

90
YEARS



Royal Flying
Doctor Service

Going the Distance

VICTORIA >

1928 – 2018 Celebrating 90 Years



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From the Chief Executive



The 90th anniversary of the first flight was always going to be a big one, and what a momentous year it has been! 2018 has seen the Flying Doctor serve more patients than ever before, thanks to the ongoing contributions of donors, supporters, volunteers and staff.



We were so grateful for the generous response to Cliff's story, featured in our last newsletter. A sudden heart attack in a remote location doesn't bode well, but in this case the Flying Doctor was able to play a part in helping Cliff in his time of need.

In this newsletter you will discover how your support enabled us to help Leroy recover from a serious accident. You'll also read about our dedicated staff going the distance to transport a critical patient by road from Ballarat to Adelaide. We are also pleased to share with you the terrific response to our call out for volunteer drivers in Heathcote who are helping community members access their health appointments.

Whether it's supporting the Flying Doctor by participating in fitness fundraising events such as Run Melbourne, or attending our other events, your assistance provides essential funding for programs and services that change (and save) lives.

At our recent Going the Distance Dinner I was inspired to see attendees give generously in support of communities affected by drought.

I'm pleased to share that we are supporting communities dealing with drought through our Wellbeing Service. We have dedicated staff on the ground who are providing counselling, and we are working to expand this care.

I hope you will join us at the upcoming John Flynn Luncheon and AGM Forum – Celebrating 90 Years. Together we will celebrate the year's achievements and a look back at 90 years of the Flying Doctor. We'd love to see you there.

On behalf of everyone at RFDS Victoria, I'd like to wish you a Merry Christmas and safe and happy holiday period. I hope you, your families and friends enjoy our festive range of merchandise to coincide with the season.

We look forward to continuing our work next year, and beyond.

Scott Chapman

Chief Executive
RFDS Victoria

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@rfdsvic.com.au
> www.flyingdoctor.org.au

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**Royal Flying
Doctor Service**

Cover: Tasmania in 1960, a survey found that the wilderness area of the island was unattainable by road, and could only be reached by sea or air. Mr and Mrs King, and daughters Janet and Mary, at Port Davey with Dr AD Ross – Tasmanian Department of Health, explaining RFDS medical chest.



Delivering Heathcote residents to their health appointments

Accessing health care can be challenging for residents of regional areas who are unable to drive, or have limited transport options.

RFDS Victoria recently launched the Heathcote Community Transport Service, in partnership with Heathcote Health. This service will improve health care access for people living in Heathcote and surrounds.

With the first journey completed on August 16, the service connects volunteer drivers with residents who need transportation to health appointments within a 50km radius of Heathcote.

After putting a call out for volunteers, a positive response from the community saw 14 locals put their hand up to be involved as volunteer drivers. After completing training, the volunteers commenced journeys of varying distances in either a regular passenger vehicle, or a 12-seater bus supplied by the Heathcote and District Community Bank.

Heathcote local Michelle Thompson was the first driver to hit the road with the Community Transport Service.



Volunteer drivers in Heathcote are helping locals get to health appointments.

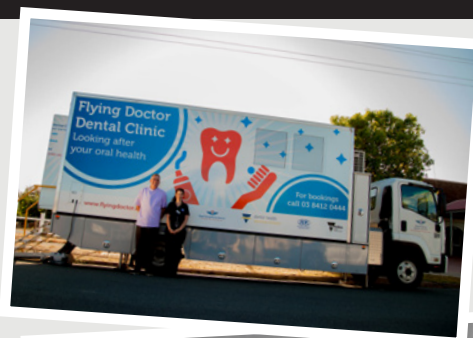
Taking a group of residents from Heathcote Health Residential Aged Care to a planned activity, Michelle is just one of many volunteers helping to transport local residents to appointments.

This free service helps to relieve the burden that transportation can pose for people living in regional and rural areas.

1928 – 2018 > Outback waiting rooms

As well as carrying out emergency missions, the Service has, from its first days, conducted regular 'clinic' visits by doctors and nurses to look after the everyday medical needs of people in the outback – like sore throats, rashes, or chronic illnesses like diabetes.

