

# The Flying Doctor

WESTERN AUSTRALIA – MARCH 2018

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE



**SOUVENIR EDITION**

90 years of saving lives

.A.†T.B. RFDS 1928 – 2018





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## CELEBRATE WITH US

2018 marks the 90th anniversary of the Royal Flying Doctor Service in Australia.

On the 17th May 1928, Reverend John Flynn's dream to provide a desperately needed 'mantle of safety' for the people of regional and remote Australia became a reality, when the first Flying Doctor took flight in a single engine leased Qantas plane from Cloncurry, Queensland.

Today, the Royal Flying Doctor Service provides the finest care to more than 270,000 Australians each year, on the ground, in the air and on call. That's one person every two minutes.

We would not be able to continue the life-changing work we do without the generosity of our donors across the state; your support carries us far and wide.

Join us in celebrating our 90th year, safe in the knowledge that the Flying Doctor will be there, wherever and whenever you need us.



## MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Welcome to this special edition of *The Flying Doctor* in which we celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Australian Royal Flying Doctor Service.

As the new Chief Executive Officer of RFDS in Western Australia, I feel honoured to commence my role in a landmark year for our service. It is a poignant time when our history and future will intersect as we countdown the arrival of our new Rio Tinto Life Flight PC-24 jet aircraft – a world first for aero medical service.

Since starting with RFDS in January, my greatest delight has been discovering the breadth of wonderful and heartfelt stories from our community. I have been humbled by the stories West Australians have shared with me about the Flying Doctor and the life-saving support provided by our dedicated staff.

For me, some of the most inspiring stories come from our supporters and fundraisers. In this issue we meet RFDS Ambassador Melva Stone. Melva's unwavering commitment to help keep the RFDS in service spans almost 40 years. It is a life-time contribution in which all West Australians have been the beneficiaries. Importantly, Melva's story highlights that RFDS is an integral part of life in Western Australia. It is supported by the community and belongs to the community.

As we move forward into the year ahead, my focus is to ensure we

optimise and enhance patient outcomes in the air, on the ground and on call. More than ever, our services across aero medical emergency response, rural and remote health clinics and telehealth consults are essential to the safety and well-being of West Australians throughout our State.

We will look to foster more private sector partnership participation in solutions that secure the future of our service. We will work together with government, the emergency services and health sector peers to optimise our role in WA's health infrastructure. Importantly, I embark on this work with the confidence of having the best of the best medical, aviation, engineering, corporate and community professionals on the team – your RFDS team.

On behalf of the team and our patients, thank you for your ongoing generosity and encouragement. This year's anniversary is a testament to you and the generations of community support that have helped to establish RFDS as a world-leader and local hero.

**Rebecca Tomkinson**

*Chief Executive Officer  
Royal Flying Doctor Service,  
Western Australia*

**90  
YEARS**



**Royal Flying Doctor Service**



# CELEBRATING 90 YEARS

## HOW A WESTERN AUSTRALIAN STOCKMAN INSPIRED THE FLYING DOCTOR DREAM

Founder of the Flying Doctor Service, the Reverend John Flynn had been living in the outback for most of his life, setting up bush hospitals for pastoralists, miners, road workers, railwaymen and other settlers. He witnessed the daily struggle of pioneers living in remote areas where just two doctors provided the only medical care across the vastness and inaccessibility of our landscape.

In 1917, two events colluded to inspire the Reverend to create a flying medical service.

The first was an inspirational letter he received from Lieutenant Clifford Peel, a Victorian medical student with an interest in aviation. The young airman and war hero suggested the use of aviation to bring medical help to those living in remote areas of Australia. Shot down in France, he died at just 19 years of age and never knew his letter became a blueprint for the creation of the Flying Doctor Service.

The second event was the death of young stockman, Jimmy Darcy, who made the front page of most Australian newspapers in 1917. This was particularly unusual given that the country was in the middle of the Great War.

