

The official magazine of the Royal Flying Doctor Service
CENTRAL OPERATIONS | ISSUE 268 | MAY 19



Royal Flying Doctor Service
The furthest corner. The finest care.

AirDoctor



From the Chairman & CEO >



LORETTA REYNOLDS
Chairman

TONY VAUGHAN
Chief Executive Officer

IT GIVES US GREAT PLEASURE to introduce the latest edition of *AirDoctor* magazine, our first since Tony took over as Chief Executive Officer of Central Operations.

In 2018 we celebrated 90 years of saving lives in rural and remote Australia and this year is proving to be just as exciting.

This year began with us eagerly anticipating the start of a new era for Central Operations with the pending arrival of the *RFDS Medi-Jet 24*, the world's first purpose-built aeromedical jet.

Four years in the making with our aircraft partner Pilatus, it has now arrived and the wait was certainly worth it. A game-changer in aeromedical care, the *RFDS Medi-Jet 24* will slash the total mission time of long-haul critical patient evacuations, as well as provide the capacity to transfer three stretchered patients in an intensive care setting – the aircraft and its arrival is featured in centre spread of this issue.

The *RFDS Medi-Jet 24* represents a new level of innovation in our aeromedical service delivery, and will soon be saving lives throughout South Australia and the Northern Territory.

But we didn't achieve this milestone by ourselves. The purchase of this \$13 million aircraft has been funded solely by our fundraising, corporate sponsors and donations, an amazing outcome and demonstrates the truly remarkable support we receive from the community.

We wholeheartedly thank everyone who have made this possible.

We also recently welcomed the newest PC-12 'flying intensive care unit' to our fleet, VH-JDN, or 'Jimmy Darcy' as the aircraft has affectionately become known to our crews. Jimmy was the young Kimberley stockman whose death in 1917 inspired Reverend John Flynn's vision for a 'mantle of safety for the outback' which came to life a decade later.

The aircraft was unveiled during a special dedication event in April, and will fly with the Beach Energy logo proudly on its side in recognition of the oil and gas company's long-standing and increased level of corporate support to a Major Partner of our organisation.

Another highlight was undoubtedly meeting a very special patient family.

Shelley Hatch, a young woman from Mount Gambier, went into labour at just 24 weeks into her pregnancy. Our crew airlifted Shelley to the Women's and Children's Hospital in Adelaide, providing the finest care in the air every step of the way.

Time was of the essence that day. Shelley's son Charlie was born less than an hour after landing safely at RFDS Adelaide Base, and whilst he spent significant time in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, he is now a thriving one-year-old.

It was heart-warming to meet Charlie along with his proud parents and grandparents when they recently visited RFDS Adelaide Base to thank crew members for helping to save Charlie's life.

Every day we feel very proud to be part of our great organisation, but we still have much to do to ensure we continue to deliver on our promise of providing the finest care to ensure healthy and happier Australians no matter where they live, work or play.

Shortly we will deliver our new Strategic Plan, the blueprint for our next five years of investment

in our people, technology and infrastructure to ensure our aeromedical and primary health care services remain relevant and are delivered in the most cost-efficient way possible, a responsibility we have to all stakeholders.

More exciting times ahead.

Thank you for all you do to support your Flying Doctor. We hope you enjoy the read.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Reynolds'.

LORETTA REYNOLDS
Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Vaughan'.

TONY VAUGHAN
Chief Executive Officer

AirDoctor is the official magazine of the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia Central Operations.


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OUR COVER: RFDS Director of Nursing Vikki Denny and Senior Flight Nurse Michael Penno inside the new *RFDS Medi-Jet 24* which arrived at the RFDS Adelaide Base in late April (see story page 8).

When every second counts >



Baby Charlie weighed just over 600g at birth.

WHEN SHELLEY HATCH started going into labour at just 24 weeks into her pregnancy – 16 weeks premature – the sliding doors of time over the next few hours would determine whether her first child would survive.

Shelley was urgently admitted to the Mount Gambier Hospital, and whilst medication was temporarily slowing her labour, Shelley needed to get to Adelaide – fast.

For a baby born at just 24 weeks, there's a 40 per cent chance that the baby will not survive. To give the baby the best possible chance, it's absolutely vital that they receive specialist care in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), only located in major metropolitan hospitals.

"It was my first pregnancy. Everything had been progressing fairly normally, until my waters broke suddenly. I couldn't stop crying – all I could think was my baby is going to die," Shelley says.

