

The Flying Doctor

WESTERN AUSTRALIA – SPRING 2018

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE



SOUVENIR EDITION

Celebrating 90 years

RFDS 2018 – THE FUTURE

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SPRING 2018

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*Hand-written thank you card
and drawing by Quairading
RFDS patient Jorja Squiers*



MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



In this issue, we proudly 'take flight' as we count down to the arrival of our Rio Tinto LifeFlight PC-24 jet aircraft. This crucial step forward in aero medical service marks a world first and, highlights our continued pursuit of innovation that is intrinsic to our service – your Flying Doctor.

For our medical, aviation, engineering, and operations teams, the aircraft are a boost to our shared passion to serve all West Australians when they need us most. We will be able to respond to multiple patients and time critical scenarios in half the time while delivering essential health services across our regions.

Importantly, the new jets are a necessary investment in Western Australia's health services infrastructure. As more people choose to live, work and travel throughout the state we must continually evolve and grow our fleet to support WA's lifestyle, well-being and prosperity.

Our valued partner, Rio Tinto, has established the initial funding for the aircraft in recognition of their impact on patient outcomes across the state. Over the next four years, we will seek additional support from community, business and government to help us build a collective WA investment in the new RFDS fleet. We warmly welcome your ideas and support to help us generate awareness and fundraise for the next generation of our service.

As we look to the future in this issue, we learn some great insights from

our people about what the Rio PC-24 jets will mean to them. We also share interviews with Flight Nurse Jo and Doctor Simon who take us 'behind the scenes' on what it takes to become a part of the RFDS medical team.

And, as our historic year draws to a close and a new era begins, we reflect on the wonderful 90th Anniversary event held at the Government House Ballroom. In the spirit of storytelling, the event brought together former patients, former RFDS staff, community supporters, corporate partners, health and emergency services peers, government, business and current staff. It was a rare and special opportunity to come together and celebrate 'our Flying Doctor story'.

The Honourable Kim Beazley, Governor of Western Australia summed it up best when he said, "We [Australia] are the best people to take technologies and apply them to our unique circumstances, and if you ever need to point to an attribute of this, you point to RFDS."

Thank you for your continued support of RFDS. It is wonderful to have you join us on our journey into a new era.

Rebecca Tomkinson

Chief Executive Officer
Royal Flying Doctor Service,
Western Australia

**90
YEARS**



Royal Flying Doctor Service

ANNIVERSARY OF A WEST AUSTRALIAN ICON

FLYING DOCTOR TURNS 90

On 17 May, Government House came alive with RFDS 90th Anniversary celebrations. Here's how guests and staff paid tribute to the Flying Doctor on the day.

West Australians from all walks of life came together at Government House in Perth on 17 May to celebrate the long history of the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

The guests represented the many faces of the 'Flying Doctor' story — including former patients, leaders in the health and aviation sectors, and people from government, business and the community.

Local Noongar representative, Shaun Nannup, captivated the audience with a poignant opening Welcome to Country ceremony, which celebrated the connection to our land and each other.

Tales of the resilient spirit of the outback set the tone as the Honourable Kim Beazley, Governor of Western Australia, and Deputy Premier Roger Cook paid homage to RFDS founder John Flynn's legacy.

RFDS Chief Executive Officer, Rebecca Tomkinson extended her gratitude to all West Australians for their continued support in enabling the delivery of an essential service to everyone who lives, works or travels across the state.

"The Flying Doctor belongs to all of us and is something that we can be justifiably proud of," she said.

Guests were also shown a video that commemorated Western Australia's pivotal role in inspiring the RFDS and featured the stories of former patients from across the state — including some who had survived against all odds.

With the formalities complete, the guests enjoyed a morning tea — swapping stories about their experiences with the 'Flying Doctor'.

To watch highlights of the event, visit: www.rfdstv.com.au



(L-R) Esperance Auxiliary President Rob Horan, Deborah Horan, Former Esperance Auxiliary presidents Ian Scott and Helen Scott



(L-R) The Rural, Regional, Remote Women's Network of WA CEO Jackie Jarvis, CBH Group Community Relations Advisor Amie Bolton, Western Australian Regional Development Trust Deputy Chair Karlie Mucjanko, State Director for CEDA WA Liz Ritchie, Western Australian Regional Development Trust Member Paul Farrell



Deputy Premier and Minister for Health Hon. Roger Cook and RFDS WA CEO Rebecca Tomkinson with RFDS staff

A NEW ERA BEGINS

The Rio Tinto LifeFlight PC-24 jet aircraft signals a new generation for aero medical service in West Australia and around the world.

