the Adelaide Base – squeezing in secondments at Wyndham WA and Broken Hill NSW – all the while seeing some magnificent scenery.



> Rod ‘Rocket’ McRedmond as a new RFDS recruit (left) and in his later RFDS years (right).

The countless friendships that I have formed with these wonderful people are very special to me.

“I have seen Sturt Desert Peas flowering on Tarcoola airstrip, hopped over a mother emu followed by a line of chicks crossing a runway and watched the whales whilst flying along the coast to Cook on the Nullarbor Plain,” Rod says.

In all of his outback flying, Rod has only hit two kangaroos – both of them on the same flight!

Once he had to land on Lake Gairdner salt lake which was being used as a track for an American who was injured attempting a world speed record on a motorbike in the 1980s.

For those late night emergency evacuations, Rod was often having to explain to station owners how to light up their airstrips using Milo cans filled with sand-soaked kerosene and petrol to use as flares.

“On one occasion I suggested the station

round up all the toilet rolls that he could find and make flares by soaking them in the kerosene and petrol mixture. On another, I enlisted truckies in the area to light up a dirt strip near the Stuart Highway at Marla,” Rod says.

“It has always been a privilege to be able to help in some small way with medical emergencies whether it be comforting parents or holding a drip.”

RFDS Central Operations CEO, John Lynch, paid tribute to Rod, saying he was an exemplary staff member who was always heavily committed to the RFDS and its service delivery, taking enormous pride in his job.

“His other outstanding trait was his role as a family man. Judy and the boys are the apple of his eye and now that’s shared with their partners and grandchildren,” John says.

Rod signed off on his final shift with RFDS Central Operations on Sunday 27 September and plans to spend more time with his family and tend his orchids.

But he hasn’t entirely lost his passion for flying which has followed him since childhood. He’ll continue to give flying lessons as an Air Force Cadet Instructor in a World War II Link Trainer in Adelaide.

AirDoctor Magazine | NOVEMBER 15 > 5



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## 'Juliet' welcomed to RFDS fleet >

A BRAND NEW Pilatus PC-12 aircraft was delivered to RFDS Central Operations in August.

The new aircraft –VH-FXJ (Foxtrot, X-ray, Juliet) – will become the 15th Pilatus PC-12 in the Central Operations fleet. 'Juliet' will be based in Port Augusta bringing the numbers to four PC-12s based there, four in Adelaide and seven in Alice Springs.

RFDS Central Operations Chief Pilot Damien Heath was given the privilege of flying the new aircraft to Australia from Pilatus headquarters in Stans, Switzerland, accompanied by Peter Tippett, a former Central Operations Chief Pilot and General Manager Aviation Services.

Taking seven days, the crew flew Juliet from Stans to Adelaide with refuelling and rest stops at Heraklion in Greece, Hurghada in Egypt, Fujairah in the UAE, Hyderabad in India, Krabi in Thailand, Penang in Malaysia and Lombok in Indonesia before landing in Broome for customs and immigration.

Upon arrival, the new PC-12 immediately underwent the \$600,000 medical fit-out required to convert it into a 'flying intensive care unit' before being commissioned for service in November.

Over its lifetime, the medically-equipped Pilatus PC-12 aircraft will fly more than 15,000 hours and conduct over 7000 missions for the critically-ill and injured.

# My Dad, Alf Traeger >

By Anne Smallwood (nee Traeger)

AS I LOOK around my house, and more particularly my children's houses, I am amazed at the number of electronic communication devices we have today.

My father would be overwhelmed by it all, and a little pleased, I suspect, in the small part he has played in the development of this technology.

It all started when he was a child. Dad told me that his parents decided to move the family to Adelaide from country South Australia because of the better educational opportunities there.

I suggest it was more likely that the neighbours begged them to move after Dad's experiments resulted in, for example, mountains of dust blowing from his yard to the neighbour's verandah and the frequent production of rotten egg gas.

The trouble continued in Adelaide. Dad managed to blow the entire electrical system at the School of Mines, where he was a student. But he did put together a radio transmitter, completed an Engineering Diploma and set up his own small electrical business.

