

90
YEARS



Royal Flying
Doctor Service

Going the Distance

VICTORIA >

1928 – 2018 Celebrating 90 Years



Contents

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Scots' Church special service | p3 |
| Cliff's close call | p4 |
| Education week | p7 |
| Celebrating 90 years | p9 |

From the Chief Executive



We are now over half way through our 90th year and I continue to be moved by your passion and generous support. As we celebrate this milestone together, it has been a pleasure to hear so many of your Flying Doctor stories.

One instance of this was from William Walker, who attended our Mildura 'Thank you' event. William shared some exceptionally touching stories about how the RFDS has had an impact on his family, from helping transport his late wife to Melbourne for dialysis, and later his son for treatment in his battle with Leukaemia.

I am pleased to share with you that your response to Jack's story, the young man who was flown by the Flying Doctor to hospital after being seriously injured in a car accident, tipped the scales at near \$900,000 in our historic 90th year. What an amazing feat! This will help the Flying Doctor to continue to provide emergency and primary health care for families like Jack's.

Additionally, our Support Crew continue to travel across the state fundraising and speaking to locals about the work of the Flying Doctor.

Of course, the anniversary of the very first Flying Doctor flight on May 17 was a significant day for us all. Across Australia, RFDS staff and the communities we serve celebrated this iconic day. One of the most spectacular sights was a recreation of the first flight by 25 antique aircraft.



We were also delighted to have famous Australians voicing their support for the Flying Doctor as part of 'Flick us a Flynn'. Now in its second year, 'Flick us a Flynn' highlights the man on the \$20 note, RFDS founder John Flynn, and aims to raise vital funds by asking Australians to show their support by donating \$20 – or – “flicking us a Flynn”! You can read what cricketer John Hastings had to say in support on page eight.

This year we are proud to support two initiatives recognising young people working towards better health outcomes in rural and remote communities. The inaugural RFDS Regional and Rural Health Young Achievers Award was presented by RFDS Victoria Board Deputy Chair Robyn Lardner in May, and the annual 'Give Them Wings' Scholarships were awarded at a ceremony in June.

Before the year is out, we will have many more opportunities to get together and share updates with you. For now, I hope you enjoy our latest Going The Distance newsletter and I may see you at one of our events throughout the year. Thank you,

Scott Chapman
Chief Executive
RFDS Victoria



 We have no doubt that the RFDS saved Jack's life. Without you we would have lost our son. 

Susan, Jack's mum

Going the Distance is the official fundraising newsletter of the Royal Flying Doctor Service Victoria.

This newsletter is produced three times a year to provide information and give acknowledgement to our supporters across the state.

Royal Flying Doctor Service Victoria
PO Box 7027, Richmond VIC 3121
T 03 8412 0400 F 03 9429 8311
E info@fdsvic.com.au
> www.flyingdoctor.org.au

**90
YEARS**


**Royal Flying
Doctor Service**



Cover: Bush kids from Thargomindah, Queensland being taken to Brisbane in a Flying Doctor Dragon aircraft for a medical and dental check-up circa 1940s.



L-R: Steffi Patience, winner of the RFDS Regional and Rural Health Young Achievers Award and RFDS Victoria Deputy Chair Robyn Lardner.

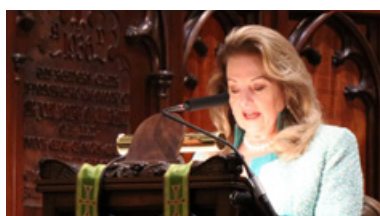


L-R: 2018 Give Them Wings Scholarship Awardees Ebony Mailes, Chelsea Mussett, Nicole Gleeson, Megan Peverill.



An Antique Aircraft, which recreated the first flight as an historical event to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the first flight.

Scots' Church special service



Clockwise (from left): Reverend Douglas Robertson; The service included a reading from Public Affairs Manager, Annette Allison; The service was followed by morning tea.

On Sunday 20 May, Scots' Church Melbourne welcomed Flying Doctor supporters, staff and members of the congregation for a 'Thanks giving' service.