Regarded as the 'off-road' aero medical jet — ideal for WA's vast landscapes and sometimes difficult airstrip terrains - the Rio Tinto LifeFlight PC-24 jet's ability is second to none.

The new aircraft will halve the time of long-haul flights in critical patient scenarios and has the capacity for three patients and two medical teams. It is the state's new 'emergency ward in the sky'.

As we countdown to the arrival of the jet, we talked to Rio Tinto CEO, Chris Salisbury and RFDS staff about what the new aircraft means to them.



Chris Salisbury – Rio Tinto

Rio Tinto is very proud of our enduring partnership with RFDS. The delivery of the new Rio Tinto LifeFlight Jet symbolises our shared vision for innovation and support for the future growth of our state.

A culture of innovation is something that binds our two organisations. In the same way that Rio Tinto is a world leader in the development and implementation of automated technology that makes our workplace safer and more efficient, the RFDS is leading the world in primary aero medical evacuations and moving critically ill patients from regional hospitals to specialist health services in Perth and interstate, using a combination of world best practices.

The health and safety of communities and employees wherever Rio Tinto operates is a priority for us. The new Rio Tinto LifeFlight Jet will contribute significantly to faster access to specialist medical care and, ultimately, better health outcomes for patients from regional and remote WA.

Manager Engineering, Andy Lewis

Engineering is about the ingenuity of using the latest technologies and design methods available to change people's lives for the better.

As an engineer, I am always excited about new innovations and their benefits.

It's fantastic that we are adopting the latest aircraft technology from Pilatus as it has the ability to fly higher, faster and further than we have ever flown before.

I am extremely proud to be leading a talented team of highly skilled and motivated aircraft engineers, who take pride in their ability to maintain our aircraft to the highest standards.

Like me, they are delighted to have been given the opportunity to expand their knowledge and skills.



Deputy General Manager of Nursing, Paul Ingram

From a nursing perspective, we're excited about the increased speeds of the PC-24 which will enable greater response times for reaching critically ill patients. The aircraft's increased medical team capacity will minimise multiple team handovers and enable our crews in the north to return home to be with their families. Another advantage is the increased availability of our broader fleet to respond to local emergencies within regions.

Throughout my RFDS career I've had the opportunity to witness the evolution of our fleet, from the Navajo to the Conquest to the King Air and PC-12s. The PC-24s signal a new era for our service that all RFDS nurses are thrilled to be part of.

Coordination Centre Manager, Sean Mager

Our team are at the frontline of our emergency response 24 hours day, seven days a week. We have a crucial role in determining the right aero medical response for patient needs and their location. It is as challenging as it is rewarding.

The introduction of the PC-24 jet aircraft to our fleet is a significant contribution to WA's wider health and emergency services infrastructure. We work collaboratively with these services across the state to ensure the best response and outcome for patients in need.

We're looking forward to the experience of working with an integrated fleet that will allow us to make important, time-critical decisions with our colleagues and peers across the state.

Most of all, we feel very proud to be part of the next generation of service to our community.



General Manager, Aviation, Geoff Horsley

Our aviation team feels privileged to be part of a world-first for aero medical service. The PC-24 jet aircraft is the first of its kind and RFDS has led its evolution as an aero medical aircraft.

As it's a new aircraft, our pilots are undertaking specialist training at a facility in the United States. They will be introduced to the new technology and increased capabilities.

Integrating the PC-24 jet aircraft with our existing fleet of PC-12 turbo prop aircraft allows greater choice in fleet response to a range of patient scenarios. Knowing we can further improve our response times for patients across the state is incredibly important to all of us.

Boasting a smoother ride, the ability to land on short and rough airstrips and a cockpit designed to reduce workload and fatigue, the PC-24s are aircraft we are very much looking forward to. They promise to be a pivotal moment for the future of our operations.

Deputy Director of Medical Services, Dr Andrew Hooper

Ever since John Flynn's vision for an aero medical service, RFDS has continually pursued innovative solutions to deliver world-class medical care to patients wherever they need us.