Darcy was a stockman at Ruby Plains Station, 75 km south of Halls Creek. He was mustering cattle when he fell from his horse and was seriously injured. He was taken by buggy to Halls Creek (a 12 hour journey), but there was neither a doctor nor a hospital in the town. The local postmaster had enough medical knowledge to realise that Darcy's condition was critical. Using only Morse code he called for help in Wyndham and Derby, but the doctors from both towns were on holidays. He then reached Dr J. Holland in Perth who diagnosed Darcy as having a ruptured bladder and needed to be operated on immediately. The messages flashed back and forth in Morse code.

The postmaster strapped Darcy to a table and began operating according to instructions he received by telegraph. The operation took seven hours with no anaesthetic. A day later, serious complications set in and Darcy needed medical attention to reach him in Halls Creek.



Above: Reverend John Flynn.

Below: The grave of Jimmy Darcy.

Dr Holland took a cattle boat from Perth to Derby and then travelled the last 555 km by T-model Ford, horse and sulky, and on foot. He finally arrived in Halls Creek only to find that Darcy had died the day before.

But Darcy didn't die in vain. His plight focussed the entire nation on the problems of medical services in isolated areas and from this grew Flynn's unique and innovative experiment to deliver outback medical and health services to those in regional and remote Australia.





# MEMORIES OF THE SUGAR BIRD LADY

Robin Miller was a lauded WA pilot and RFDS flight nurse who brought modern medicine to north-Western Australia while breaking down barriers for women in aviation.

She combined a life of adventure and humanity with 1960s style and glamour, before cancer cut her life short at the age of 35.

40 years after Robin's untimely death, her sister Patsy Millett shared her memories of the 'Sugar Bird Lady' in an interview with ABC Kimberley.

"Polio was rife, a terrible disease the polio disease," Patsy said.

Although the polio vaccine had first become available in 1955, by 1967 many West Australians were still vulnerable.

"Most in the cities had been immunised, but not in the remote areas, and certainly not the Aborigines," Patsy said.

It was at this time that a recently graduated nurse who also had a commercial pilot's licence proposed a radical plan.

"She suggested to the health department that she go out into the remote areas and give them the immunisation," Patsy said.

"She would drip the vaccine, Sabin, onto a sugar cube, and the Aborigines gave her the nickname the Sugar Bird Lady because they got the sugar cubes and she came in from the sky."

A young nurse flying solo to the most remote parts of the Pilbara and Kimberley regions in the 1960s was as extraordinary as it sounds.

But Robin Miller was not a typical young nurse. Robin and Patsy were daughters of Mary Durack, author of Australian literary classic *Kings in Grass Castles*, and Captain Horrie Miller, the pioneer of WA aviation who passed his love of flying on to his daughter.

"We had a huge pastoral empire up there (in the Kimberley) until 1950 of about seven million acres, and there was already a very, very strong connection to the north and the Aborigines, that was in our family," Patsy said.

Throughout the late '60s and early '70s, Robin Miller was constantly in the air, whether she was bringing new planes back to Australia, on a solo flight from Paris to Perth, competing in the transcontinental women's air race the Powder Puff Derby or working for the RFDS across the Kimberley and Pilbara.

"I just remember her as a dear and affectionate sister who was always there for us all, and the wider public of course," Patsy said. "She gave her life to the service of others."

*Editor's Note: This is an abridged version of an article by Vanessa Mills and Ben Collins of ABC Kimberley. Photo/s: Patsy Millett.*



**Robin Miller's aircraft, the Sugar Bird Lady, stands in front of the RFDS' Jandakot base as a proud memorial to one of the Flying Doctor's brightest stars.**



# RFDS IN HER VEINS



*RFDS Ambassador Melva Stone*

**RFDS Ambassador Melva Stone has been raising funds for the Flying Doctor for more than 40 years and shows no signs of slowing down.**

Co-author of the book *Red Dust in Her Veins*, a collection of 12 inspiring stories about women in the Pilbara, which raised \$150,000 for the RFDS, Melva is often described as a “pioneering woman of the north”.

A woman of many inspirational firsts; Melva was first female President of the RFDS in Western Australia, first permanent female resident of Newman and the first female state manager for a national freight company.