Honouring the contributions of Reverend John Flynn, Reverend Douglas Robertson spoke of the power of generosity. He acknowledged the wisdom of John Flynn who progressed the Australian Inland Mission from a church affiliated program, to its own entity – extending its reach.

Reverend Robertson also remarked on the powerful foresight of Flynn to establish an organisation that has stood the test of time. Morning tea followed the service where Reverend Douglas Robertson was presented with a certificate of appreciation for his ongoing support and respect of the contributions of John Flynn.

RFDS Medical Director receives Australia Day honours

Congratulations to RFDS Medical Director Dr Morton Rawlin who was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia (AM), for significant service to the medical profession particularly through governance in the areas of general practice and medical education. The honour is an acknowledgement of the significant contribution that Dr Rawlin has made to his patients and the wider health sector. The Royal Flying Doctor Service has been fortunate to benefit from Dr Morton's experience and guidance to our primary health services for the past four years.

1928 – 2018 > Bringing the Outback to Melbourne in 1937

Since its inception, the Flying Doctor has had a unique place in the hearts of Australians. Melbournians were fascinated when the outback came to the city in 1937, with the RFDS exhibiting in the Shell Pavilion at the Royal Melbourne Agricultural Show. Boasting five flying doctors, the stall explained RFDS activities with photographs and models. Sister Mandeville-Halls, from Innamincka AIM hospital, demonstrated the pedal radio and the automatic Morse keyboard, which had recently been devised by Alfred Traeger.



The fishing trip that could have been his last

In Australia's southern Gulf of Carpentaria sits Sweers Island, known for its incredible beaches and fishing. For Cliff Packham, it was the site of a dream fishing trip, ten years in the making.

However, his fishing trip was to be cut dramatically short.

With a bag full of fish from the mornings activities and his mates in tow, Cliff Packham made his way back to his accommodation on the tranquil Sweers Island.

As he rested in his cabin, he began to feel unwell.

We'd been fishing all morning. I can't even blame the fact that I was fighting a big fish and it put strain on me. There was no pain, no shortness of breath, nothing at all.

Cliff's mates alerted Tex, one of the owners of Sweers Island, that Cliff was feeling a bit unwell. As a precaution, Tex decided to monitor Cliff's blood pressure. He also alerted the Flying Doctor.

It was then that Cliff's heart stopped beating and he went into cardiac arrest. But the fact Cliff is alive to tell his story today is testament to a number of incredible people who came to his rescue.

One of Cliff's mate's began performing CPR, before Kody, a young worker on Sweers Island took over, carrying out CPR on Cliff for more than 20 minutes.



Cliff Packham was enjoying a fishing trip on Queensland's Sweers Island.

Fortunately, Tex and his team also had a defibrillator on Sweers Island. Until now it had never been used, however Tex had always carried out regular checks to make sure it could operate in an emergency such as this. This was crucial in saving Cliff's life.

They raced down with the defibrillator and immediately realised that I was in a full cardiac arrest, which apparently I had been for a number of minutes. They quickly applied it to get my heart beating again, Cliff said.

All the while, Sweers Island staff were on the phone to the Royal Flying Doctor Service who were providing advice.

After landing on Sweers Island, Cliff was stabilised by the Flying Doctor team and flown to Townsville Hospital, roughly 1,000km away.

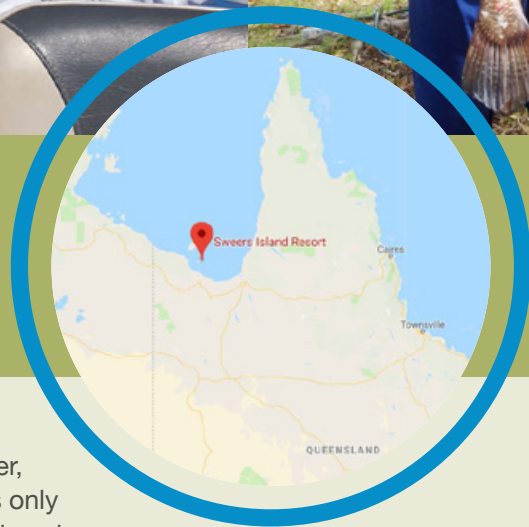
Cliff says that he remembers nothing of the flight.