Along with our PC-12s, each PC-24 jet aircraft will be equipped with state-of-the-art medical equipment with an interior capacity that allows for three stretchered patients and two medical teams. This allows us to provide intensive care treatment in-flight while en route to further specialist care.

Our team will undertake additional training to prepare for administering emergency medical care in-flight in the new aircraft environment. Most RFDS doctors will tell you that our unique patient environment in the sky is professionally and personally rewarding. The new PC-24 jet aircraft creates a new aspect to our work which is very exciting.



GIVING THE RFDS PURPOSE

RFDS WA helps almost 70,000 people a year through aero medical retrievals, remote health clinics and telehealth services. Here are some of those stories.



JORJA SQUIERS

As usual, Quairading District High School's playground was a hive of activity during one lunchbreak in April this year.

Kids were clambering on the climbing walls, scrambling over play equipment and generally running about with youthful exuberance. Joining the fun was 10-year-old Jorja Squiers who was swinging on the flying fox, and her friend Mia.

Unfortunately, things took a turn for the worse. Losing her grip on the moving bar, Jorja hit the ground head-first and with high impact.

Mia dashed to her friend's aid – helping a confused and panicked Jorja to her feet, and taking her to see her mum, Kelsie, who happens to be a teacher at the school.

"I heard her crying and I thought 'oh no, what's happened?'" Kelsie said. "She kept saying that her head was hurting, over and over again, so I got her to lie down on a beanbag with a cold pack.

"She's a pretty stubborn kid, pretty farm-savvy and tough, so at first she was reluctant to go to the sick bay.

"The bell went and she actually took herself to the sick bay and, after lying there for about an hour, her head was still hurting so I said I'd had enough and we were heading straight to the hospital."

At the hospital, Jorja vomited eight times in a short span of time, ringing alarm bells for the medical staff, who suspected she'd sustained a severe concussion. They were also worried her complaints of neck soreness could indicate a possible neck injury.

The doctors made the decision to call in the Royal Flying Doctor Service to assess and transport Jorja to Princess Margaret Hospital for scans. She was bundled in a vacuum mattress to restrict movement and to protect her spine during the flight.

Kelsie fondly recalls Kalgoorlie flight nurse Dan comforting Jorja, while checking her blood pressure and pain levels.

"Jorja vomited on the plane and all over Dan and he just sucked it up with the sucker thingy," she laughed.

Upon arrival in Perth, Jorja received X-ray scans to her neck and, much to her mum's relief, the scans came back clean. By the next day, she was feeling normal again.

"It's nice to know that help is always near when you need it and can be on the way quickly - with smiles to greet you," Jorja said.

Jorja being transferred to Perth with RFDS nurse Dan.



JOELINE DANCE

In 2008, Victorian couple Joeline Dance and Paul McKenzie moved from the big city of Melbourne to the red dirt of Kalgoorlie.

Paul, a mechanic by trade, was attracted to Western Australia by the mining boom.

The couple quickly settled in and, after having their first child – a baby boy – in 2012, decided to have another in 2016. But when 37-year-old Joeline had her first trimester tests done, the results put her in the high-risk category of pregnancies.

“At my first appointment the doctor told me not to be more than five minutes away from the hospital in case I haemorrhaged,” she said. “It was pretty traumatic.”

At 31 weeks pregnant, Joeline received steroid injections to help develop the baby’s lungs. After the second injection she couldn’t feel movement from the baby. She went straight to Kalgoorlie Hospital, where test results meant she was faced with having to deliver her baby prematurely.

“I couldn’t fly to Perth for the delivery as the pressure of the flight would’ve posed too much of a risk,” she said. “We were told the (chances of) survival would be high but if I delivered, the baby would have to go straight to Perth.”

Joeline delivered her baby, Aleaya, by emergency C-section. Aleaya was taken into critical care and flown to Perth, where she spent nearly eight weeks in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at King Edward Memorial Hospital. She returned home just before Christmas.

But within five days of being home, Aleaya wasn’t able to hold down her milk without vomiting and she was losing weight drastically. Joeline



L-R: Aleaya, Joeline, Paul and Jackson

headed back to the emergency room. Aleaya’s heart started to fail and she went pale and limp, before doctors could resuscitate her.