She was also the first Fundraising Coordinator for the RFDS in WA; a position she created after moving from Port Hedland to Perth that helped to evolve the organisation’s fundraising from ‘shaking collection tins’ to large scale fundraising activities including *Dollar For Doc Day*.

Over the years, Melva has dedicated countless hours to support the essential life-saving services of the Flying Doctor. Her much loved Broome pop-up vintage store, Trendy Trash ‘n’ Treasure, provides ongoing support to RFDS today.

“Having lived in the Pilbara and the Kimberley for most of my life, I just know that people in this part of the world need and appreciate the safety net the RFDS provides,” Melva said.

“It’s vital to those of us who live here, work here, play here or travel here.

Once you’re in an RFDS aircraft, you’re in a hospital.”

Melva is an entertaining and motivational speaker, often speaking aboard cruise ships as a Guest Enrichment Speaker. Her talk about the RFDS and life in outback WA is one of the most popular with passengers. Whether it’s memories of growing up in an old army hut in Marble Bar with no running water and no electricity, or recalling her days as an RFDS radio operator in Port Hedland, she brings a down-to-earth and often humorous approach to surviving and thriving in outback Australia.

An RFDS Ambassador and honorary member of RFDS Flying 1000 since 2008, Melva was awarded the Order of Australia in 2009, for service to the community, through her work with the RFDS.

Melva’s mother Marjorie Noyce, who she lost to cancer in 2015, was also an amazing fundraiser for the RFDS.

Melva, herself a cancer survivor, can remember her mum approaching a local car yard in Fremantle and convincing the owner to buy a number of raffle tickets at \$100 each, which he would then give to people who bought a new car from him. It was a bold and innovative idea in its day, especially as Marjorie had negotiated a donation of a

Kimberley cruise to attract ticket buyers at a high price. At the time of her death, Marjorie still had the receipt for her fundraising efforts of more than \$15,000.

The family’s support for the RFDS now spans three generations. Melva’s daughter Kerry Stone, who also lives in Broome, and son Kevin Stone, who works in the oil and gas industry, are also dedicated RFDS advocates.



*Above: Melva and son Kevin, and (L-R) Melva, mother Marjorie and daughter Kerry.*



# HOPE SHINES AT CHRISTMAS REUNION

Last Christmas had extra meaning for Augusta mum Hayley Sortras after reuniting with Paul Ingram, the RFDS Senior Flight Nurse who helped save her baby's life 15 years ago.

After successfully conceiving through IVF, Hayley faced the heart-wrenching hurdle of premature labour at just 26 weeks.

But she was in safe hands on the emergency flight from Margaret River to Perth as all RFDS aircraft are fitted out with intensive care equipment and all of the highly qualified in-flight doctors and nurses are trained to deal with any medical emergency. This includes specialist training in midwifery.

At Princess Margaret Hospital, Hayley gave birth to a baby girl who she and her husband Les decided to name Hope. After arriving 14 weeks early and weighing just 960gm, tiny baby Hope stayed on life support for three days.

A decade and a half later, shortly before Christmas, Hope and Hayley were reunited with Paul when they visited the RFDS base in Jandakot.

It was the first time Paul, now Head of Nursing for the RFDS in WA, had met the baby he helped to save.

"The Flying Doctor is amazing," Hayley said. "I have always felt that Hope might not have been here today had it not been for them."

Today, Hope is enjoying Year 11 and planning a career in the medical profession.

Last year the RFDS responded to 387 medical emergencies around the state involving infants under 12 months old. Of these, 156 infants were less than a month old.



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Above: Head of Nursing Paul Ingram with Hope and Hayley.



**THE RFDS WILL ALWAYS BE A SPECIAL PART OF THE STORY OF ME BECOMING A MUM.**

– Hayley

## DO YOU HAVE AN RFDS WA STORY?

Help us celebrate our 90th year by sharing your memories and stories.

RFDS WA is searching for a range of amazing stories to feature and celebrate across our 90th year. However we have touched the lives of you, your family, friends or community, we would love to hear about it.

We estimate we've come into contact with around 4 million people living, working and travelling within our vast state over the decades. That's almost double the current population of our state, so there's plenty of stories out there to tell.