"I believe that on the way to Townsville I went through another cardiac arrest, but I have no recollection of that at all. I don't remember anything other than telling my mate I was unwell, and I didn't even know I'd collapsed until I woke up in the hospital in Townsville about 24 hours later."



Above: Cliff credits his survival to his mates quick thinking, the Flying Doctors and Townsville Hospital.

Right: Sweers Island is located in the Gulf of Carpentaria.



Afterwards, Cliff would reflect that his survival had less to do with luck, and more to do with his friends' quick thinking, the Flying Doctors speedy response and Townsville Hospital's excellent cardiac surgeons.

Today, Cliff is recovering well at his nephew's home on the Sunshine Coast.

Every day he is feeling a bit stronger, and although it has only been five months since he almost died twice, he's already planning for the day he's well enough to return to Sweers Island, and experience that once-in-a-lifetime holiday to the fullest.

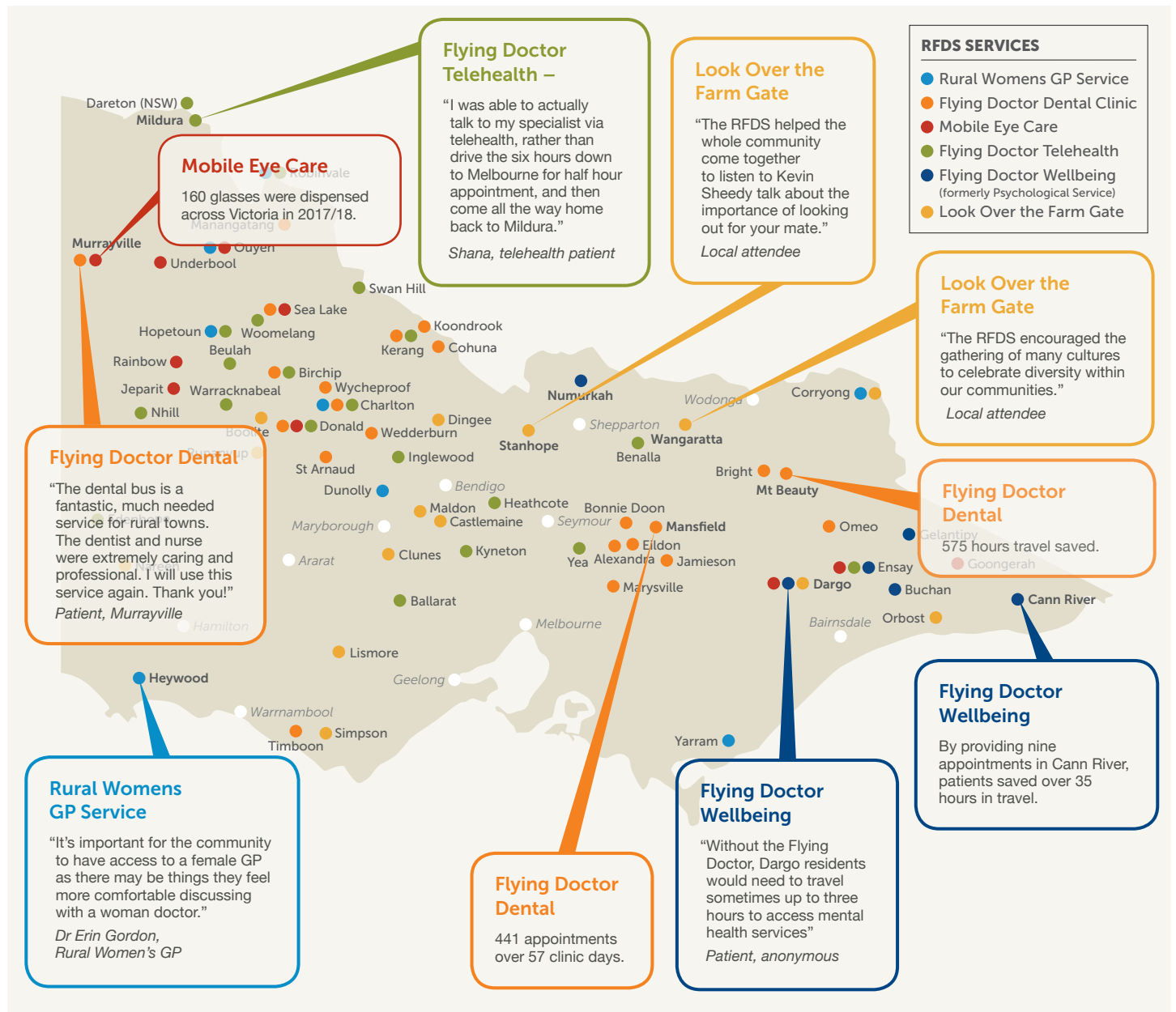
1928-2018 > George Simpson



In 1927, before the first flying doctor came to the outback, a young Melbourne doctor took part in a rescue mission that set the whole aerial medical plan in motion. George Simpson, while on tour in Cloncurry, took part in an unplanned flight accompanying an injured miner to hospital in a QANTAS plane. The success of this flight, with doctor caring for the patient during the trip, proved John Flynn's plan was well grounded. Simpson went on to assist Flynn in founding and developing the Service, with many late nights spent planning around the Simpson family table.

George Simpson (centre) in 1927.

Delivering Primary Health Care Services in Victoria



1928 – 2018 > A history of innovation

The first Flying Doctor ‘telehealth’ sessions began when the outback wireless network was set up and patients could contact the doctor. From 1942, with the distribution of the Flying Doctor standardised medical chest, doctors could also prescribe medication remotely.

90 Years Commemorative pins



Thank you to everyone who has shown their support by purchasing Flying Doctor merchandise! To purchase a limited edition 90 years lapel pin or other items from our range visit rfdsvic.myshopify.com or call us on 03 8412 0400.

Education Week 2018



Merriang Special Developmental School got into the Flying Doctor spirit by dressing as flying doctors!