The RFDS dental van in Wedderburn in 2016; an outback clinic in 1960.



Christmas is coming!



Celebrate the spirit of Christmas while supporting the Flying Doctor!

Along with your favourite tea towels, diaries and Flying Doctor Christmas cards we have some great new gift ideas! Take a look at our pilot teddy, KeepCup, custom luggage tags and picnic rugs. There is something for everyone!



Saving Leroy's life



Leroy was making a delivery when disaster struck.

When Outback workman Leroy started his day, he could not have imagined that by nightfall he would be on an emergency Flying Doctor flight to Adelaide.

Leroy was making a delivery to nearby gymkhana ground, behind the wheel of a buggy with two workmates when the unexpected occurred.

"It was only about 500 metres from the grounds when I rolled the buggy on a corner. I was thrown out the side and it rolled over me and landed on my arm. It pretty much cut my arm off on the spot."

Leroy's two workmates sprang into action and pulled the buggy back over. Leroy used a lanyard he was wearing to make a tourniquet to stop the bleeding. This quick thinking helped to save his life.

His mates drove him back to The Roadhouse and phoned for the Flying Doctor. At The Roadhouse, Mia Degoumois and her mother-in-law took over applying first aid, with the help of a few locals.

"They gave me some painkillers, which helped," recalls Leroy.

I was conscious the whole time but they almost knocked me out. The best relief was realising I was on the aircraft and knowing that I'm on the way to the best help I can get. That was a big relief to me after what had happened.

Leroy was flown to Adelaide where unfortunately his arm had to be amputated.

After four months of recovery and rehabilitation he went back to work at The Roadhouse.

"My outlook on life is positive," says Leroy. "I'm just glad to be here. There's nothing I can do about it, just look to the future, that's what I'm doing. Make my future as good as possible."

Since his accident, Leroy has been inspired to train as a volunteer ambulance officer. He wants to give back, to provide life-saving emergency care to others who are at their most vulnerable and injured in the Outback.



After four months of rehab, Leroy was keen to get back to work with his mates.

“I’m the first amputee volunteer ambulance officer in NSW,” says Leroy. “When you’re driving out there’s always that thought in your head: ‘Do I know this person? Is it family? Is it a friend?’”

Without the help of his workmates, Roadhouse staff and the assistance of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, Leroy may not have been here today to tell his survival story.

As soon as someone needs further attention we call the Flying Doctor. You never know when you’ll need it or who’ll be on the receiving end. In that case it was me. I want to give back. The Flying Doctor saved my life. Maybe I can save someone else’s.



Leroy hasn't let his injury stop him doing what he loves.

Regional 'Thank you' events continue across Victoria



Clockwise from top left: Supporters Gladys and Allen Warwick; supporter Allen Webb and General Manager, Corporate Services, Robert Armour cut the cake in Horsham; Brian Hedt spoke of his rescue by the Flying Doctor; Education Program Manager Tom Ryan shows off the Simulator to Colin Rowse and Gwenda Beamish; Wellington Shire Mayor Carolyn Crossley; RFDS Chair Denis Henry thanks Ron Saunders in Sale.

Our regional 'Thank You' events continue, with supporters turning out in style in both Sale and Horsham.

Attended by local donors, community fundraisers, members of government,

RFDS Victoria Board members, and staff, both events were great successes.

Wellington Shire Mayor Carolyn Crossley expressed why the Flying Doctor is an important part of regional and rural communities. Supporter Brian Hedt told a personal story of needing

the Service, a reminder of why the Flying Doctor is a lifeline for people in the country.

With events in Warrnambool, Shepparton and the Mornington Peninsula still to come, we look forward to meeting you before the end of our special 90th year.

1928 – 2018

Dr JV Tillett from Broken Hill base on a routine clinic visit to Dulkaninna Station, NSW.



RFDS Board visit Gippsland

Each year the RFDS Victoria Board visits a regional area.

In July, the Board came together in Sale to connect with senior representatives from Gippsland health, and government.

The meeting with local representatives centred on partnerships, collaboration opportunities and challenges of health care in the Gippsland area.