**Email your story to [stories@rfdswa.com.au](mailto:stories@rfdswa.com.au) and remember to include your name and contact details. (We'll be sure to contact you for permission before using any of the details you provide.)**

# STILL AIMING HIGH

Former Chief Pilot Michael Bleus has 43 years worth of memories working for the Flying Doctor.

"I absolutely loved working for the RFDS," said the now retired Captain, who knew from an early age that he wanted to be a pilot.

In 1973, Michael met the late Jim Smith, then Chief Pilot for the RFDS, who was flying doctors to Onslow. As a result of the friendship, Michael, then 24, was offered a six-month role as a line pilot with the RFDS in Carnarvon.

The rest, as they say, is history.

During his career, Michael notched up 18,900 flying hours, of which 17,500 were providing aero medical services for the RFDS.

He's seen many changes along the way.

"Before 1975, we used to fly around in unpressurised aircraft, which meant medical staff often asked us to fly really low, sometimes as low as 500ft, to avoid increased pressure that might have had a detrimental effect on the patient outcome," Michael said.

"Then came turbine aircraft that are faster and more reliable, and operate at higher altitudes where there is less turbulence. Medical equipment has gone from big boxes to things the size of a lunchbox that are also digital and battery operated.

"Communication has changed too, going from relying on high-frequency radio to communication via satellite, plus we've had the introduction of GPS that can pinpoint a location within a couple of metres."

Michael has many memorable patient stories, all inspirational, heart-warming or shocking.

There was the time in the late 1970s when he flew a medical team from Port Hedland to pick up a man who had suffered burns to 75 per cent of his body when an old kerosene fridge exploded.

"The man, a road grader working on the road into Sandfire Roadhouse, managed to get up, get onto his grader and drive himself the 30 or 40kms into Mt Goldsworthy where a local policeman spotted him," Michael said. "We flew him to Perth for treatment. He came into the RFDS Port Hedland base nine months later to thank us all for our help."

In 2014, Michael was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for his service to the RFDS and the community.

"The RFDS is so much more than just the pilots, doctors and nurses," he said. "There are numerous people in the background, including operational staff, engineers and administration who all enable it to do what it does."

**In 2014, Michael was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for his service to the RFDS.**



# EASTER SAFETY

## EASTER SAFETY MESSAGE

In 2017 the RFDS retrieved and treated 99 patients over the Easter holiday weekend in Western Australia.

As our roads get busier and thousands of people head off on holiday across our great state, we encourage everyone to be mindful of road conditions, and take additional care whilst travelling long distances. Make sure to take regular breaks and ensure you arrive at your destination safe and well.

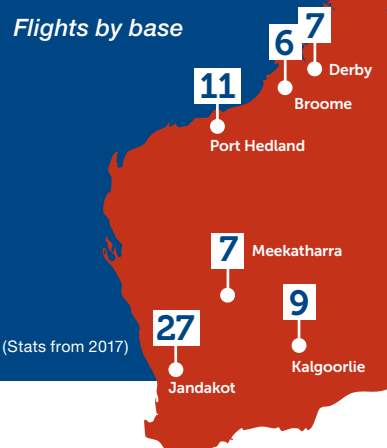
**Leaving the metro area?  
You're in Flying  
Doctor country.**

**We'll be there,  
wherever and whenever  
you need us.**

## SNAPSHOT OF EASTER WEEKEND 2017

Total patients transferred	<b>99</b>
Kilometres flown	<b>83,000</b>
Total flight hours	<b>250</b>
Landings	<b>184</b>
Total flights	<b>67</b>

### Flights by base



(Stats from 2017)

# CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

## WA AIRPORTS HELP KEEP US FLYING

RFDS WA is grateful for the generous support received from regional businesses all over our great state, including our regional airports.

Every year, our pilots perform around 16,000 landings, flying the equivalent of 200 times around the world in order to provide aero medical services to almost 9,000 patients. This means the landing and leasing fees at each airport quickly add up.

At our RFDS WA regional bases, all airports either generously waive their fees or donate the fees back to us, which can add up to over \$500,000 annually, providing a significant impact to our operating costs.