The RFDS brought the Flying Doctor 'Look! Up In The Sky' program to five schools across Victoria for Education Week 2018!

From 20-26 May Education Manager Tom Ryan visited Baden Powell College, Aspendale PS, Tuckers Road Primary, Newlands PS and Merriang Special Developmental School, bringing the Flying Doctor to life for the next generation.

"Our incursion combines storytelling and role play to help children explore the way in which the RFDS has helped rural and regional Australians over the past 90 years. It's phenomenal to see how the Flying Doctor inspires young imaginations to create their own stories about saving lives in Australia's rugged outback."

During the Aspendale Primary incursion, Grade 3 student Melissa was surprised to see who had come along to help Tom



with the Simulator – her dad, RFDS IT Manager Andrew Nguyen! Thank you to all the kids who jumped on board the Simulator and learnt a little more about the Flying Doc!

1928 – 2018 > Capturing life inland



Above: A mustering camp

In 1955, RFDS Victoria arranged for journalists Gordon Williams of The Argus and Percy Spiden of The Australian to take photos of communities cared for by the Flying Doctor. They returned with stories and magnificent photographs that helped the public better understand the tough conditions faced by rural Australians every day.



Kids Club

We'd like to give a big Flynn the Flyer hello to the all kids who have joined our Kids Club recently!

Sign up to our Kids Club at <https://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/vic/flying-doctor-kids-club/> and stay tuned for more details in our Spring Kids Club newsletter!



Make a time capsule

We've learnt all about kids 90 years ago, now record your own history.

Make a time capsule with a piece of PVC piping, write a few facts about yourself and pop in some keepsakes, then seal it at both ends and ask mum and dad to bury it or store it somewhere safe.

Year:

Name:

Age:

Favourite book:

Best place to visit:

Favourite school subject:

I love playing:

When I grow up:

A thank you to our mothers on the road



Our dedicated patient transport mums Alexandra (L) and Rachel (R) from Alphington with their Edible Blooms.

On Mother's Day RFDS national corporate partner, Edible Blooms surprised seven hard working mums with a chocolate bouquet. Lucky recipients at Alphington and Sale RFDS branches were delighted by the surprise.