Visiting various health services and meeting with local patient transport staff was also on the agenda of the visit, which the Board reported as being effective and enjoyable.



Board members Susan Taylor and Robyn Lardner, centre, met with supporters in Sale.

Support Crew – Thank you for 20 years of support Mrs Szann

The ongoing contributions from our donors makes a significant impact on what the Flying Doctor can achieve in rural and regional areas.

One loyal supporter of the Flying Doctor recently hit a major milestone – August marked the 20th year that Melbourne retiree Mrs Bobbi Szann has donated to the Flying Doctor! Her first donation was pledged in August 1998, and after giving sporadically over the years Bobbi began giving a regular monthly gift in October 2016.

Whenever I saw a tin for the Flying Doctor I always dropped a few coins in, and then I thought 'bugger it' I am going to buy Christmas cards too. That's how it all started for me, says Bobbi.



Bobbi was on a trip through the Outback when she saw first hand how the Flying Doctor comes to the aid of those in need.

As one of the only charities Bobbi supports, the Kew resident has seen firsthand the difference the Service can make to the lives of others. Last year, one of Bobbi's acquaintances was flown from Outback South Australia to Adelaide by the Flying Doctor following a medical incident during a group bus trip to Coober Pedy and Marree.

"I think the Royal Flying Doctor Service is absolutely fantastic," says Bobbi.

1928 – 2018 The furthest corner...



1970 Flying Doctor plane approaching Balgo Hills (Wirrimanu community). One of Australia's most remote communities in WA on the edge of the Great Sandy and the Tanami deserts.

Dinner raises funds for farmers



It was a pleasure to share a special evening celebrating 90 years since the first Flying Doctor flight at the annual Going the Distance Dinner.

Held at the beautiful Plaza Ballroom Melbourne, the evening celebrated the stories of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, its people and the many supporters that have enabled the Flying Doctor to deliver care to Australians since 1928.



Bringing the history of the RFDS to life were performers dressed as iconic Australians including, 'Reverend John Flynn' as Master of Ceremonies. There were songs from 'Dame Nellie Melba', and a poem "Our Saviour in the Sky" written and performed by Rupert McCall OAM.

In a time when many farmers are doing it tough, the crowd rallied when it was announced the proceeds of the evening would be directed to services to help drought affected communities.

National Museum of Australia exhibit



The Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia is being celebrated with an exhibition in the National Museum of Australia (NMA), Canberra.

In August this year, the interactive display shows off the rich history of the RFDS over the past 90 years. The display explores nine decades of work across country Australia in service to rural and regional Australians.

The display will be permanent in the NMA in Canberra over the next four years and will be well worth the visit to the nation's capital.

90
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Join us
for the **RFDS Victoria**
AGM Forum: Celebrating 90 years
and **John Flynn**
Luncheon

Our **AGM Forum: Celebrating 90 Years** is free to attend and we welcome all supporters to join us as we commemorate 90 years since our first flight. The forum will also feature speakers who have contributed to RFDS achievements over the past year.

The forum will be followed by the **John Flynn Luncheon**, featuring Guest Speaker: Dr Tim Duncan, RFDS aeromedical GP.

Date

Friday 30 November 2018

Time & place

AGM Forum: Celebrating 90 Years (Free)
10.00am–11.45am, Level 2, RACV City Club

John Flynn Luncheon (\$110 per person)
12.00pm–2.30pm, Level 17, RACV City Club

RSVP

Monday 19 November 2018

All guests must RSVP for the AGM Forum and/or John Flynn Luncheon by 19 November, 2018.
Book online at www.flyingdoctor.org.au/vic/events, email events@rfdsvic.com.au or phone 03 8412 0400.

Name:

Phone no.

Address:

YES! I'd like to attend the RFDS Victoria AGM Forum: Celebrating 90 Years

YES! I'd like to attend the RFDS Victoria John Flynn Luncheon

..... ticket/s at \$110 per ticket \$

OR

I/We are unable to attend but wish to make a tax deductible donation of: \$

Enclosed is my cheque payable to RFDS Victoria

OR Visa MasterCard AMEX

Name on card:

Card number:

Expiry: / Signature:

Guest name and dietary requirements (if any):

1. None Gluten free Nuts Vegetarian Other:

2. None Gluten free Nuts Vegetarian Other:

3. None Gluten free Nuts Vegetarian Other:

4. None Gluten free Nuts Vegetarian Other:

None Gluten free Nuts Vegetarian Other:

Jeff and Gareth go the distance



Staff members Jeff and Gareth swapped drivers at the border of Victoria and South Australia.