Then one day Reverend John Flynn walked in. He needed a portable and reliable generator to provide sufficient power for transmitting messages to and from the isolated people

of the outback. And so the pedal radio was invented. A long lasting and successful working relationship began between the two men. And it was the beginning of the RFDS.

The two travelled the outback, sometimes together, sometimes not. It was the trips of my Dad that were the source of my bed-time stories when I was a child.

He told me of the times when he confronted snakes, frequently got bogged and endured sandstorms. My favourite story though was about the one and only time he had a little too much to drink!

He had just finished dinner at an outback station. The station house was on one side of a fence and his swag was in a building on the other side. With a puzzled look on his face he would tell me that no matter what he did, he always ended up on the wrong side of the fence!

I also loved the story about the first Morse Code message that ever got through. Dad said that he wouldn't admit it to too many people, but he was as surprised as anyone else that it actually worked.

There are many stories that he could have told me. Like many people whose parents have died, I wish I had listened more carefully, encouraged the reminiscences and appreciated more the wonderful stories that were told.



> Alf Traeger with daughters Anne (left) and Polly (right).

Dad managed to blow the entire electrical system at the School of Mines, where he was a student.

## Alfred Hermann Traeger OBE (1895-1980)

ALFRED TRAEGER WAS an engineer and inventor instrumental in establishment and early success of the RFDS.

In 1926 Traeger was contacted by Reverend John Flynn who was planning his Australian Inland Mission Aerial Medical Service, and asked to assist in the development of a radio for remote families without an electricity supply.

The brief was for a cheap, durable, small and easy to operate radio.

Traeger developed a pedal generator – using bicycle pedals – which gave power to a Morse Code wireless set. The first pedal-powered radio sets were introduced in Queensland in 1929, enabling remote families to seek medical assistance using the radio for the first time.

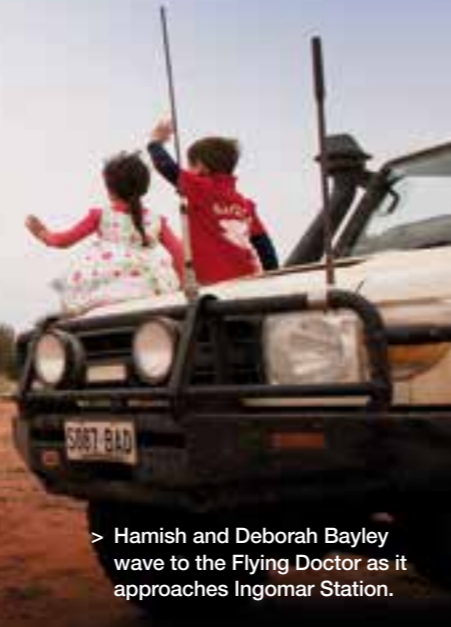
Awarded an OBE in 1944, Traeger continued inventing and modifying his radio and founded his own company – Traeger Transceivers. He is credited with suggesting the idea of the School of Air which began in Alice Springs in 1951.

He died in Adelaide in 1980.

Source: Australian Dictionary of Biography



# Flying Doctor unites outback community >



> Hamish and Deborah Bayley wave to the Flying Doctor as it approaches Ingomar Station.



> Community Health Nurse Cheryl Boles and Lachie Bayley.



> Rinnah Ward with baby Maddison and Dr Betsy Williams.



> Cheryl Boles with Kimberley Heinemann of Mobella Station who travelled to Commonwealth Hill.

**FIVE-YEAR-OLD COUSINS** Deborah and Hamish Bayley have finished School of the Air for the day while the mustering has been paused for a day so everyone can catch up on odd jobs around the homestead.

The kettle's on, there's a cake baking in the oven and a sense of anticipation hangs over the house as they wait for the doctor.

Soon after mid-morning an engine roars in the distance and the kids and dogs jump into the four-wheel-drive with mum and race the kilometre down to the airstrip to meet the Flying Doctor.

Ingomar Station, as the crow flies, is 800 kilometres north-west of Adelaide on the way to Coober Pedy in South Australia's North-West Pastoral District. It is one of a number of cattle stations in the district.

Deborah and Hamish, and their younger siblings, babies George and Maddison, are due for immunisations and their parents, Letisha McKenzie, and Rinnah Ward and Lachie Bayley, check-ups.