Athletes run, champions save lives

Ground Crew fundraiser Jacqui shares what inspired her to raise funds for the Flying Doctor by competing in Run Melbourne.

"I've been lucky enough to visit the RFDS in Alice Springs and was so inspired, by the area they cover and the work they do.

I think most people would only associate RFDS with the outback, so to be able to educate those around me that they extend to the remote, rural and regional areas of each state and territory is a win for me. You never know when you could need them yourself.

This incredible organisation relies on donations. This is where I hope to make a difference, with my goal to raise a minimum of \$1,000."



Ground Crew champion Jacqui entered Run Melbourne to help raise funds for the Flying Doctor.

Flick us a Flynn > 4-18 May

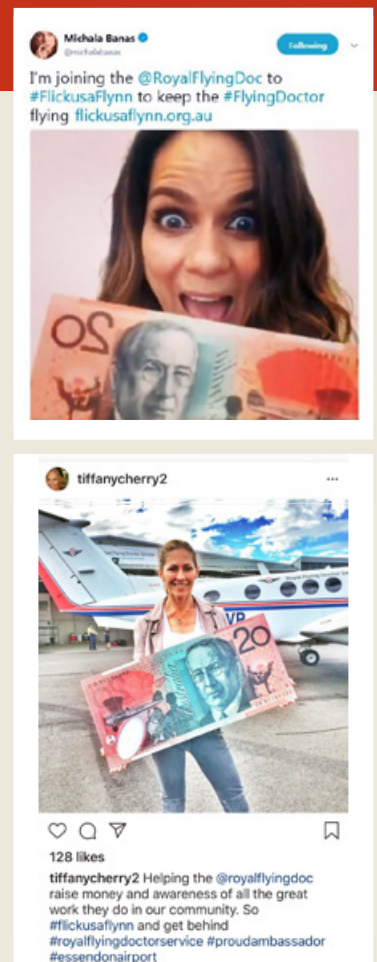
Flick us a Flynn was back for its second year, coinciding with the 90th anniversary of the first RFDS flight.

'Flick us a Flynn' shares the story of the man on the \$20 note, Royal Flying Doctor Service founder John Flynn. Throughout the week, RFDS ambassadors shared pictures and videos about what the Flying Doctor means to them.

Melbourne Stars cricketer John Hastings shared "Having grown up in a rural area and spending time in hard-to-get-to places in Australia I can understand how important it is for Australians to have a service like the Flying Doctor. We often take for granted that the most basic of services like dental care, a visit to a GP or mental health counselling are only a short drive away. For people in the bush, those services can be hundreds of kilometres away from their home, work and family. By supporting the Flying Doctor we are helping all Aussies get the help they need, when they need it, no matter where they live. We need this great service to continue for as long as we possibly can. It's our duty as human beings to get behind it Australia. #FlickusaFlynn."



John Hastings, Michala Banas and Tiffany Cherry proudly shared their support for the Flying Doctor on social media.



Celebrating 90 years with local communities

We have been delighted by the warm welcome we have received when venturing out to local communities this year as we say "thank you!" to our wonderful supporters across the state. Having visited Ballarat, Mildura and Sale we next head to Horsham, Wangaratta and the Mornington Peninsula.



Supporters came together in Ballarat.



L-R: RFDS Chief Executive Scott Chapman, Jill Anderson and Ballarat Mayor Cr Samantha McIntosh.



Mildura: Those also celebrating a 90 years milestone were invited to cut the cake; the hardworking RFDS Sunraysia Support Group were awarded a certificate of appreciation.



William Walker shared his story.

Betty's gift to the RFDS on her birthday

We were delighted to share in the celebrations of Betty Keen's 90th birthday. Betty contacted the RFDS to say that she was asking people to donate to the RFDS on her behalf as gifts. Betty and her family and friends made a very generous donation to the Flying Doctor and put a smile on all of our faces with her gorgeous invitation.

RFDS Donor Relations Manager Naomi Lehrer said "I felt very touched to be a part of Betty's special day."



RFDS Donor Relations Manager Naomi Lehrer and Betty Keen; Betty's invitation.