The RFDS Adelaide Base had already been alerted, and a RFDS 'flying intensive care unit' was on its way to airlift Shelley and her husband Patrick to the Women's and Children's Hospital (WCH) in Adelaide.

"Upon our arrival in Mount Gambier, Shelley's contractions had increased in strength and frequency," says RFDS Senior Flight Nurse Michael Penno, who was calling on his years of training and experience in critical care and midwifery.



"She was in significant pain. We quickly loaded Shelley onto the aircraft, determined to do all we could to give her unborn baby the best possible chance," Michael says.

The 430-kilometre journey from Mount Gambier to Adelaide takes four-and-a-half hours by road – but the Flying Doctor covers this ground in just 60 minutes.

"We reached the Women's and Children's just in the nick of time – Shelley's cervix was fully dilated – she was ready to push, and the baby's heart rate had dropped to a dangerously low level," Michael recalls.

The WCH Doctor now in charge of Shelley's care examined Shelley and announced 'I need to deliver your baby right now.'

Weighing just over 600 grams (1.3 pounds) – not much more than a small block of cheese – Shelley and Patrick's son was born less than an hour after they'd landed in Adelaide.

 I don't like to think about what might have happened had I given birth before reaching Adelaide. I will be forever thankful to the Flying Doctor for being there on the scariest day of my life. 

Shelley Hatch

Today, Charlie is a chubby one year old with big blue eyes, blonde curls and a bright smile. Had Charlie been born outside of the WCH equipped with specialist staff and facilities he so desperately needed, the outcome could well have been very different.

The RFDS and SA Ambulance are service delivery partners and the inter-hospital transfers undertaken by the RFDS in South Australia – aeromedical flights performed every day for people like Shelley – are funded by the SA Government.

RFDS supporters also play a vital part in helping to save lives. The RFDS relies on sponsorships, bequests and donations help to bridge the gap in its operational funding and to purchase its fleet of 'flying intensive care units' – at a cost of more than \$7 million each.

Donate today at [flyingdoctor.org.au/sant](https://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/sant) or call 1800 813 318.



Patrick, Charlie and Shelley Hatch out of hospital.

Australia's Most Reputable Charity >



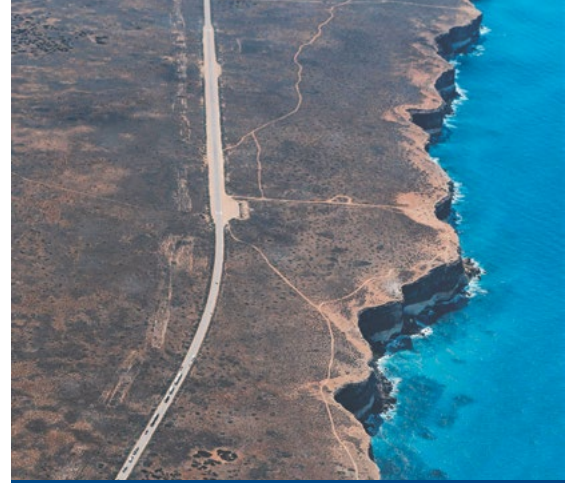
THE RFDS has once again been named Australia's 'Most Reputable Charity'.

It is the eighth year in a row that the Flying Doctor has ranked first in the Charity Reputation Index, demonstrating the unmatched level of trust the community has in the 91-year-old charity.

"It is a privilege to once again be recognised as Australia's most reputable charity and it is an indication of the value, trust and respect that Australians hold for the Flying Doctor," says Tony Vaughan, CEO of RFDS Central Operations.

Conducted by the Reputation Institute, the annual Charity Reputation Index surveys Australians to measure the overall reputation of the country's 40 largest charities and ranks them according to seven dimensions that determine an organisation or company's reputation.

In the eight years of the study, the RFDS is the only charity to have ranked first across all the measured categories of Services, Innovation, Workplace, Citizenship, Governance, Leadership and Cost Management.



Roadstrip Retrieval >

Did you see the 'birds-eye view' video of our recent landing to airlift a patient from Chadwick Roadstrip – the 1,200 metre designated Eyre Highway landing strip?

flyingdoctor.org.au/news

Saving lives at remote surf beach >

WHEN MOST PEOPLE THINK 'remote' images of red dirt-blue sky readily come to mind, but not by the Flying Doctor who extended its 'mantle of safety' to the white sand-blue waters of one of the country's most sought after surf beaches.

The RFDS recently installed an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) at Cactus Beach, a remote surf beach on South Australia's Eyre Peninsula, 850 kilometres west of Adelaide, a popular spot for local 'salties' of all ages and many a grey nomad crossing the Nullarbor to Perth.