On a fortnightly or monthly basis, RFDS fly-in GP and Community Health Nurse clinics visit

One of the great things is that we have the same doctors come to visit, there's a continuity of care from the RFDS.

remote stations and communities up and down the Birdsville Track, the North West Pastoral, the Gawler Ranges and the far west of SA to stations and the remote Aboriginal communities of Yalata and Oak Valley.

While they are hundreds of kilometres away physically, in reality they are like a community, with the Flying Doctor the glue that links them all together.

Both of the Bayley babies are due for immunisations and check-ups from Community Health Nurse Cheryl Boles and Doctor Betsy Williams, both of whom have cared for the Bayley children since they were born.

Rinnah Ward, mother of Hamish and Maddison, says it would be difficult being



a first-time mum in the outback without the RFDS on hand 24/7 for advice and care.

"It's peace of mind knowing there's a doctor on the end of the telephone or coming out on a regular clinic flight to reassure you on a lot of things," Rinnah says.

## Another big day out >

**ON THIS JULY** day, the RFDS Primary Health Care team flew 981 kilometres to conduct 20 consultations over a circuit of six stations and homesteads.

Guided by Pilot Nathan Tasker, Dr Betsy Williams and Cheryl Boles set out at 8:30am from the Port Augusta Base for communities and stations in the North-West Pastoral and Gawler Ranges, landing at Glendambo, Ingomar, Commonwealth Hill, Mulgathing, Thurlga, Mount Ive and then back to Port Augusta in the late afternoon.

For David and Megan Henderson, who drove to Glendambo airstrip from Mt Vivian Station, the visit from the Flying Doctor means the difference between taking precious time off, often an entire day or two, to go to town by road to see the doctor.

RFDS Port Augusta Base conducts weekly, fortnightly and monthly clinic flights throughout outback SA to remote communities, stations and mines, landing on dirt airstrips to the Birdsville Track, North-West Pastoral, Gawler Ranges, Oak Valley and Yalata.

The Doctor and Community Health Nurse often consult and see their patients inside the homestead, at a clinic where available, or on the aircraft which doubles as a surgery while the landing strip outside is the waiting room.

"If we didn't have the RFDS come to us we'd need to add a visit to the doctor or dentist to all of the other jobs for the next time we go to town in Port Augusta," Megan Henderson says.

That means a road trip of around six hours

for the Hendersons who run 20,000 sheep and 300 cattle on Mount Vivian and Kokatha stations, which they manage with their son Will.

"One of the great things is that we have the same doctors come to visit, there's a continuity of care from the RFDS," Megan says.

"It's also great having a female doctor; we don't always have that choice out here."

In 2014/15, the RFDS Port Augusta Base conducted 255 'fly-in' GP clinics and attended to 2,255 patients, many of them station people just like the Hendersons and the Bayleys.

Just like people living in the city, the RFDS service means they have a familiar face in their own community doctors and nurses.

From immunisations, health check-ups, referrals or management of chronic conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular illness and general lifestyle issues, the RFDS clinics mean there is regular medical assistance when needed for people living and working in remote Australia.





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# Hologram returns Flynn to Alice >

**EVERY TOURIST DESTINATION** has its must-see sights you just shouldn't miss, be it a natural wonder or a place right in Australian history.

In Central Australia, the RFDS Alice Springs Tourist Facility is one of those. In March 2015 the facility was significantly enhanced with the launch of an innovative new interpretive display which brings RFDS founder Reverend John Flynn back to life as a hologram.

RFDS Central Operations General Manager NT Michael Toomey says the hologram is now in the running for the NT tourism industry's most prestigious awards – the Brolgas – which are due to be announced in November.

"We last entered the Brolga Awards in 2012 after the completion of the tourist facility redevelopment and we were awarded the Brolga for Best New Tourism Development in the NT," Mr Toomey says.

"This in turn advanced the RFDS Alice Springs Tourist Facility into the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards for which we received a bronze medal."

The Flynn hologram has been entered into this year's Brolga Awards in the categories of Tourism Attraction and Cultural Tourism.

The 'live' John Flynn takes visitors on a journey of discovery from the beginnings of the Flying Doctor in 1928 through to its development into the world's leading aeromedical organisation.