An X-ray scan picked up an intestinal obstruction. That evening, a ventilated and swollen Aleaya was transported to Princess Margaret Hospital by the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

On Christmas Day, Aleaya had emergency life-saving surgery for Pyloric Stenosis, a condition where the muscles in the stomach narrow and prevent food from emptying out of it. After the surgery, Aleaya progressed in leaps and bounds and gained weight rapidly.

“The support I got from the RFDS was just great,” Joeline said. “The doctor onboard came up to me afterwards and said, ‘you may not remember me, but I was with Aleaya the first time, as well,’ – that meant a lot to me.”

Joeline reports little Aleaya, now two years old, is a “bundle of energy”, full of cheek, and enjoys ballet dancing.



SPENCER SNELL

Imagine being rammed repeatedly by an angry 700kg bull while working in one of the most isolated places in Western Australia.

For Spencer Snell, that horrific scene was a reality.

Every year Spencer trades his home in Waroona, south of Perth, for one near Wiluna, in the centre of the state, where he spends three months working on the remote Wongawol/Carnegie cattle station.

In 2016 Spencer was mustering on the four-million-acre property when the unthinkable happened.

“The cattle are only handled once a year and (it) is not uncommon to come across a proper ‘scrubber’ bull... they are generally very grumpy about being mustered in a yard and trucked out,” he said.

A momentary slip-up saw an angry scrubber bull smashing through a gate and pinning Spencer to a rail, goring him in his ribs and shoulder.

“I thought I had breathed my last and, while I was being rubbed into a rail, I remember wondering if I would ever see my wife and children again,” he said.

“Fortunately, my co-workers somehow got the bull off me and I dragged myself out of the yard.

CONTINUES OVER

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS RFDS 2018 – THE FUTURE

GIVING THE RFDS PURPOSE (CONTINUED)

"I could not move my right arm, and my chest and back were in a world of hurt. As you can imagine, this is not a great feeling when you're a long way from any medical help."

Wongawol only has a dirt airstrip which, in the dark, did not make for ideal landing conditions for the Royal Flying Doctor Service, so Spencer had to endure a two-hour-long drive along the Gunbarrell Highway to the Jundee mine site.

"They were quick to assess the injury but could not tell the risk or extent of internal damage," he said. "We got going fairly promptly. They were good at making me comfortable and administered morphine for my pain."

After Spencer arrived at Meekatharra Hospital, doctors made the decision to take him to Perth for further scans and tests, in case he had sustained any internal organ damage.

"Fortunately for me, all the scans and tests showed that I had escaped any serious damage apart from a shattered shoulder blade, some broken ribs and bruising."

Spencer said the experience has given him peace of mind, knowing the RFDS is on hand to help in the case of an emergency when he works in remote and rural WA.

"Modern technology – emails, airplanes, sending photos and even the telephone – make you realise how lucky we are to live in our era," he said.



HANNAH MITCHELL

Young Hannah Mitchell was enjoying her Easter holidays splashing about with her best friend in the cool and calm waters of Goodwyn Island, oblivious to the danger that lurked around her.

Her brush with death happened in a flash. An Irukandji, one of the world's deadliest jellyfish, had stung her on the arm.

Minutes later, as excruciating pain coursed through her body, the 14-year-old was raced back to the jetty where her mother Casey, who had learnt about what had happened over the phone, waited for her daughter's arrival with bated breath.

Casey soon realised the situation was far worse than she imagined when she saw Hannah shaking from pain and coughing up blood.

Hannah later described the experience as feeling like her insides were crumbling. In an induced coma and critical condition, medical staff at Karratha Hospital contacted RFDS to transfer Hannah to Princess Margaret Hospital for specialist care.

In-flight, RFDS medical staff provided critical life support to prevent a paralysed and sedated Hannah from going into heart and lung failure during the three hour flight to Perth.

Three weeks after recovering from the terrifying ordeal, Hannah along with her mum and friends, visited the Jandakot base to fill in the blanks in her memory and was shown the aircraft in which she lay.



Hannah Mitchell (L) standing next to Professor Stephen Langford, Director of Medical Services RFDS WA

"I'm not sure how the doctors and nurses work in such a small space, but they do," Hannah said as she inspected the aircraft.

"I'll be forever grateful to the RFDS for keeping my heart beating 25,000 feet in the air."

The Irukandji is believed to be one of the most venomous creatures in the world, but it's also terrifyingly small – often no larger than a match head – and therefore difficult to spot in the water. People have died from its sting, with the most recent known death being in 2002 in Queensland.