We'd like to thank the following airports for their support and generosity in keeping the Flying Doctor in the air.

- » Meekatharra Airport
- » Broome International Airport
- » Port Hedland International Airport
- » Derby Airport
- » Kalgoorlie-Boulder Airport



Broome International Airport





# RFDS Most Trusted Charity

The Royal Flying Doctor Service has confirmed its status as the country's most trusted charity, ranking first in the 2017 Charity Reputation Index for the seventh year running.

RFDS CEO Rebecca Tomkinson said the news confirmed what RFDS supporters already knew.

"As always, our supporters can be confident their donations are put to good use and that resources are managed effectively," Ms Tomkinson said. "This is particularly reassuring for people to hear in tough economic times when supporting a charity can be a difficult financial choice to make."

The Flying Doctor achieved excellence across all facets of its operations to achieve the top annual ranking, released by research consultants AMR.



## OUR SPONSORS

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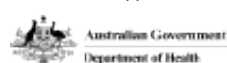
Altitude Ball Partners



Corporate Supporters



Government Supporters Australian Government



West Australian Government



### RFDS COMMUNITY SUPPORT

We would like to thank all of our amazing volunteers, committees and community fundraisers who generously donate their time and effort to fundraising for the RFDS.

#### With special thanks to:

- Ambassador – Melva Stone, OAM
- Busselton RFDS Volunteer Committee
- Dongara RFDS Volunteer Committee
- Flying 1000
- Friends of the Flying Doctor
- Geraldton RFDS Volunteer Committee
- Jurien RFDS Volunteer Committee
- Katanning RFDS Volunteer Committee
- Lake Grace RFDS Volunteer Committee
- Mount Barker RFDS Volunteer Committee
- Narrogin RFDS Volunteer Committee
- Pannawonica RFDS Volunteer Committee
- Paraburdoo RFDS Volunteer Committee
- RFDS Eastern Goldfields Auxiliary
- RFDS Esperance Auxiliary

# FUNDRAISING SPOTLIGHT



Above: Esperance Auxiliary

## THANK YOU AUXILIARY AND FUNDRAISING GROUPS

In our 90th year it is only fitting to recognise the outstanding work of the many RFDS supporters across the state, including our Auxiliaries and fundraising groups.

A few impressive facts about our RFDS Auxiliaries and groups:

- \$10,314,119 raised to date from all 14 Auxiliaries/fundraising groups.
- Events hosted include Golf Days, Open Gardens, Raffles, Sausage Sizzles, Wood Cutting and Quiz nights along with many other initiatives.
- Our Auxiliaries and fundraising groups come from all walks of life and are vibrant, dedicated, caring local residents, who want to make a difference in their local communities by supporting the RFDS.

### A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR RFDS AUXILIARIES AND FUNDRAISING GROUPS:

#### REGIONAL

Busselton  
Dongara  
Eastern Goldfields  
Esperance  
Geraldton  
Jurien

Katanning  
Lake Grace  
Mount Barker  
Narrogin  
Pannawonica  
Paraburdoo

#### METROPOLITAN

Friends of the  
Flying Doctor  
Flying 1000

Want to know more about Auxiliaries in your area? Call us on (08) 9417 6410.

## JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Connect with us on social media to keep track of the latest RFDS news and info.



@royalflyingdoctorservice



@royalflyingdoc



@royalflyingdoc



@RoyalFlyingDoctor



## Ian and Helen Scott, Esperance



Above: Ian and Helen Scott

RFDS would like to take this opportunity to extend a special thank you to Ian and Helen Scott of our Esperance Auxiliary.