Complemented by a RFDS Medical Chest, the AED was installed by the RFDS in response to a local campaign by Cactus Beach local Kiwi White to purchase the unit; learning of this initiative the RFDS supplied Cactus Beach with an AED at no cost to the community.

Designed for use by people with little or no

medical training, when applied to a collapsed patient, an AED automatically delivers an electrical current through the chest to shock the heart back into a normal rhythm, allowing it to pump again.

Funded by donations from the community and RFDS National Partner, life insurer TAL, it is one of over 100 AED's distributed throughout outback South Australia over the past six months.

"AEDs save lives – they are proven to help keep someone alive until emergency services arrive," says Natalie Szabo, RFDS Executive General Manager Health Services Development.

"This is a great example of how local communities can rally together to not just identify local challenges and needs, but reach out and work together with organisations such as the RFDS to solve them," Ms Szabo says.



Cactus Beach locals Ron Gates and Kiwi White with RFDS' Natalie Szabo, Executive General Manager Health Services Development and Kristina Childs, Administration Assistant.



Beach Energy staff with RFDS CEO Tony Vaughan and Beach Energy Managing Director Matt Kay at the unveiling of VH-JDN.

RFDS CENTRAL OPERATIONS has unveiled a brand new 'flying intensive care unit' and a new major sponsor in South Australian-based oil and gas producer Beach Energy.

In recognition of the three-year bespoke sponsorship, the new medically-equipped Pilatus PC-12 NG aircraft will be badged with the Beach Energy logo for the next three years.

The \$7 million aircraft, VH-JDN (Juliet-Delta-November), is one of 18 PC-12 aircrafts operated by RFDS throughout South Australia and the Northern Territory, many of which serve the outback and rural communities where Beach Energy staff, contractors and community stakeholders live, work and play.

Funded by donations from the community and corporate partners, VH-JDN replaces an ageing aircraft which has served the SA/NT community by airlifting two patients a day for the past 15 years.

As a company that operates in some of the most unforgiving and remote territory in the nation, it is reassuring to know that, if we ever need them, the RFDS is there for us

Matt Kay, Managing Director, Beach Energy

"That is why today, we are there for the RFDS, growing our partnership by sponsoring this impressive new aircraft that will provide vital health services for remote communities in South Australia," Mr Kay said.

Tony Vaughan, CEO, RFDS Central Operations, said Beach Energy's financial support would reach far and wide – and deliver lasting community benefit.

"The RFDS airlifts 25 patients throughout South and Central Australia every day – but we rely on the continued support from the community to keep our crews in the sky," Mr Vaughan said.

"Beach Energy's major sponsorship will directly support our capital-raising program for on-going upgrade of our fleet of 'flying intensive care units' that deliver 24/7 emergency aeromedical services throughout South and Central Australia," he said.

"The continued support from the entire community – our 'ground crew' of donors, community fundraisers, corporate sponsors and volunteers – will be critical to us meeting our financial challenges, and we're delighted to have the Beach Energy team on board with us on this very important and critical journey."

The latest PC12 aircraft to join the RFDS Central Operations fleet located across Adelaide, Port Augusta, Alice Springs and Darwin, VH-JDN was manufactured in Switzerland and flown to Australia in February.

Flying headspace gains 'wings' in outback SA >



Dave McRae, headspace Community Engagement & Education Coordinator, will join Dr Bas Kirmani and others of the RFDS Primary Health Care team on 'fly-in' clinics to Marree and Oodnadatta.

A NEW AND INNOVATIVE 'flying headspace' model based out of Port Augusta will provide young people with specialist mental health support on the back of a \$600,000 funding from the Commonwealth Government, announced by Federal Member for Grey, Rowan Ramsey, in April.

Brokered via a successful funding bid with the Country SA Primary Health Network (PHN), specialist youth provider headspace will collaborate with the RFDS to deliver mental services via its scheduled 'fly in' primary health clinics to the remote towns of Marree and Oodnadatta.

Acting RFDS Primary Health Care Manager, Mandy Smallacombe, says the RFDS exists to provide the finest care to support healthy, happier Australians, no matter where you live, work and play.

"We have been on a course of expanding our mental health care team on the back of an increased funding commitment from the Commonwealth Government, which is greatly needed in outback communities," Mandy says.

"We also identified an outstanding gap in specialist support for adolescent and young people, which working in partnership with Country SA PHN and headspace we can now help to address in these communities."