Visitors learn about Flynn's vision of the 'Mantle of Safety' where every person living or working in rural and remote Australia would have access to medical help when needed.

The leading technology further enhances the RFDS Alice Springs Tourist Facility as one of the Red Centre's most popular tourist destinations, with almost 60,000 visitors from all over the world every year.

The state-of-the-art hologram technology was developed by the RFDS with support of a \$55,000 grant from Tourism NT. It is one



> Tourists watching the John Flynn hologram at the RFDS Alice Springs Tourist Facility.

 The facility boasts one of only a handful of life-size 'human' holograms in the Southern Hemisphere. 

of only a handful of life-size 'human' holograms in the Southern Hemisphere.

"The RFDS is a much-loved and necessary feature of Territory life, and we celebrate the opportunity for visitors and locals alike to learn more about the valuable service the RFDS provides," NT Chief Minister Adam Giles said at the launch.

The RFDS Alice Springs Tourist Facility plays an important role in building public awareness while also raising vital funds

for the RFDS capital-raising program to finance replacement of aircraft and medical equipment.

Located in the same precinct as the original 1939 RFDS Alice Springs Base and manager's residence, the Tourist Facility was redeveloped in 2012 resulting in a 12% increase in visitor numbers and a corresponding 30% increase in its net contribution to fundraising.

The RFDS has invested more than \$12 million in its Alice Springs aeromedical base, tourism and staff accommodation facilities in recent years.

With a presence in Central Australia since 1939, the RFDS continues to contribute significantly to the local Alice Springs economy.



# 'Wings for Life' yields \$170,000 >

**THE RFDS' SIGNATURE** fundraising event, the annual 'Wings for Life' Gala Ball, took guests on a journey of 'une soiree glamour' with *A Night on the Riviera* on Saturday 23 May.

Decked out in boats of all sizes, including some life-size yachts, striped umbrellas and deckchairs, the Adelaide Entertainment Centre took on a distinctly Cote d'Azur feel.

The 700 guests were entertained by MC Jessica Adamson, themed dancers and

the Dan Hamill Band while silent and live auctions along with major prize draws – featuring a trip for two to Paris courtesy of Emirates – combined to raise an amazing \$170,000 for the RFDS.

The RFDS wishes to thank its generous event sponsors, volunteers, prize donors and guests who rallied together to raise this significant sum for the RFDS capital-raising program for replacement of aircraft and medical equipment.



Jacqui Dunn & Natasha Malani



James & Bronwyn Lindsay



Sebastian & Lani Lip, Loretta Reynolds & Michael Fieneemann



Tim & Barb Cooper



Kate Stock, Leigh Willson, Kate Paterson & Anna Jackson



Alex Halliday, Angela Zerella & Hannah Dyson



John & Margaret George



Sarah Rorhsheim & Tom Gray



> Tatiara RFDS Support Group (left), RFDS Whyalla support Group (centre), and RFDS Roxby Downs Auxiliary (right).

## Volunteers epitomise community support >

**OUR AUXILIARIES AND** Support Groups are the lifeblood of the community support for the RFDS.

It's through their hard work and innovative fundraising ideas that our 23 volunteer Auxiliary and Support Groups managed to raise an amazing \$868,600 during 2014/15.

Be it a Fisherman's Ball, a bingo night, cake stall or golf day, almost every week our volunteers are hard at work for the RFDS spreading the word and raising funds.

Since July 2012, the RFDS Fleurieu Support Group has run its bi-monthly 'Women of the Fleurieu' Dinners which attract about 80 women from the southern Fleurieu region to hear notable women speakers talk on a range of topics.

The group say the idea of the speakers was to try to attract some of the younger and business women in the area to become regular supporters of the Flying Doctor.

The highly successful women-only dinners have attracted speakers including Val Oldfield who spoke about her time living on the Birdsville Track, radio talkback doctor and psychiatrist Cate Howell, forensic odontologist Dr Denice Higgins, solo around the world sailor Jeanne Harrison and others.

The Women of the Fleurieu dinners are held at the Fleurieu Function Centre in Goolwa from February to October. The dinners alone raised more than \$4000 for the RFDS in 2014/15.