Ian and Helen have recently retired from the committee of the Auxiliary after many years of tireless service. Here are some highlights:

- Ian and Helen Scott joined the Esperance RFDS Auxiliary in 1997, the inaugural year of the Auxiliary.
  - Ian and Helen both undertook leadership roles as President, Senior Vice President and Junior Vice President over the past 16 years. Ian served 11 years as President, 4 years as Senior Vice President and 1 year as Junior Vice President. Helen has just completed 5 years as President and also performed the role of Junior Vice President for 7 years.
  - Over the 20 years that they have been involved with the Esperance Auxiliary, the team's work has evolved into a range of fundraising programs including the Fire Woodcutters Program, the Donation Tins Program, countless sausage sizzles, garage sales and raffles plus a strong presence at Esperance Community Events such as the Esperance Agricultural Show – one of the largest Agricultural Shows in the state.
  - In 2016, after 20 years of fundraising, this small group of dedicated RFDS supporters has contributed over \$1M to RFDS WA.
  - Ian and Helen are not leaving the Auxiliary but will be stepping back from the committee to continue their membership.
- .....
- For more information on how you can support the RFDS, or to join one of our existing Auxiliaries or fundraising groups, please contact Michelle Grant on (08) 9417 6410. We would love to hear from you.**

### Summary of Leadership Service for Helen and Ian Scott

#### From 1997 to 2017

Ian and Helen both joined and attended the second meeting for the Auxiliary in the beginning of 1997 and became involved in the Donation Tin Program, general fundraising and serving on fundraising sub-committees. Ian has also managed the donation tins for the past three years. Ian and Helen's strength has been in their commitment to working as a team with the committed support of the Auxiliary members.

#### Ian Scott

**President x 11 years**  
**Senior Vice President x 4 years**  
**Junior Vice President x 1 year**

#### Helen Scott

**President x 5 years**  
**Junior Vice President x 7 years**

# FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS



## AROUND THE WORLD IN SEVEN DAYS.

### Perth fundraisers take on virtual round-the-world flight challenge.

In November 2017, a Perth team of pilots and aircraft enthusiasts took part in the global World Flight challenge; a non-stop, week-long virtual flight around the world in state-of-the-art 737 and 747 aircraft simulators.

World Flight is a virtual round the world flight for charity held in the first week of November each year. Since its inception in 2000, Australian crews have raised over \$200,000 for the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

The Perth World Flight team raised \$8,100 in 2017, with plans to beat the record in the 2018 event. Their dedication to helping RFDS continue its service is inspiring. For one week, 24 hours a day, the team fly the simulator in back-to-back rosters challenging real time flight scenarios that can't be planned for.

Event organiser and 747 Captain, Darren Bathurst, said fixed base aircraft simulators operate in a virtual air space, with virtual air traffic control. "We encounter all the real life scenarios real aircraft do from weather patterns to flight delays – it is virtually, the real experience."

Fixed Based Simulator teams from Ireland, Scotland, England, Germany, Austria, Canada and the USA will also participate in the event and fundraise for their chosen charities.

World Flight 2018 takes off again in November. During the seven days crews will visit 45 airports and cover some 40,000 nautical miles. To find out more about the World Flight Perth team visit their website at [www.worldflightperth.com.au](http://www.worldflightperth.com.au)

## WESTBOUND WANDERERS CAR RUN

### Muscle cars get some grunt behind fundraising.

A group of West Australian and South Australian muscle car enthusiasts took part in a two week road trip fundraiser, from 28th October to 11th November 2017, for the Flying Doctor.

Engines revved up in Adelaide for the inaugural Westbound Wanderers Car Run to Collie WA; almost 3,000kms of fundraising.

Once in Western Australia, the teams made a pitstop in Esperance inviting locals to see the cars on display before heading to the final pitstop at the Collie Motorplex event.

In reaching their destination, the Westbound Wanderers raised an incredible \$60,000. WA team leader Peter Callo said it was an outstanding outcome beyond his expectation. "All cars that register in the event are required to raise a minimum of \$1000 but it was the generosity from local businesses and the community that helped us achieve this amount."

Peter also explained the event's motivation behind helping Royal Flying Doctor Service. "We all know someone, friends or family, who have been helped by the service. Three of us are station owners in remote areas who have had needed RFDS – it really is a great cause to support."







## ON THE ROAD AGAIN TOUR

The annual 'On The Road Again Tour' for the Royal Flying Doctor Service WA ran from Saturday 7th October to Saturday 14th October 2017.