One in four young Australians aged 16 to 24 years experiences mental ill-health in any given year and three quarters of all mental illness first manifests in people under the age of 25.

Mr Ramsey says demand for mental health services does not cease when you leave a built up area and how we deliver the best services possible to remote areas was a challenge.

"We know if we can help young people early it is much more likely we can rectify their issues and improve their life," Mr Ramsey says. "The service provides a double-edged benefit, with healthier, happier, more productive people contributing far more to Australia's future," he says.

"The RFDS has been the pre-eminent provider of travelling remote health services for 90 years. It stands to reason that we should turn to them to extend mental health care services."



HEALTHY AGEING IN RURAL AND REMOTE AUSTRALIA: CHALLENGES TO OVERCOME

Healthy ageing in the bush >

THE RFDS HAS RELEASED a new research paper titled *Healthy Ageing in Rural and Remote Australia: Challenges to Overcome*.

The paper finds that thousands of remote Australians aged over 65 are airlifted by aeromedical teams to hospitals with illnesses that could have been prevented through increased country health services.

"The population of remote Australia is getting older, but the nation is yet to work out how to support people to age and stay in the bush," says RFDS Federation CEO, Dr Martin Laverty.

"Neurological conditions of ageing – dementia and Alzheimer's – will significantly increase within the bush in a decade. Without new investment, existing country services won't cope," Dr Laverty says.

RFDS research reveals that while Australia's remote population is forecast to grow only marginally in a decade, chronic illness will rise dramatically, with the burden of mental illness forecast to increase by a fifth, if action is not taken to halt current trends.

Download the full report
flyingdoctor.org.au/what-we-do/research

Young jockey airlifted with critical injuries >

“My horse racing career is well and truly over,” says former apprentice jockey Kate Brooks. “It took me a long time to come to terms with that.”

It was just over two years ago that Kate had a terrifying accident whilst racing in the Alice Springs Carnival.

She was on the home straight when her horse fell, breaking its leg. Whilst miraculously Kate didn't break any bones herself, she suffered a serious head injury and was rushed to Alice Springs Hospital, where she was placed in an induced coma.

Five days later, the RFDS airlifted Kate some 1,500 kilometres to the Royal Adelaide Hospital where she spent the next two weeks in its Intensive Care Unit before being transferred to the Hampstead Rehabilitation Hospital to continue her recovery.

“There's a huge blank in my memory,” says Kate.

“I remember the day before the race and then nothing... until I woke up in the rehab centre a month later.

“I was surrounded by photos of my loved ones



Kate Brooks in action as an apprentice jockey in Alice Springs.

but I had no idea where I was – or why. It was really scary.”

Kate's brain injury resulted in lasting weakness in her left side, requiring her to undergo extensive physiotherapy.

“I continue to experience weakness in the left side of my body and I have permanent vision loss in my left eye,” Kate says.

“I also struggle with memory loss, but I'm aware I'm very lucky compared to many people.”

Riding has been part of Kate's life as long as she can remember, and she was back in the saddle of her beloved Pookie just three months after her accident.

Today, Kate is continuing to embrace her love for all things equine by working at a race stables. She also volunteers at a nursing home.

“The accident made me completely re-evaluate my life. I get very frustrated when I remember the rider I used to be and I do miss the ‘old Kate’ – however I know I'm fortunate to be able to ride at all,” she says.

“I'm so grateful for all the support I've received – especially my Mum. And we'll always be thankful that the Flying Doctor was there when I needed help.”

Kate Brooks

See the latest Flying Doctor stories at flyingdoctor.org.au/sant

RFDS enters jet age with game-changer in aeromedical care >

The communities of South Australia and the Northern Territory will soon be cared for 24/7 by the world's first purpose-built aeromedical jet, the *RFDS Medi-Jet 24*.



THE ULTIMATE 'FLYING INTENSIVE CARE UNIT', the *RFDS Medi-Jet 24* packages the RFDS' signature ICU aeromedical interior and seamless patient loading system with the unparalleled performance and versatility of the new Pilatus PC-24 Super Versatile Jet.

"Funded by bequests, our corporate sponsors and donations from the community, the \$13 million *RFDS Medi-Jet 24* will enhance patient care and help save more lives," Tony Vaughan ASM, CEO of RFDS Central Operations, said at the jet's official unveiling on April 29.

"The *RFDS Medi-Jet 24* will slash the flying time of long-haul critical patient evacuations, as well as provide the capacity to transfer three stretchered ICU patients and four clinicians on the one mission," Mr Vaughan said.

