



Chopperchat

September 2010



Become a member of Rescue Rewards. Go to www.4rescue.org.nz or phone 0800 4 RESCUE

By the time you read this we'll all be enjoying the longer days that daylight saving brings, and yearning for a summer like the last so that we can all enjoy with family and friends those outdoor pursuits that make N.Z. the unique, awesome



place that it is. At the risk of sounding like the party-pooper, can I take this opportunity to remind you to take care in whatever activity you find yourselves involved. Please read and respect the weather conditions, drive to them, plan around them, and keep a healthy focus on safety. All too often we witness the result of accidents with tragic consequences that could so easily have been avoided, so take a little more time to evaluate the risks and hazards... and then have fun!

This coming November marks the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the original surf-rescue helicopter service on Auckland's West Coast beaches, the birth of what you now know as ARHT. We'll be taking the opportunity to catch-up with some friends and colleagues who have helped shape the service over the years, and of course to share and reflect on the many emotions experienced throughout, one of the highest ranking of which must be sheer pride... proud and privileged to serve such a supportive and appreciative community.

Take care, keep safe, and enjoy summer...

Bob Parkinson ARHT CEO.

If you think you're seeing double this summer... you'd be right!!

The result of many months of planning finally came to fruition in August with the delivery of a second, fully equipped BK117-D2 rescue helicopter that will provide increased coverage and peace-of-mind for the more than 1.5 million residents and visitors throughout our region.

With rescue statistics showing a steadily increasing number of call-outs during peak periods throughout the year, and an accompanying increase in requests for medical patient transfers from provincial hospitals to Auckland's specialised facilities, it was clear that one machine would struggle to provide the necessary coverage. And of course the financial side had to stack-up too. In the past we have had to make allowance for the provision of a back-up helicopter to cater for times when the helicopter was undergoing maintenance, there were simultaneous rescue emergencies or we were taken off-base for a medical transfer. The cost is considerable whether the back-up machine [and associated personnel] is actually utilised or not, and when viewed in the context of the additional benefit to our community the investment was warranted.

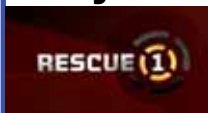
Helicopter manager and maintenance controller Greg Brownson had to work out some complex issues to deal with the new arrival: "Flying two helicopters is one thing... but what about 'parking' them when they're not flying?" he laughs. "Housing the two helicopters in the Mechanics Bay hangar without impacting response times was something of a logistical challenge, but we put our heads together and

asked the right questions of the right people and it all came together." Part of the solution was the folding-blade option installed on HKZ (the new chopper) - see further details in the following pages.



Furthermore, one helicopter will operate out of Whitianga throughout the busy holiday period of boxing-day through to Auckland Anniversary week-end, to afford better coverage to the ever increasing workload experienced in that area: "We'll be better placed to respond to emergencies in Thames/Coromandel, Hauraki Plains and Great Barrier Island at a time when those locations have historically called upon us more than once a day" says Trust CEO, Bob Parkinson. "Our community has entrusted us to provide the best possible protection in the event of an emergency, and this acquisition goes a long way toward achieving just that."

Did you miss Rescue1?



Watch episodes on-line at <http://tvnz.co.nz/rescue-1>

Accommodating ZK-HKZ in the Mechanics Bay Hangar

Fitting two helicopters into the hangar at our Mechanics Bay base was a challenge that needed careful planning. Space was limited and a solution needed to be found that would not impact our response too severely.

After deliberation and consultation with others in the industry, it was determined that two principle systems would allow the necessary space: a folding blade system on the new helicopter, ZK-HKZ, and a higher trolley on which to manoeuvre the existing helicopter, ZK-HLN.

The existing landing trolley was substantially modified to achieve the greater height necessary to provide clearance between the two aircraft rotor blades, and to at the same time allow safe access to, and around, the aircraft. (The new trolley is clearly visible in the photograph on page one).

HKZ is manoeuvred in and out of the hangar with a low-profile electric/hydraulic purpose-built 'trundler'.

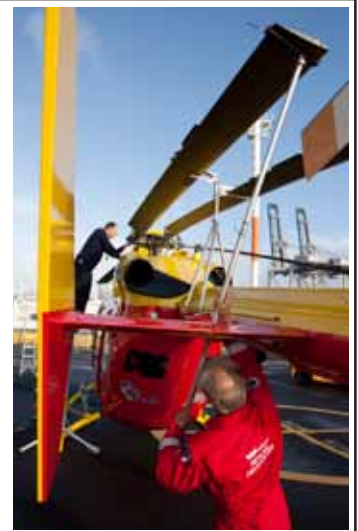
Like all operations in and around any helicopter, the blade folding process requires careful and strict adherence to a stringent deployment routine that is carried out by the pilot and crewman, with every step double-checked by each.



In the folded position the blades are supported by purpose-built frames which are necessary to prevent excessive



stress at the blade pivot point. Similarly, special support frames are used by crew to carefully 'walk' the blade into position where it is secured by a pin and locking mechanism. This process is repeated on the



remaining folded blade, and once deployed the supports are removed from their locating points on the airframe and stored ready for use when needed. The duration of the whole process is dependent upon conditions at the time of the call-out; weather is a factor and if unfavourable will mean the unfolding must take place in the hangar, in which case the helicopters will have to be repositioned to allow adequate clearance.