This year's tour consisted of 10 vehicles, including 22 tourists and support crew, setting off on a 2,000km fundraising adventure. The tour started at Henley Brook in the Swan Valley, and travelled via Cervantes, Denison, Horrocks, Billabong Roadhouse, Nanga, Murchison Settlement, Pindar, Morawa, Coorow, Dalwallinu and Carrah Farm to the finish at El Caballo Resort, Woorlooloo.

This year's tour raised over \$25,000 and since its inception in 2010, OTRA has raised over \$400,000 for RFDS WA. Warmest thanks to the OTRA committee, participants, event sponsors and everyone involved in this event. Your support is greatly appreciated.



## MCINTOSH & SON FOOTY FUNDRAISER

McIntosh & Son held a football fundraising event, which was a huge success at the Dowerin Field Days. 2000 footballs were sold and they were very excited to be able to donate \$10,000 to RFDS. A great effort from everyone involved.



## SOUTH EAST GOLF TOUR OF WA

The South East Golf Tour of WA involves 90 players who have raised over \$200,000 in the 40 years it has been running, including raising over \$17,000 this year for RFDS.

Money is raised from spot golf fines, auctions and donations, with players coming from all over Australia to participate in the event.

The 2017 event was particularly close to the heart of at least seven of the golfers, all of whom have previously been beneficiaries of RFDS services.

The tour goes from Esperance, Bremer Bay, Munglinup, Hopetoun, Ravensthorpe and Jerramungup, raising much needed funds for the RFDS.

## MINARA RESOURCES GOLF DAY

Minara Resources once again held their annual Golf Day, raising over \$15,000 for the RFDS. Gavin Healy, our General Manager of Aviation, went along to the Golf Day dinner and was proud to accept the cheque on behalf of RFDS. A valued supporter of the RFDS, Minara Resources has donated over \$135,000 since 2004.



## COCKTAILS WITH KATHRYN

In December 2017, RFDS WA received a donation of over \$13,000 from the Cocktails with Kathryn event. Kathryn Paynter has been a dedicated supporter of the RFDS in the Goldfields region for many years. The Cocktails with Kathryn event raised vital funds for brain cancer and RFDS.

# FUNDRAISING EVENTS



## OUTBACK AIR RACE 19TH – 31ST AUGUST 2018

This year's Outback Air Race received overwhelming registration numbers with 41 aircraft accepted to fly this unique competition, a concept created in 1996 by members of the Royal Aero Club of WA.

Essentially it is not a race, rather a time trial. It provides a considerable flying challenge, but is conducted in a safe and efficient manner. The aim of The Outback Air Race is to raise funds for the RFDS and to provide an exciting and unique flying experience for pilots from throughout Australia, New Zealand and overseas.

This year's pilots will be lucky enough to tour from Archerfield (QLD), Bundaberg, Longreach, Mount Isa, Adels Grove, Daly Waters, Katherine, Kununurra and finish in Broome.

To support these pilots on their quest visit [www.oar18.rfdswa.com.au](http://www.oar18.rfdswa.com.au)

## GIBB CHALLENGE 11–18TH MAY 2018

We welcome those riders that have been brave enough to enter and lucky enough to be selected in the 2018 Gibb Challenge: a socially competitive 660 kilometre team mountain bike relay event raising community awareness and money for the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

The Gibb Challenge will lead each rider on a life defining five day adventure from the deep port Kimberley town of Derby to the world acclaimed million acres El Questro Wilderness Park. They will camp overnight at Imintji Community, Mount Elizabeth Station, Ellenbrae Station and Home Valley Station before two nights of rest and exploration at El Questro.

Visit [www.gibb.rfdswa.com.au](http://www.gibb.rfdswa.com.au) to find out more about this unique event, scroll through some amazing images of past events and even help the cause with a donation.



## THE ALTITUDE BALL 2018

The ALTITUDE Ball once again listed in The West Australian's Top 10 social events of 2017, giving presence to the cause of raising much-needed funds for WA's Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Don't miss out on ALTITUDE 2018 - register your interest now at [www.altitudeball.com.au](http://www.altitudeball.com.au)



## WHAT'S COMING UP



## RFDS EVENTS CALENDAR

### ○ HBF RUN FOR A REASON

Sunday 27th May 2018

[www.hbfrun.com.au](http://www.hbfrun.com.au)

The annual HBF Run For A Reason takes place this year on Sunday 27th May. Sign up and nominate RFDS WA as your chosen charity to help keep the Flying Doctor in the air.