"Another unique feature of the *RFDS Medi-Jet 24* is our custom rear patient loading door with built-in stretcher loader which will further reduce total mission times by the safer and quicker loading of patients and specialist medical equipment," he said.

Four years in the design and construction, the *RFDS Medi-Jet 24* is one of only three purpose-built aeromedical jets in the world – one to serve communities through the central corridor of the country from the RFDS Adelaide Base to the RFDS Darwin Base, and the other two with RFDS Western Operations located in Perth and Broome.

An additional asset to the RFDS' fleet of medically-equipped Pilatus PC-12 aircraft in South and Central Australia, the *RFDS Medi-Jet 24* will boost operational capacity and critical response times for long-haul and interstate evacuations.



The RFDS Medi-Jet 24 will slash the flying time of long-haul critical patient evacuations, as well as provide the capacity to transfer three stretchered ICU patients and four clinicians on the one mission.



Tony Vaughan ASM, CEO, RFDS Central Operations



“The RFDS Medi-Jet 24 is there for the interstate transfer of a critically-ill Adelaide resident in the middle of the night for an emergency organ transplant, or the retrieval of a critically-ill patient from Alice Springs to specialist care in Adelaide or Darwin hospitals,” Mr Vaughan added.

Following the completion of flight training and crew orientation, the RFDS Medi-Jet 24 is scheduled to commence operational service in June 2019.

Mr Vaughan said the speed of the jet in the air was one thing, but what put the RFDS Medi-Jet 24 in a class of its own was its bespoke operational features designed and required specifically for aeromedical services, including:

- **custom rear patient loading door** – safer, quicker loading of patients and specialist medical equipment;
- **built-in patient stretcher loader** – optimum patient safety and reduced risk of injury to clinicians;
- **three ICU stretchered patients** – enhanced response to mass casualty incidents or natural disasters;
- **advanced bariatric solution** – enhanced stretcher and stretcher-loader weight lifting capabilities;
- **right-engine Quiet Power Mode** – power supply and cabin conditioning whilst standing on tarmac;
- **short-field take-off/landing** – greater operational flexibility and access to regional aerodromes;
- **unpaved airfield capability** – unmatched airfield access and mobility in remote parts of the country;
- **single pilot certification** – unrivalled operational efficiency and payload carrying capability.



Former CEO, John Lynch in front of the RFDS Medi-Jet 24

THE JET'S DEDICATION to John Francis Lynch was announced at last year's AGM held in October, but the jet's arrival was the first time former CEO John Lynch (pictured) had seen his name on the aircraft in the flesh. "This is the most humbling thing that I have experienced in my working life," Mr Lynch said in front of the aircraft with his wife Anita. John retired last November after serving the RFDS for over three decades, the last 18 years as CEO of RFDS Central Operations. "During this amazing career, John's passion and commitment to meeting the needs of our patients was second to none, balanced with his outstanding business acumen which directed unprecedented growth and financial security of the organisation," said Loretta Reynolds, Chairman, RFDS Central Operations. "John, again, on behalf of the Board, past and present, we congratulate you – and thank you – for your three decades of service to the RFDS and, ultimately, the communities we serve."

When flight time matters >



*estimated flight times may vary based on variables such as weather and clinical requirements of patient/s.



RFDS CEO Tony Vaughan ASM and Chairman, Ms Loretta Reynolds, with SA Health Minister, Hon Stephen Wade MLC.

What they said >

Hon Stephen Wade MLC, SA Minister for Health and Wellbeing


"The addition of the RFDS Medi-Jet 24 further cements the RFDS' well-earned and hard-won reputation, and will further enhance South Australia's aeromedical response capability."

Ms Loretta Reynolds, Chairman, RFDS Central Operations

"Thank you to our wonderful supporters – our volunteers, donors, community fundraisers and corporate partners – who have collectively funded this world-class aircraft. We still have much to do, but you have all played a key role in helping us deliver on our promise to the community of delivering the finest care to all."

Tony Vaughan ASM, CEO, RFDS Central Operations

"A game-changer in aeromedical care, the RFDS Medi-Jet 24 will slash total mission time and deliver three critically-ill patients the finest care in the air."

