



Welcome to the November edition of *Touch Base with RFDS Tasmania* through which we will keep you up to date with our latest news and events in Tasmania.

New nursing scholarship

The *Robin Miller RFDS Nursing Scholarship* has been established by the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) Tasmania in partnership with the University of Tasmania School of Nursing and Midwifery and RFDS Central Operations, covering South Australia and much of the Northern Territory.

This new annual scholarship provides a senior nursing undergraduate with the experience of living and working with the RFDS at Port Augusta for two weeks. The scholarship gives insight into the advantages and difficulties of nursing practice in the Outback in general and among Indigenous Australians in particular.

The scholarship is dedicated to the memory of the late

Mrs Robin Miller-Dicks (1940 – 1975). A nurse, aviatrix and RFDS pilot, she single-handedly immunised thousands of Australians with an oral polio vaccine and became widely known by Indigenous Australians as the ‘Sugar-Bird Lady’.

Jordan De Hoog was selected as the inaugural recipient of the scholarship from a strong field of applicants and has recently returned from his placement at Port Augusta. Be sure to read about Jordan’s experiences in a future edition of the *Flyer* Newsletter.

RFDS Tasmania thanks the family of the late Mrs Robin Miller-Dicks, RFDS

Central Operations, the University of Tasmania and the Launceston Golf Club lady members for their support in bringing this scholarship to fruition.



Jordan De Hoog.

St Helens patient transfer facility

The first of our newly developed patient transfer shelters is now operational at St Helens Airport. The shelters are designed to improve the comfort of patients and assist medical staff during the transfer of patients from road ambulance to air ambulance.

Under the arrangement, the purchase of the shelter, together with a contribution towards the cost of installation is met by RFDS Tasmania and local councils install and maintain the shelters on airport land. The St Helens facility has been developed in partnership with the Break O’Day Council.

RFDS Tasmania thanks the many individuals and community organisations who have contributed towards this initiative, in particular **Mr Brian & Mrs Wendy Faulkner**, Break O’Day Stitchers, St Helens Neighbourhood House, Scamander Garden Club, and the Rotary Club of Central Launceston.



St Helens patient transfer facility.

Launceston morning tea – Tuesday 19 November



David Foster OAM.

RFDS Tasmania is hosting a morning tea at the Launceston Base, Western Junction on Tuesday, 19 November, from 10.00 am to 11.30 am. Our special guest is world champion axeman, **David Foster OAM**.

Supporters are very welcome to attend. Please RSVP by Wednesday, 13 November, to **Mary Frost** on 03 6391 0504, **Nicole Henty** on 03 6391 0512 or at enquiries@rfdssse.org.au. We hope that you can join us for the morning tea.

‘Access all Areas’ student tour

Students from Brooks, Queechy and Prospect high schools attended an ‘Access All Areas’ tour of the Launceston Airport precinct to provide them with a greater understanding of careers within the aviation industry. Approximately 20

students visited the base to learn about becoming a RFDS pilot and engineer. In addition, the students were given a behind-the-scenes tour of the Launceston Airport, Air Traffic Control and the Launceston Aviation Rescue and Fire Fighting unit.



‘Access all Areas’ student tour.

The Governor of Tasmania hosts reception at Government House

The patron of RFDS Tasmania, **His Excellency The Honourable Peter Underwood AC**, Governor of Tasmania, and **Mrs Underwood** hosted a reception in May at Government House to mark the 85th anniversary of the RFDS in Australia.

Guests travelled from all over the state and interstate to hear the Governor talk about the inspirational **Rev John Flynn** and his dream of establishing an aerial medical service. Governor Underwood then proposed a toast to our past and future success.

President of RFDS Tasmania, **Malcolm White** said, "The Board and our supporters were privileged to attend a reception by our Patron, the Governor, to hear his insightful address about the proud history of the service."

Judith Longhurst, Capt Digby Longhurst and Jan Davis. Photo Courtesy, Government House.



Annual report & RFDS calendars

The RFDS Tasmania 2012/13 Annual Report is now online at flyingdoctor.org.au/About-Us/Annual-Reports and RFDS 2014 calendars are available from the RFDS Doc Shop at www.flyingdoctor.org.au

2014 Calendar



Look! Up in the Sky reaches new heights

The free educational program has taken flight in Tasmanian schools again this year with 79 new classes from 28 schools registering their students in grades three to six. In addition, several classes from 2012 have re-registered for the program. Over 2000 hardcopy student workbooks and teachers' manuals have been distributed throughout the course of year.

The program was developed by RFDS Victoria, and is based on the RFDS core values of respect, teamwork, leadership, fairness and compassion.

Carol Mackel, a retired principal, managed the program during 2013. Carol, with the help of trained volunteers, has visited schools to provide teaching staff with specific learning ideas that link directly with the mandated Australian curriculum.

The RFDS educational website www.flyingdoctor4education.org.au has

been relaunched and is now interactive, enabling students and their teachers to work with the program to complete their exercises via an online classroom.

The aeromedical simulator made a welcome return in October with **Tom Ryan**, program manager – education, RFDS Victoria, visiting over 80 classes from schools around the state to bring the educational program to life through a fun engagement session.

We thank RFDS Victoria for their continuing support to help lift the profile of the service in Tasmanian primary schools and their parent communities.



Students boarding the RFDS aeromedical simulator.

Christmas wishes

Thank you for your ongoing generosity to support the vital work of the Flying Doctor here in Tasmania. From all at the RFDS we wish you and your loved ones a happy, healthy and safe festive season.



Facts at a glance >

Royal Flying Doctor Service
South Eastern Section
Tasmanian Operations 2012 – 2013

2228 Landings
469,960 Kilometres Flown
1013 Inter-Hospital Transfers
58 Rural Women's GP Clinics
7 Medical Chests

Scholarship recipients sample life in the Outback

RFDS Tasmania offers two annual scholarships to provide medical students and dental assistants with the experience of living in remote Australia and working there with the RFDS. The scholarships aim to encourage future involvement by students in rural medicine and dentistry, especially in Tasmania.

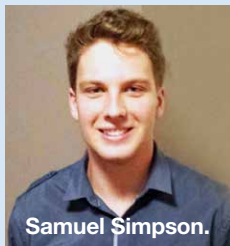
Cathryn Kube was nominated as the Fred McKay Medical Student Scholarship recipient for 2013. Cathryn spent two weeks with Ambulance Tasmania, based in Launceston, observing flight paramedics and retrieval doctors accompanying patients in RFDS aircraft. Additionally, Cathryn has recently returned from a two week placement at the RFDS Broken Hill Base in NSW.

Samuel Simpson was selected as the 2013 John Flynn Dental Assistant Scholarship recipient and has enjoyed two weeks of flying and clinical work experience at the RFDS Broken Hill Base as an assistant to the RFDS dentist, **Lyn Mayne**.

Our thanks go to RFDS South Eastern Section, Ambulance Tasmania and the WAAAF branch members for supporting these scholarships.



Cathryn Kube.



Samuel Simpson.