1928–2018 > A radio beats two river swims

From 1935, Victorians raised funds to support two bases in Western Australia. In Wyndham, WA, base operations began a year before wireless had been installed.

Before radio, a runner often delivered messages for help in person: One such runner, from the Forrest River Mission, travelled for 23 hours on foot to reach the RFDS. He covered over 90kms overland through bush and swam two rivers. Once alerted by the runner, the Flying Doctor was flown to the Mission within the hour.

Fred Ryle, Wyndham base director/radio operator (1939-1962) and Pat Ryle conducting a radio session at the base circa 1955.



Geoff and Betty care for country people

After joining their father operating the widely known Kyneton family business – Organ Buses – in 1958 and 1960 respectively, Geoff Organ and his brother Neil sold the business in 2007. It was then that Geoff's late wife Betty, a country girl originally from NSW, suggested they make a regular donation to the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Geoff has been giving to the Flying Doctor at tax time ever since.

Geoff says Betty always had a soft spot for the Flying Doctor, and as country people themselves, it was a natural decision to donate. Betty and Geoff were also keen travellers, and in their retirement travelled many times to Australia's Outback.

"I admire the people that live in the Outback. You can see they do it pretty hard and they learn to look after themselves very well. But if something goes wrong, it's not like being here in Kyneton, where it's rural but the doctor is around the corner" said Geoff.

"If by donating you can help out in some way, and make sure those people can get some attention from the Flying Doctor, well it made sense to us. It takes money to keep all these going, doesn't it."

"Betty and I both grew up in rural areas and used to love getting out to the country – always fishing or chasing rabbits," Geoff laughs, "and then we started to do a bit of travelling out to central Australia."

"It really makes you think if you get into the outback and something goes wrong, it's nice to know that you can call on the Flying Doctor at some stage if you need to."

Geoff and Betty's travels took them into central Australia where they saw firsthand the resilience of people living in the bush.

Geoff says that his rural upbringing has given him an affinity for the Flying Doctor, and he can really feel for people in isolated areas like central Australia.

"Kyneton is barely an hour out of Melbourne now, but when you go back to when I was a kid growing up, it was very much a country town."

"When you get in the Outback, out in the corner of South Australia near Birdsville, knowing you can call on the Flying Doctor is one of the greatest things. The Flying Doctor is one of the greatest things that ever existed if you ask me."

Joan and Barry's living legacy



Joan and Barry decided they would like to give their bequest to the Flying Doctor together.

Joan and Barry Medwin have been extraordinary supporters to the Flying Doctor for over 20 years. In 2014, Joan and Barry created a gift fund in the Flying Doctor Foundation; J & B Medwin Family Gift. They had also planned to leave a gift in their Will once they passed away.

Earlier this year, Barry's health began to deteriorate. This caused Barry and Joan to decide they would like to give their bequest to the Flying Doctor together, while Barry was still able to do so.

Reflecting on their decision to gift now, rather than waiting, Barry told us that he felt proud to be able to hand the gift over himself. "I never thought I would have the opportunity to make such a gift in my lifetime, and to be able to make this decision whilst I am alive is such an honour," he said.

Joan told us "Over many years, we have admired the health benefits that RFDS gives to people in remote areas. We trust these funds enable the RFDS to continue the excellent work it does in Victoria and Australia. I am confident that the money will be well administered. Barry and I wish the RFDS continued success in the future".

In June, RFDS Chief Executive Scott Chapman accepted their gifts on behalf of RFDS Victoria.

As well as being generous donors, we are always delighted to see Joan and Barry at a variety of Flying Doctor functions over the years. Joan and Barry told us that they enjoy coming to events like the Going the Distance Dinner and John Flynn Lunch as they are a great occasion in which to bring their extended family together.

We are honoured that the Medwins feel such a personal connection to the RFDS and it has been a privilege to be able to thank them and acknowledge their generosity in person.

Bayside Auxiliary celebrate 20 years

It's been a fantastic year of 90th celebrations, but ours is not the only anniversary.