 Crafted in Switzerland



PC-24
THE CRYSTAL CLASS



PILATUS

THANK YOU FOR FLYING PILATUS

From outback strips to city airports, the Pilatus PC-12 has operated day and night for over twenty five years to keep the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) in the air. As an operator of the new PC-24, the RFDS Central Operations continues its tradition as a loyal and valuable member of the Pilatus family. We are all extremely proud to be associated with the RFDS and their provision of the finest care to the furthest corners with our aircraft – yesterday, today and in the future

Pilatus Australia Pty Ltd · Adelaide · +61 8 8238 1600 · www.pilatus-aircraft.com

A legacy that lasts a lifetime – and beyond >

WHEN MAKING A WILL, it can be very satisfying to plan to give something to your loved ones or to leave a bequest to help the work of a charitable organisation such as the RFDS.

The RFDS relies on bequests, fundraising initiatives and donations from the community to meet the shortfall in its operational funding and to purchase and medically-equip its aircraft into 'flying intensive care units' – at a cost of \$7 million each.

Bequests literally help to keep the Flying Doctor flying. The Reverend John Flynn's vision for a 'Flying Doctor' became a reality in 1928 when Hugh Victor McKay CBE (industrialist/inventor of the Sunshine Harvester) left Flynn a legacy in his Will. Bequests and donations have ensured Flynn's life-saving work continued for the past 90 years.



Maralyn Dixon has made a gift to the RFDS in her will.

Maralyn Dixon, one of our 'Friends for Life', shares her decision to make a difference by specifying a legacy to the RFDS in her Will.

"We didn't have any children, so when the time came to make our Wills we said we would split our estate between three organisations close to our hearts," says Maralyn, who met her late husband Stan in 1960 through a shared hobby in table tennis.

"Deciding to leave a bequest to the RFDS was an easy choice," Maralyn explains.

"Stan had a great interest in aviation. He loved to go to the airport – we'd often walk our dogs past the RFDS Base and Stan would count how many of the aircraft were in or out."

"Stan and I both loved to travel and we toured all over Australia by caravan. Whilst we thankfully never needed to call on the Flying Doctor, it provided great comfort to know help was there."

The RFDS recommends you seek professional advice from a legal advisor or trustee company when writing your Will.

Supporters interested in leaving a legacy to the RFDS can request a copy of our special bequest booklet or have a confidential discussion with RFDS Donor Relations Specialist, Ross Curtis.

Contact Ross Curtis on (08) 8238 3323 or ross.curtis@flyingdoctor.net

Honouring a special friend >

THE RFDS HAS HONOURED a very special long-term supporter of its work, the late Mr John Schirmer. John's joy was certainly apparent when he spent time visiting crews at the RFDS Adelaide Base, where he was able to see first-hand the difference his support was making.

A long-standing donor in life, John planned for his support to extend long after his passing – he wanted to provide a legacy that would fly for year after year on the wings of the aircraft he had always dreamt of piloting.

As a constant reminder to the world that John's legacy is helping us to achieve so much, we recently celebrated John by giving him the greatest honour we can bestow on a supporter, by naming the latest medically-equipped PC12 to join our fleet, VH-JDN (Juliet-Delta-November), in John Schirmer's memory.

Launched in April, VH-JDN will spend the next decade airlifting two patients a day throughout South and Central Australia with the spirit of John Schirmer with our crews every step of the way.



Pat Bickerdike, treasured friend to John Schirmer, with his dedication on VH-JDN.



The new \$20 banknote set for release in October.



Above: Original photograph taken on The Veldt Station.
Below: Judith Jackson at home in Port Lincoln, image courtesy of ABC Eyre Peninsula.

A new note on our history >

The RFDS is honoured to see the legacy of Reverend John Flynn continue on the next generation \$20 banknote design revealed by the Reserve Bank of Australia and set for release in October.

Equally honoured is Port Lincoln resident Judith Jackson, 77, who appears in the original photograph taken of a RFDS De Havilland Dragon depicted on the new banknote along with the ingenious Traeger pedal wireless radio used by the service to improve communication in remote areas.

The photograph of Judith was taken in 1948 on The Veldt Station, some 170 kilometres from Broken Hill where Judith grew up. Judith's mother Helen Barlow and little brother also

appear in the photograph.

As one of ten children, Judith recalls many times the Flying Doctor would land at the station to respond to emergencies, and Judith and her siblings were among the first children to receive vaccinations from the Flying Doctor.

"The Flying Doctor made a big difference to our daily lives, certainly for my mother, who had 10 kids more than 100 miles from a hospital or doctor. It was a lifeline for her," Judith says.

Judith says that her mother would be equally honoured to know she features on the banknote which celebrates the organisation's contribution to Australian life.

"I'm not actually quite on the note – the plane was flying in so low I got scared and crouched... so you can't really see me," Judith laughs.