TOP GUNS

WHAT IT TAKES TO JOIN THE RFDS MEDICAL TEAM



Ever wondered what it takes to be part of the RFDS medical team? Here are first hand accounts from Senior Nurse Jo Smallshaw and Dr Simon Clarkson.

SENIOR NURSE - JO SMALLSHAW

In 2002, Jo Smallshaw sat in the back of an ambulance on the airstrip at Derby Airport, in Western Australia's far north-west.

Then a nurse at the local hospital, Jo was waiting to pick up a patient who had been bitten by a venomous snake.

She was a long way from home – having swapped the big city lights of Sydney for a job with a travelling nursing agency to experience life in regional Australia.

As she sat there, waiting to receive the returning patient, the wings of the Royal Flying Doctor Service plane came into view on the horizon. That moment, and the interactions with the RFDS that followed, would light a fire within her.

Before she'd even got back to Derby Hospital, Jo knew: "this is something I just have to do".

It was the first day of a long journey. Jo's career with the RFDS as a flight nurse didn't come overnight. It took five years of training in emergency nursing and a midwifery degree before she applied, successfully, to work with the RFDS.

Now, 16 years after that first experience with the RFDS at Derby Airport, Jo is a senior base nurse in Broome.

"It's very different to working in a hospital," she said. "You work with limited resources and it can be a challenging environment, with noise, vibration, altitude hypoxia to consider, and a confined space – especially when you're six foot tall like me!"

Jo said regular simulation training across all aspects of clinical expertise was absolutely crucial in order to be prepared to respond to the unpredictable.

"You do build confidence over time and you find yourself passing on bits of knowledge you've picked up over the years to the new staff who are coming through," she said.

"It's a very dynamic space to work in where you get different patients, you travel to different places every day and sometimes different modes of transport. You deal with everything and anything."

Adapting to change is something Jo's very familiar with. Born and bred in Hong Kong, she completed her nursing training in London before making her way to WA, where she met her husband (who she says is her biggest support).

In her time with the RFDS, Jo has experienced the amalgamation of the Derby base with Broome and, as senior base nurse, went from working in a team of five to one twice that size.

"This year we also have the arrival of the PC-24 at the Broome base, so it's not just a job that you go into and 'that's it' for the next 10 years," she said.

"There have been big changes and there will be changes to come and, to me, that's just really exciting."

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS RFDS 2018 – THE FUTURE

Dr Simon Clarkson

Dr Simon Clarkson attributes his passion for helping people in need from his experience as a first-aid volunteer during his youth.

Graduating from medical school in 2009, Simon accrued five years of experience in trauma, intensive care, emergency care anaesthetics, neo-natal and obstetrics while working at Fremantle, Royal Perth and King Edward Memorial Hospitals.

Equipped with an extensive skill-set and a desire to work in the aero medical arena, he successfully applied to the RFDS in 2013.

Simon says his role as an RFDS doctor is incredibly diverse. Beyond his experience on the frontline of medical emergencies, Simon provides vital support to RFDS medical teams across the state as they tackle any number of emergencies 'on-ground'.

"You learn to develop a sixth sense of what you hear over the phone to paint a mental picture of what's going on," he said.

"On any given day, I'm on the phone with nurses, doctors, paramedics

and mine site medics who are spread across all 2.5 million square kilometres of the state and have to extract information from them to make an assessment.

"Experience gives you that. Based on the information you've been given, you then have to make decisions about urgency to attend, preparations for in-flight treatment, organise hospital admission and liaise with the receiving hospital about the patient's condition."

Simon, who also instructs medical professionals on Advanced Paediatric Life Support (APLS) and the Western Trauma Course (WTC), said there are plenty of opportunities to expand your skill-set and grow professionally with the RFDS.

This includes Helicopter Underwater Emergency Training (HUET), Advanced Life Support (ALS) training, ultrasound upskilling and a weekly in-house education program which entails a video conference with medical staff tuning in from all bases across the state.

"As our five bases are spread far and wide right across WA, to be able to

have the conference where we present and review cases is very valuable and beneficial," he said.

"We actively share knowledge with experts from across WA's medical industry and health services which is very beneficial to maintaining best practice and importantly delivering optimal outcomes for our patients."