### ○ CRADLE MOUNTAIN TASMANIA TREK

31st October – 5th November 2018

<https://inspiredadventures.com.au/events/rfds-cradle-mountain-trek-2018/>

Raise much-needed funds for RFDS whilst trekking through incredible World Heritage landscapes.



# BE PART OF OUR NEW ERA

## Your support has carried us far and wide for 90 years.

We would not be able to continue the life-changing work we do without the generosity of individuals, community groups and businesses across the state.

Thanks to your support, thousands of Western Australians can be reassured that we will be there for them, wherever and whenever they need us. You're also helping to ensure that in 2018 we can continue to deliver the very best and most cost-efficient aero medical services to all who live, work and travel in our vast state.

These are just some of the ways you help us provide the finest care to more than 270,000 Australians each year, on the ground, in the air and on call.

### Individual Donations

Individual donations are the life blood of our organisation and warmly welcomed. Your donation will help us save and improve the lives of people living, working and travelling in WA.

There are many ways to donate:

Visit [www.rfdswa.com.au](http://www.rfdswa.com.au)

Email us at [fundraise@rfdswa.com.au](mailto:fundraise@rfdswa.com.au)

Call (08) 9417 6400

### Fundraise for us

Some of our amazing fundraisers have created events that have become extremely popular in their own right, such as the Gibb Challenge, film nights, social and professional networking events - the possibilities are endless!

Visit [www.rfdswa.com.au](http://www.rfdswa.com.au) and click Fundraising for more information.

### Gifts, wills and bequests - gifting a lasting legacy

A gift to the RFDS in your Will is an incredibly poignant legacy that will have the power to impact countless lives.

Contact your lawyer or estate management provider on how to include RFDS WA in your Will, or contact us on (08) 9417 6400 for more information.

### Regular Giving

The RFDS Support Crew are members of our regular giving program. Giving a monthly gift to RFDS can make a real difference to the future of our life saving services, helping us to plan for the future and strengthen our commitment to those in need.

You choose a suitable amount for automatic donation each month.

It's tax deductible and you can change your contribution at any time. Call us on (08) 9417 6400 for more information.

### Give in memory or celebration

Contributions to the life-saving work of the RFDS can be an ideal gift for the person 'who has everything', or a touching gesture in memory of a loved one in lieu of flowers.

Visit [www.rfdswa.com.au](http://www.rfdswa.com.au) and select either the In Memory or In Celebration links to set up a tribute.

### Corporate Partnerships

Our Corporate Partnerships program presents a range of opportunities to fit with corporate social investment goals, sponsorship marketing and partnered initiatives.

For more information contact RFDS Corporate Partnerships at [ra.stewart@rfdswa.com.au](mailto:ra.stewart@rfdswa.com.au) or call (08) 9417 6404.

**DONATE ONLINE > [rfdswa.com.au](http://rfdswa.com.au)**

## Canning Vale Men's Shed correction

Our last edition of The Flying Doctor incorrectly reported that the Canning Vale Men's Shed repaired electrical appliances.

Generous donors to RFDS WA, the Men's Shed has confirmed that they do repair bicycles, lawnmowers, edgers, wheelbarrows and a host of

other mechanical things, but not electrical goods. They will also gratefully accept any unwanted mowers or bicycles.

For more information on repairs or to donate items, please call the Canning Vale Men's Shed on 0417 958 095.





# Help us keep costs down and save lives

Support us online. We'll spend less on paper and postage and more on the vital services that keep the Flying Doctor in the air.

We can email you everything that you currently receive in the mail and you'll be helping us to keep costs down.

**Email us at [mydetails@rfdswa.com.au](mailto:mydetails@rfdswa.com.au) and we'll add your email address to our records.**

Remember to include your full name, suburb and donor number if possible. All of your other details will remain unchanged.



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