RFDS Central Operations Volunteer Coordinator, Debbie Adams, said the Women of the Fleurieu Dinners were a great example of the diversity of fundraising efforts by our Auxiliaries and Support Groups.

"Our Auxiliaries and Support Groups have put in an extraordinary effort during the past year and we thank them from the bottom of our hearts for their hard work in supporting the RFDS," Mrs Adams said.

AUXILIARY/ SUPPORT GROUP	RAISED 2014/15
RFDS Adelaide Auxiliary	\$75,000
Alice Royal Flying Doctor Auxiliary Inc.	\$43,000
RFDS Ceduna Support Group	n/a
RFDS Clare Support Group	\$20,000
RFDS Copper Coast & District Support Group	\$23,000
RFDS Cowell & District Support Group	\$5,400
RFDS Fleurieu Support Group	\$24,000
RFDS Gawler & District Support Group	\$9,000
RFDS Jamestown & District Support Group	\$21,000
RFDS Kangaroo Island Support Group	\$17,000
RFDS Kingston & District Support Group	\$35,000
RFDS Marree Support Group	n/a
Millicent & District RFDS Support Group	\$77,000
Mount Gambier RFDS Support Group	\$55,000
Naracoorte & District RFDS Support Group	\$70,000
RFDS Port Augusta Auxiliary	\$100,000
RFDS Port Lincoln Auxiliary	\$60,000
RFDS in the Riverland	\$31,200
RFDS Roxby Downs Auxiliary	\$80,000
RFDS Sunraysia Support Group	\$45,000
RFDS SYP Support Group	\$7,000
Tatiara RFDS Support Group	\$42,000
RFDS Whyalla Support Group	\$40,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$879,600</b>

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# OZ Outback Odyssey smashes fundraising record >

A TOTAL OF 68 competitors in 27 pre-1985 cars made the gruelling eight-day OZ Outback Odyssey and raised an incredible \$123,000 for the RFDS, almost double last year's effort.

In this the 23rd edition of the Odyssey, the teams travelled from Alice Springs to Darwin via Queensland in VW Beetles, Holden Kingswoods and Commodores and all manner of vehicles in between.

The teams averaged around 400 kilometres a day as their trek took them from Alice Springs via Gemtree, Tobermorey Station then into Queensland turning north towards Adels Grove and Burketown, then back into the NT to Cape Crawford, Lorella Springs,

Mataranka and finally Darwin.

"All of the cars made it in the end to Darwin, but it was pretty gruelling on a couple of days because it was hard to find overnight accommodation for our group," Event Manager, Robert Goode, says.

"We had great camaraderie on the trip, everyone got along really well because we made a point of introducing everyone to each other, especially the newcomers.

"There was a great deal of support for us and our fundraising for the RFDS along the way with communities and local businesses donating items including paintings for us to auction on the final night in Darwin."



## BAE Systems City-Bay triumph

**THERE'S NOTHING LIKE** a 12 kilometre run to get the heart started! This was the inspiration for a spirited team of RFDS corporate volunteers from BAE Systems who decided to run the City-Bay fun run to raise money to put towards a new heart monitor-defibrillator for the Flying Doctor.

The BAE Systems team, including RFDS staff, raised \$13,224 in a tremendous effort. BAE weren't the only ones inspired to run the City-Bay with a number of individual fundraising efforts combined with fundraising by Beach Energy staff and students from Prince Alfred College which brought the total of funds raised to \$16,217. Well done team!



## PESA Golf Day

**THE ANNUAL PETROLEUM** Exploration Society of Australia SA/NT branch golf day has become a mainstay of the fundraising calendar for the local PESA staff and for the RFDS.

This year's event in March at Flagstaff Hill Golf and Country Club was the 36th annual PESA Golf Day. The event has been supporting RFDS since its inception, and 2015 was no exception with competitors raising a tremendous \$23,150.

Regular fundraisers such as the PESA event are essential to the RFDS' efforts to fund the replacement of essential medical equipment for our aircraft and for the replacement of Pilatus PC-12 aircraft – at a cost of \$6 million each.