Anyone who has experienced an unexpected stint in hospital knows the feeling of joy and relief that comes with being able to go home to be with your family.

Enabling people to reach home safely and comfortably after a hospital stay, our patient transport team have helped many people receive the care they need while being transported.

While many patients are transported across the state by the team each day, an interstate road trip proved to be an out-of-the-ordinary journey that demonstrates the unwavering dedication, can-do attitude and strong team spirit that the Flying Doctor is known for.

After experiencing chest pains while on a fishing trip in Horsham, an Adelaide-based man ended up in Ballarat Hospital where he received emergency treatment for a life-threatening heart condition. After weeks in hospital, the man was deemed stable enough to be moved but was still unable to risk exposure to the complications that could come with air travel.

Needing to return to Adelaide via road in a safe, controlled way, the patient turned to the Flying Doctor team. Patient Transport Officer Jeff Sia and Ambulance Attendant Gareth Massavelli both put themselves forward for the 12-hour journey.

Driving long distances is something Jeff Sia is accustomed to. Completing long drives from Shepparton to Deniliquin and Wangaratta to Melbourne in the past, Jeff was confident he and Gareth could provide careful monitoring and care of the patient during the long trip from Ballarat to Adelaide.

“This was the first time we had worked with each other, but we struck up a really good friendship throughout the journey. Gareth was fantastic. He looked after the patient so well,” says Jeff.

“By the time we arrived in Adelaide the patient was in a good frame of mind. He seemed quite fresh because he had slept for most of the journey. It was nice to know he was comfortable and could get some rest,” says Jeff.



Admitting that he wouldn't hesitate to do it all over again if asked to, Jeff reflects on the

journey as a great learning experience. By working in partnership with Gareth, Jeff was able to contribute to a good outcome for the patient and gain a new friend in the process.

“The patient was relieved to be going home to Adelaide. He was very appreciative and thankful to us for our service. He couldn't thank us enough. It's a great feeling to know we could help him out,” says Jeff.



Willing a dream into reality...

In 1928 the first Flying Doctor plane was called Victory in honour of philanthropist Hugh Victor McKay whose generous bequest in 1926 was instrumental in the establishment of the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS).

Ninety years later, we have grown from one plane, one pilot and one doctor to a national service with 69 planes, 115 road service vehicles and more than 1,500 professionals delivering emergency medical and primary health services.

We are fortunate to receive generous contributions from many of our loyal supporters who have chosen to remember us by leaving a gift in their Will, like H.V. McKay did. This allows us to continue to provide emergency services and extend our health care services to rural and isolated communities.

To those of you who have already left a gift in your Will to RFDS, we would like to say 'thank you!' and welcome you as a member of the John Flynn Society. Such a generous gift will make a significant difference in the future.

These gifts come to us in different sizes and forms – from a specific gift of money, property, stocks, shares, or a residual gift where supporters can nominate to leave what is left after provisions have been made for loved ones.

To leave a gift in your Will is not a complicated process. More importantly, as a future intention, it does not change your circumstances or financial position today. We would always advise that you seek your own legal advice and make sure you look after loved ones and hope that you may consider leaving a gift to the RFDS.



If you are considering or would like more information about leaving a gift in your Will please call Teresa, RFDS Gift in Will Coordinator on 03 8412 0448. Teresa will be able to assist with any questions you may have and she can send you the latest RFDS Gift in Will brochure.

Get to know Teresa Cianciosi

Gift in Will Coordinator, Teresa enjoys establishing meaningful relationships with donors who are planning on leaving a gift to the Flying Doctor in their Will.



“Every day I get to speak with bequest donors and intending bequest donors. Their legacies are life-giving, transformative gifts and it is wonderful to be in a position which allows me to thank donors for their commitment,” says Teresa.