DELIVERING MEDICAL CARE ACROSS OUR VAST STATE

In 2017/2018 we retrieved over 8,500 patients, many receiving specialised medical treatment from the moment of retrieval, during the flight and until safely touching down.

With thousands of families living, working and travelling across WA, delivering emergency medical care to patients no matter where they may be is the key to keeping our great state healthy and safe.

As soon as you leave the metro area, you're in Flying Doctor country. You'll never know when you'll need us, but if you do, we'll be there.

7,556,000
Kilometres Flown

15,413

Patients
Attending
Clinics

8,535
Patients Flown

44,286
Telehealth
Consultations

1,896
Healthcare Clinics

5
Aero Medical
Operating
Facilities

17
RFDS Aircraft



CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

THANK YOU SANDFIRE RESOURCES

Sandfire Resources is a premier copper producer with their operations based 900km north of Perth. As a corporation, Sandfire Resources recognises the importance of the RFDS to the people living and working in rural Western Australia as well as all of those involved in Sandfire's operations in the mid-west.

Through their partnerships and sponsorship program, Sandfire supports the RFDS Aero Medical Fund which enables the Flying Doctor to continue its aero medical services across our vast state.

A SCONE FOR A CAUSE

Have a morning or afternoon tea coming up? Keep an eye out for Lion Brand scone mix at your local supermarket. For every product sold, 20 cents will be donated to RFDS WA. Another great partnership with a local West Aussie brand!



CBH GROUP AGM SHOWCASES RFDS PC-12

CBH Group held their Annual General Meeting on 23 February 2018 at the Perth Convention and Entertainment Centre where they showcased the RFDS Pilatus PC-12 model.

The day ended with an Asian themed cocktail party with the PC-12 as a great showpiece. Thank you CBH for your incredible support!



Karara Mining Keeping healthy smiles

In 2018 Karara Mining celebrates five years of success, as well as five years of community partnership with the RFDS.

The partnership was born with the establishment of the Karara Community Health Fund in June 2012.

As the partnership grew, Karara and the RFDS developed a state-of-the-art Mobile Dental Clinic in 2014 with a customised and fully equipped dental van, purchased and equipped by Karara and operated by the RFDS. The dental van travels throughout the Wheatbelt and Mid-West regions ensuring families in the region have access to high quality dental healthcare.

The Mobile Dental Clinic runs annually and has received strong support and acclaim from residents, community groups and local councils alike.

To find out when the mobile dental clinic is going to be in your area, contact your local shire or email rfdsdentalservices@rfdswa.com.au

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS RECOGNITION FOR SERVICE TO THE RFDS

RFDS WA is pleased to share the news that Board member, Erica Smyth, together with long-term RFDS supporter, Georgina Pearce, have both been recognised in the 2018 Queen's Birthday Honours.

Erica was one of only 10 recipients nationwide recognised with the nation's highest honour, a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC). She received her AC for eminent service to the community through corporate governance roles with charitable, medical research, higher education, nuclear scientific and technology organisations, to the minerals exploration sector, and to women in business.

Georgina Pearce, who has raised funds for RFDS for over 50 years and was the Chair of the Flying 1000 until January this year, was also recognised with an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for service to the community of Western Australia.

We warmly congratulate both women on these achievements and thank them for their invaluable contributions.



Erica Smyth

OUR SPONSORS

Altitude Partners

RioTinto

Major Partners



KARARA
minerals



Community Partners



Altitude Ball Partners



Corporate Supporters



Government Supporters Australian Government



Australian Government
Department of Health

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 EVENTS



RFDS BENEFITS AS CHARITY PARTNER OF AIRNORTH CABLE BEACH POLO

This year, Airnorth Cable Beach Polo selected the Royal Flying Doctor Service as its charity partner to benefit from donations raised from this exclusive international event held on the pristine sands of Cable Beach in Broome.

On the weekend of 26 and 27 May, the sporting spectacular attracted people from around Australia and the world – leading polo players, tourists, media and celebrities.

Once again this epic event did not disappoint as guests were delivered a superb line-up of entertainment, food fresh from the Kimberley region, music and fashion.

GIBB CHALLENGE 2018 HIT THE RED DIRT HARD AND FAST

This is a story of mateship, resilience, community spirit and a whole heap of outback fun!