Regardless, she plans on giving her three grandchildren and seven great grandchildren framed copies of the note when it enters circulation.



Meet the team: on the ground with Paula >

We talk to Paula Judd, Senior Operations Support Officer at Alice Springs Base, whose travels around the world led to a unique career opportunity in Australia's Red Centre.

Tell us about yourself

I was born in Hong Kong and went to school in England. My professional background is in human resources and training. I lived and worked in various countries; Canada, Hong Kong, India and the UK before moving to Australia in 2007. I lived in Sydney and Melbourne before moving to Alice Springs, where I joined the RFDS in early 2017.

What do you enjoy outside of work?

Family life keeps me very busy – we have five children and three dogs. We do a lot of travelling and camping as a family – we're determined to show our children as much of Australia as possible and want them to grow up appreciating the diversity this country has to offer.

What does your role as Senior Operations Support Officer involve?

It's incredibly varied! My role encompasses

stakeholder and community engagement, administration, facilities management and much more. In the past week alone I've coordinated early morning health clinic charter flights, provided a tour of our Alice Springs Base to visiting school students, organised maintenance for our fleet of vehicles and provided support to our team in Darwin.

I also coordinate our Northern Territory Mental Health team. Our team provides vital services to 32 remote communities and outstations, typically traveling by road, but flying to the furthest destinations such as Docker River and Alpuurrulam.

RFDS Alice Springs Base must be a unique 'office'?

Alice Springs is a wonderful place to live and work and it's very much a 'hive of activity' for the RFDS. Over 40 per cent of all primary

evacuations (where a patient is airlifted from an outback location, not a hospital) conducted by the RFDS across the country depart from Alice Springs Base, transporting patients all over the country for urgent medical treatment and specialist care.

Alice Springs Base is home to seven aircraft that airlift patients across the Far North of South Australia and throughout Central Australia (and beyond), with all tasks coordinated from our Operations Communications Centre in Port Augusta.

What do you enjoy the most?

I consider myself very lucky that I interact with staff across our organisation – my role sees me in frequent contact with our pilots, medical staff, engineers and administration team.

Visit flyingdoctor.org.au/careers to find out more about working for the RFDS.



Pastoralists partner in Q fever campaign >

RFDS Nurse Caitlyn Keller undertakes Q fever vaccination with Jim Barry on Commonwealth Hill Station airstrip.

THE RFDS PRIMARY HEALTH CARE team at Port Augusta Base has been working in partnership with SA pastoralists in the fight against Q fever, a potentially fatal infection related to contact with cattle, sheep or goats that is an occupational disease of meat workers, farmers and veterinarians.

Infection usually occurs by inhalation of the *Coxiella burnetii* bacteria in air carrying dust contaminated by dried placental material, birth fluids, urine or faeces of infected herd animals.

About half of all people infected show signs of clinical illness. Up to half of symptomatic cases will develop pneumonia and many people will experience inflammation of the liver (hepatitis).

“Whilst most people recover within several months without any treatment, a small percentage of people with acute Q fever die of the disease,” says Mandy Smallacombe, RFDS Primary Health Care Manager.

“A Q fever vaccine is available in Australia and is 83 to 100 per cent effective in preventing the disease. Our primary health care team has recently administered 113 of these vaccinations to those at risk of the disease across outback South Australia.”

Patients were required to have a blood test and skin test prior to receiving the vaccination – the results of which must be checked exactly seven days later. If the results of both tests are

negative, the patient is able to receive a Q fever vaccination.

Working with pastoralists, the RFDS scheduled special ‘fly-in’ Q fever clinics held on consecutive weekends at ‘central’ locations including Oodnadatta, William Creek, Commonwealth Hill, Kingoonya, Balcanoona, Mungerannie, and Blinman.

The costs associated with the purchase of the vaccine (\$120 per dose) and clinic flights were supported by donations from fundraising efforts by the volunteer committees of key outback events in the William Creek Gymkhana, Oodnadatta Racing & Horse Sports Club and Kingoonya Amateur Picnic Race Club.

SATURDAY 18 MAY 2019

~ ADELAIDE ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE ~

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FOR
LIFE**

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LAND**
~ BALL ~

SOLD OUT!



'Muscle car' event raises \$90,000 >

A committed group of car enthusiasts has raised \$90,000 to keep the Flying Doctor flying.

This amazing amount was raised through the Westbound Wanderers Car Run, a charity drive from Adelaide to Broken Hill in December 2018.