With a long history working for not-for-profit organisations, Teresa’s passion for social justice and equality drew her to join the team at RFDS Victoria.

“RFDS Victoria is committed to the wellbeing of our community and I was drawn to this mission. It is an organisation that does not forget its origins, celebrates its past and is proactive towards its future,” explains Teresa. “It’s a privilege to listen to why bequest donors are committed to the RFDS. Donors feel a strong link to the Flying Doctor. They admire our work and are sensitive to its ongoing need in the Outback and regional areas.”

Outside of her work within the RFDS Victoria office, Teresa is well-travelled, enjoying many trips overseas and within Australia. This extensive travel, coupled with 30+ years working in not-for-profit organisations enables Teresa to easily form relationships with people of all ages and backgrounds.

“Donors come from all walks of life. They reside in both inner and outer Melbourne, and in regional areas. Many I have spoken to are also celebrating their 90th (or 90+) birthday this year. Many have a strong connection to the Outback, having travelled throughout Australia. They all genuinely wish to make a difference and knowing that their legacy will ensure the ongoing work of the RFDS gives them peace of mind.”

Teresa is enthused about her work, saying: “I am excited to come to work every day to start new relationship journeys with our donors.”

Wool bale charity auction raises \$6,341



The 2018 annual Australian Wool Network (AWN) charity auction raised \$6,341 for the Flying Doctor!

The past year has seen hardworking woolgrowers enjoying the rewards of an exceptionally strong wool market, with some of the highest prices being called in at auction compared to previous decades.

AWN State Manager and Chief Auctioneer Kelvin Shelley was thrilled with the winning bids, telling us “The great thing about these charity bales is that it’s not just the charity that comes out a winner. The buyer who takes the winning bid gets quality wool that they’re able to then use.”

This year marks the fifth charity bale auction by AWN for RFDS, which to date has raised over \$24,000.

Records broken at Run Melbourne



A record number of supporters came together to raise money for the Flying Doctor at Run Melbourne.

Held on July 29, the 11th Run Melbourne was a resounding success for the team with the Flying Doctor Ground Crew raising more than \$10,000.

Sixty-three people ran for the RFDS on the day and many runners beat their personal best.

It was also a record-breaking year for staff participation, with 23 staff members running various distances.

Team members Sandra Olsen and Sam Drake, who manned the Support Crew marquee on the day, said it was great to see supporters and staff come together at Run Melbourne to cheer each other on and raise vital funds for the Flying Doctor.



1928–2018

The Flying Doctor is fortunate to have had a strong community of supporters over the past 90 years.

Donated by General Motors, the presentation of the 500,000th Holden to roll off the assembly line for the RFDS to use at Cloncurry base, 22 October 1958.

Calendar of events 2018

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

27 & 28 October

RFDS Simulator at Moorabbin
Open Cockpit Weekend

2 & 3 November

RFDS Simulator at
Albury/Wodonga 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

For more information on any of our events, please contact us on (03) 8412 0400.

Join us for a special 90 Years of RFDS celebration

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

Join us at:

> **Warrnambool:**
Tuesday, 30 October

> **Wangaratta:**
Friday, 9 November

> **Mornington Peninsula:**
Thursday, 6 December

Please contact us on (03) 8412 0400 if you are interested in attending an event in your local area.



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

Drive 4x4 The Doc

Have you been thinking about a four-wheel drive adventure and a way to give back? Well, here it is.



Drive 4x4 the Doc is the perfect opportunity to jump in your car, or a mate's, and get out of town to discover Victoria's stunning scenery while supporting the Flying Doctor.

You will immerse yourself in some of Australia's most beautiful landscapes on this four day adventure that takes you through the Victorian country starting on the Bellarine Peninsula, east of Geelong.

This experience is ideally suited to couples and those new to four-wheel driving. You only require a standard four-wheel drive or all-wheel drive, as you'll be cruising comfortably on dirt road – nothing too rough for the vehicle or the passengers.

Wednesday 14 November to Sunday 18 November

For more details visit:
www.drive4x4thedoc.com.au

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

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