## Tractors to Birdsville

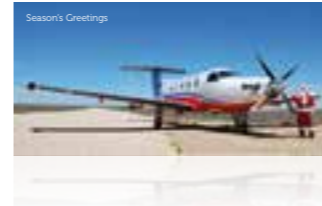
A most unusual convoy trundled up the Birdsville track over 10 days during August averaging around 16 kilometres an hour over 1500 kilometres to raise funds for the RFDS.

A convoy of tractors from the 1940s, 50s and 60s driven by members of the Naracoorte, Millicent and Hahndorf Lions Clubs set off from Kingston in the south-east to far south-western Queensland for the annual Birdsville races.

They raised around \$25,000 – an amazing result!

The adventure marked the 25th anniversary of a similar trip by Millicent Lions Club members which featured a 1947 American-built Farmall tractor at the head of the convoy.

# Your gift can make a difference >



## RFDS Single Christmas Card

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



## RFDS Bridge Scorer

The return of an old favourite! This stylish and handy score pad will keep every keen Bridge player up to date with the game. **\$3.00**



## 2016 Calendar

Featuring 12 unique Australian images. 34cm x 24cm with envelope. **\$17.50**



## RFDS Apron

Show your support for the RFDS while cooking the summer barbecue with this attractive navy blue apron with the RFDS logo in white. 100% cotton. **\$20.00**



## RFDS Cap

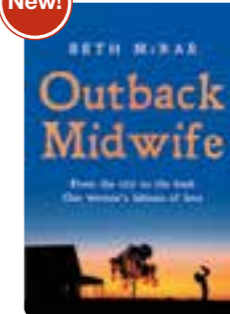
Protect yourself against the sun with a stylish brushed cotton cap. Adjustable strap, one size fits all, available in red or navy. **\$20.00**



## RFDS Drink Bottle

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

New!



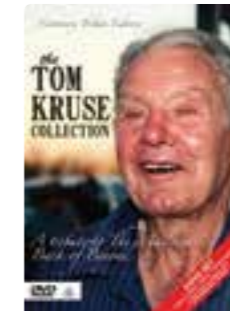
## Outback Midwife book

Read Beth McRae's story of the challenges and rewards of her 40 years as a midwife in the Australian Outback. **\$35.00**



## Nurses of the Outback book

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



## The Tom Kruse Collection Double DVD

Featuring the recent 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](http://www.tomkruse.com.au) **\$39.95 (includes postage)**



## Your order form >

RFDS MERCHANDISE	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
RFDS Single Christmas Card	\$1.00		
Bridge Scorer	\$3.00		
2016 Calendar	\$17.50		
RFDS Apron	\$20.00		
RFDS Drink Bottle	\$20.00		
RFDS Baseball Cap - Navy	\$20.00		
RFDS Baseball Cap - Red	\$20.00		
<i>Outback Midwife</i> book	\$35.00		
<i>Nurses of the Outback</i> book	\$30.00		
<i>The Tom Kruse Collection DVD</i> * includes postage	\$39.95		

### Order Subtotal

POSTAGE & HANDLING CHARGES (for above value)	TOTAL
Order value: \$1 - \$15      P&H charge: \$3.00	
Order value: \$16 - \$35      P&H charge: \$8.00	
Order value: Over \$36      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 merchandise orders of \$50 or more<sup>1</sup> received by 4 December, a free Wings Badge will be included. <sup>1</sup> Does not include P&H charges.



## Your details >

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

Title	First Name
Surname	
Supporter number <small>(Seven digit number located above your name in the accompanying letter.)</small>	
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 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!

- 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.
- Choose one or several, and complete the order form inside the *AirDoctor* magazine, or call us to order on (08) 8238 3333.
- The amount you pay for Gift Cards is a tax deductible donation to the RFDS – we will send you a receipt.
- 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.







# Give a patch of sky this Christmas and help us save lives.

Visit the [buythesky.com.au](http://buythesky.com.au) website and choose a patch of sky from a Royal Flying Doctor Service flight path. Then surprise someone special with a Patch Certificate showing their name as a 'patch owner'.

The recipient can choose to receive weekly email updates on the RFDS activity through their very own patch! For a tax-deductible donation of \$50, you'll give valuable support to our life-saving work.

**Visit [buythesky.com.au](http://buythesky.com.au) now to choose your gift-patch.**

**Buy  
thesky.  
com.au**



Royal Flying  
Doctor Service