The group (pictured) departed from RFDS Adelaide Base at Adelaide Airport, drove to Broken Hill and then back to Adelaide via Cobar, Dubbo, Narrandera, Echuca, Swan Hill, Mildura and Renmark.

"The Westbound Wanderers' contribution is once again outstanding; it follows a \$70,000 donation from a car run across the Nullarbor the year before. Money raised through the car run will be directed towards our capital-raising program for the replacement of aircraft and medical equipment." says Kristen Newlyn, Community Fundraising Specialist.



Elders Big BBQ >

THE FLYING DOCTOR THANKS Elders staff and customers for raising over \$55,000 during February.

Elders' teams across Australia 'fired up the barbie' as part of its 'Big BBQ' month – part of the Elders 'Give It' community program.

Almost 40 BBQs were held across the country and we sincerely thank Elders staff for their contribution in organising and hosting these events. We also thank communities across the country who turned out in force to support this initiative, and of course many local businesses who donated items for fundraising raffles.



ANZ had 'a Ball' >

THE RFDS WAS THRILLED to be part of the inaugural ANZ Community Ball held in Adelaide in February, raising almost \$40,000 for the Flying Doctor, one of five charitable partners to the event.

"I know I speak on behalf of all who attended as guests of the RFDS when I say a wonderful night was had by all," says Tony Vaughan, CEO, RFDS Central Operations, pictured with Kristen Newlyn and ANZ's Mark Hand, Julianne Scholl and Brendan Rinaldi.

"Opportunities such as this wonderful event help the RFDS continue to save lives in rural and remote South Australia and the Northern Territory and we sincerely thank ANZ for selecting the 'Flying Doctor' as one of the charity beneficiaries."

Strathalbyn Campdraft >

THE STRATHALBYN CAMPDRAFT, held over two days in February, raised a hefty \$8,584 for the RFDS.

"This is the second year the event has raised funds for the RFDS," says Kristen Newlyn, RFDS Community Fundraising Specialist.

"I thoroughly enjoyed the event and am so pleased to accept funds raised on behalf of RFDS Central Operations, which will help us continue to save lives in South Australia and the Northern Territory. Our sincere thanks go to Tas McEwin and the committee for their hard work."



Simpson Desert's ultimate challenge >

THE SIMPSON DESERT BIKE CHALLENGE, now in its 33rd year, sees riders take on the world's largest parallel sand dune system, covering 500 kilometres over five days.

The intrepid team of cyclists has raised over \$100,000 for the RFDS over the past three years including more than \$40,000 from the 2018 event.

This year's event, starting on 30 September, will be the first year the group heads west across the desert, starting in Birdsville, Queensland and finishing at the Mt Dare Hotel.

Find out more at desertchallenge.org

Shop to save lives >

DID YOU KNOW the Flying Doctor has two Op shops in South Australia run by our dedicated volunteers? Pop in and grab a bargain and help save lives in the process.

- The Hangar Op Shop, 2 Fifth Street, Murray Bridge
- RFDS Second Hand Goods Shop, 15A McBain Street, Keith



Tee-rific result by PESA >

THE PETROLEUM EXPLORATION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (PESA) held its 40th annual Golf Day in March, where more than 100 players raised over \$20,000. This brings the total funds raised to more than \$400,000 since the event's inception in the late seventies.

"\$400,000 over forty years is an absolutely wonderful achievement and one that should be celebrated," says Kristen Newlyn, RFDS Community Fundraising Specialist.

"We are very grateful for the continuing support of the PESA Golf Day and wholeheartedly thank everyone involved for their contribution to the Flying Doctor."

Volunteers Wanted!

THERE ARE MANY WAYS to help support the RFDS with your time or skills and the RFDS is always very grateful to receive assistance from volunteers. If you are able to donate some of your time and skill to the Flying Doctor you would be helping us save lives.

There are many diverse positions available, from office-based administration volunteers to members of our many Auxiliary and Support Groups who fundraise all over the country.

Find out more by contacting Lindy Allchurch, RFDS Volunteer Specialist, on (08) 8238 3314 or email lindy.allchurch@flyingdoctor.net



Leave a life-saving legacy

Your Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) airlifts 100 Australians across the country every day for life-saving or specialist medical treatment.

We rely on bequests to keep our 'flying intensive care units' in the sky. With your future bequest – planned today – you will save lives for decades to come.

Please remember the RFDS in your will.

To receive your complimentary copy of our special bequest booklet, call Ross Curtis on **(08) 8238 3333** or email **ross.curtis@flyingdoctor.net**



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