The RFDS Bayside Auxiliary are celebrating an important milestone, their 20th year fundraising for the RFDS. Over the past twenty years they have made an outstanding contribution to the Flying Doctor, donating over \$300,000. This has funded vital equipment such as a defibrillator and dental trolley, and through the Give Them Wings Scholarship, assisted sixteen future regional and rural health workers.

Key fundraising activities for the Bayside Auxiliary are art and craft stalls, the annual fashion parade and Luncheon.



Right: Bayside Auxiliary members Kaye Morey, Wendy Stone and Jan Jenkins congratulate Give Them Wings scholarship awardee Megan Peverill.

RFDS launch Gippsland home monitoring pilot



RFDS trials new service in Gippsland

RFDS Victoria is proud to be working in partnership with Gippsland Primary Health Network to pilot an in-home monitoring program for chronic and complex health conditions.

Through regular home based monitoring, patients will have access to comprehensive care within their own home, in their own communities. Evidence shows that in-home monitoring leads to reduced admissions to hospital as well as a reduction in mortality in chronically ill patients.

1928–2018 > Stories of the Outback inspires Australians



The photos and stories of the outback which Flynn presented with such passion in his writing and talks, inspired city dwellers to venture to remote areas and see the sights for themselves.

Calendar of events 2018

We warmly invite you to join us at one (or many!) of our upcoming events.

23 August

Going The Distance Dinner

6 October

Rowathon

12 & 13 October

RFDS Simulator at Shepparton Show

14 October

Ground Crew at Melbourne Marathon

27 & 28 October

RFDS Simulator at Moorabbin Open Cockpit Weekend

2 & 3 November

RFDS Simulator at Albury Show

17 & 18 November

RFDS Simulator at Lilydale Show

14 – 18 November

Drive 4x4 The Doc

30 November

Annual General Meeting Forum

30 November

John Flynn Luncheon, Melbourne

Join us for a special 90 Years of RFDS celebration

We love meeting our supporters! After successful events in Ballarat, Mildura and Sale, we can't wait to meet you at our next 90th celebration events.

Join us at:

- > **Horsham:** 13 September
- > **Warrnambool:** 30 October
- > **Wangaratta:** November
- > **Mornington Peninsula:** December



Mrs Duncan, pilot, Dr Duncan and Rev Belcher in Burketown, 1955

For more information about any of our events please email events@rfdsvic.com.au or call us on (03) 8412 0400.

Join us for the Annual General Meeting Forum and the John Flynn Luncheon

90 years on from the first flight, the John Flynn Luncheon marks the birthday and celebrates the legacy of RFDS founder John Flynn.

Date > Friday 30 November 2018

Time > Annual General Meeting Forum
10.15am – 11.45am, Level 2, RACV City Club

John Flynn Luncheon
12.00pm – 2.30pm, Level 17, RACV City Club

Venue > RACV City Club,
501 Bourke Street, Melbourne

Cost > Annual General Meeting Forum
Free to attend, and tea and coffee will be served from 10.15am.

John Flynn Luncheon
\$100 per person including a two-course lunch with beverages.

To express your interest email events@rfdsvic.com.au



Join the Ground Crew at Melbourne Marathon

If Jacqui's story (on page 8) has left you keen to pull on the runners, sign up to our Ground Crew and join us at the Melbourne Marathon in October! Take on the 5km, 10km or half marathon!

flyingdoctor.org.au/vic/campaigns/ground-crew/

Please cut here

I would like to support the essential work of the Flying Doctor in 2018

I authorise the Royal Flying Doctor Service to debit \$ per month from my credit card below.

Or, please find enclosed my one-off donation of \$

I would like to pay by: Cheque Money order Credit Card

Credit Card payment details:

Visa MasterCard AMEX

Cardholder's name:

Card number:

Expiry: / Signature:

Please send me information about including the RFDS in my Will

I have already included a gift for the RFDS in my Will

My details:

Title: Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Phone no.

Email:

Donations \$2 and over are tax deductible and a receipt will be issued.

Please return with your payment to:

Royal Flying Doctor Service Victoria

PO Box 7027, Richmond VIC 3121

T 03 8412 0400 F 03 9429 8311

E info@rfdsvic.com.au

> www.flyingdoctor.org.au

ABN 71 004 196 230

90
YEARS