Held between 11 and 18 May, this year's Gibb Challenge was a tough one. The Gibbsters battled 30 knot easterly winds blowing down the dusty path of the Gibb River Road. They were put to the test. Each day the peloton tackled the spirit of the Gibb Challenge with resilience and effortless enthusiasm, with a greater purpose of raising funds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Throughout this amazing journey, teams spoke of their individual stories around the camp fire at night and the Flying Doctor was humbled with the gravity of thanks from individuals to what our service brings to their lives.

We are extremely excited to have been announced as the 2019 Gibb Challenge beneficiary and would like to extend a huge thank you to both Simon and Anna Rimmer from Karunjie Events for what was another epic event and also the Gibbsters who have once again worked so hard to raise a whopping \$510k for the RFDS.

OUTBACK AIR RACE TAKES OFF FOR 2018

The 2018 Outback Air Race teams took off and raced across the outback between 19 and 31 August.

This unique and exhilarating 12 day event is a GPS-based navigation time trial over 4,000km of remote Australia. It's held every three years to raise funds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service – and this year's race has special significance as the RFDS celebrates the 90th anniversary of its first flight from Cloncurry in 1928.

The race encompassed a picturesque and rugged route, covering some of the most scenic and spectacular geography in Australia. Starting in Archerfield QLD, this year's event then stopped in Bundaberg, Longreach, Mount Isa, Adels Grove, Daly Waters, Katherine / Tindal, Kununurra and finally landed in Broome.

WHAT'S COMING UP



◦ RFDS EVENTS CALENDAR

ALTITUDE BALL 2018 – A CHANGE IS IN THE AIR

SATURDAY 13 OCTOBER 2018

www.altitudeball.com.au

Don't miss out on ALTITUDE BALL 2018 – register your interest now

FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS



WA DAY SAUSAGE SIZZLE

30 RFDS WA staff and family members turned sausages to raise money for the Flying Doctor at the WA Day celebrations at Elizabeth Quay over the holiday weekend. The crowds were happy to spend their dollar at the sausage sizzle, which was generously sponsored by Coles. Over two days, \$12k was raised in aid of the Flying Doctor. Well done team!



THE AFRO MUST GO

For two years, 16 year old Tom Keily grew his hair out with the aim to host an Afro Must Go fundraiser where people were given the opportunity to bid to shave parts of the fro off. Locally, Tom was easily recognised by his mop of red hair and after two years he was definitely feeling the Pilbara heat.

Tom was motivated to do this in honour of friends of the family who are battling cancer and who nominated the Flying Doctor as their chosen charity. Living in the Pilbara, the RFDS plays an important part in the lives of Tom, his family and friends, due to the rural nature of their lifestyle and the need for support from the RFDS. At time of print, Tom's Afro efforts have raised a fantastic \$7,900 for the RFDS. Way to go Tom!

KOORDA POLICE GOLF DAY

Held on 8 August 2017 the Koorda Police Golf Day raised more than \$61k from the golf tournament in Koorda.

Located between the wheatbelt towns of Dowerin and Moora the Koorda Golf Day has been running since 2009 with over 50 participants plus spectators joining in the fun. Funds are raised through pledges, donations, entry fees and several raffles held throughout the day of slicing the green.



35TH ANNUAL NULLABOR MUSTER RAISES \$20K FOR THE FLYING DOCTOR

The Annual Nullabor Muster was once again held this year between 20 and 23 April. Participants and fans congregated once more in Rawlinna, deep in the West Australian outback, located roughly 380km east of Kalgoorlie. Celebrating its 35th year, the muster hosted a jam packed weekend of fun which included a Gymkhana, barrel races, bull riding and skeet shooting.

The main Gymkhana event was the Royal Flying Doctor Flutter, which was won by Amy Forrester on her horse Bella. Through this event the Nullabor Muster raised an amazing \$20k for the Flying Doctor.

BE PART OF OUR NEW ERA

Your support has carried us far and wide.

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

Email us at 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 <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 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

DONATE ONLINE > rfdswa.com.au

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

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



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@royalflyingdoc



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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 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.

DO YOU HAVE AN RFDS WA STORY?

Help us to continue to share your memories and stories of your RFDS experiences.

RFDS WA is always on the search for amazing stories to feature in our bi-annual magazines. Tell us how we have touched the lives of your family, friends or community. We would love to hear about it.

Email your story to 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.)

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90
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