ARHT Team Member Profile

Name: Rob Arrowsmith
Position: Pilot
Age: 30

History: Just finished 13 years with the Air Force flying Iroquois.



The Helicopter: Excellent - fast and smooth. It's like a sports car compared to the 'HQ Holden' that I was flying in the air force! Up front there is state-of-the-art technology that make this a very safe machine.

Teamwork: Is paramount. A great example of this is the pilot/crewman combination when winning; The crewman can see where he wants the end of the wire to be but can't move it there, and the pilot can move it but can't see where to move it to.

Best Part of the Job: Watching the sunrise while flying back to base after a night job and knowing that I've helped make a difference in someone's life simply by doing what I love.

Family: My wife is a doctor so when I get home and just want to talk about pilot stuff, all she wants to know about is paramedic stuff!

Spare Time: Skiing, surfing, tennis... anything outside.

The Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust membership scheme, Rescue Rewards, has really taken off (sorry about the pun... couldn't help myself) since its inception late in 2007. Already there are over 16,000 people getting behind their rescue helicopter and at the same time safe in the knowledge that if they are taken ill or suffer an accident whilst out of town, we'll get them back to the hospital closest to their home. And we've got more benefits planned for down the track; we've been talking with some of our sponsors and they're keen to get in behind Rescue Rewards so we'll hopefully be in a position soon to add more great reasons why you should join!

If you'd like further information simply call us on 0800 4RESCUE (0800 4737283) or visit the Rescue Rewards website at www.4rescue.org.nz

Rescue Rewards

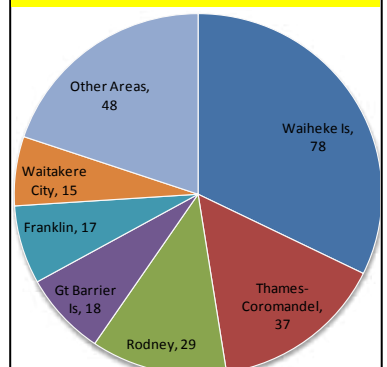
Come to the rescue...

Want to receive Chopper Chat by email?
Email chopperchat-subscribe@arht.org.nz and at the end of 2010 we'll draw an email address from those registered, with the winner being invited down to our base for a personal tour and morning tea with the helicopter crew!!

Chopper Chat is made possible with the help of the following sponsors:



Over the summer period from 01/12/09 - 31/03/10 we flew 242 rescues! The graphic below names those areas that we visited at least 15 times - the rest are 'Other Areas'.



All Is Not Lost!

In fact, with the Becker SAR-DF517 direction finding equipment fitted to the Westpac Rescue Helicopter it's quite the opposite! New generation 406 MHz beacons have been in use for a number of years now, with the old beacons phased out in 2009 and the 406's made mandatory. Beacons can be divided into three categories: ELT's (Emergency Locator Transmitter) used in aircraft, EPIRB's (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons) used on boats and PLB's (Personal Locator Beacons) that are for personal use. Each 406 beacon has a specific 15 hexadecimal character beacon identification coded to it. This beacon "registration" plays a key role in cutting down on false alerts and wasting of resources.

With the new beacons in use there are some specific problems that face rescue services when trying to "DF" (Direction Find) a beacon in distress. Many older style DF units are only capable of finding the 121.5 signal; the problem with this is that some of the power outputs are quite low (25mW) whereas the power output for the 406 signal is significantly higher so as long as you are equipped with the right DF gear you can now find your way to the beacon using the much stronger signal.

Another benefit of the Becker SAR DF is that you can specifically track individual beacons as it can interrogate the signal and display the beacon id. If the beacon is GPS equipped and is sending this information, then the Becker unit can display this information to the crew effectively turning the operation into a rescue rather than a search and rescue.

There are thousands of beacons in use in NZ and unfortunately there are a sizeable amount that have not been registered. ARHT strongly urges you to register your beacon (the service is free) - check out www.beacons.org.nz.

If you are in the market for a beacon please consider purchasing a unit that has a GPS incorporated – this really does take the S out of SAR!! But do use caution when purchasing any units from overseas as the id encoded to the beacon may be for a different country and will cause considerable delays.



Aucklanders enjoy unusual chopper mission



People around Britomart had no need to be alarmed on Friday 28 May when Auckland's Westpac Rescue Helicopter landed in the precinct – it was all for the Westpac Chopper Appeal.

As part of a month of fundraising activities, Aucklanders were able to meet the crew and get a first hand look at the Westpac Rescue Helicopter in action. In a unique 'mission', the chopper was able to land at Britomart to be part of a day of festivities and fundraising.

There was something for everyone with the ARHT crew manning the BBQ, Westpac staff shaking buckets, and the helicopter simulator. The local pre school even came along to see the action.

Mark Graham, Westpac National Sponsorship Manager, says it was a fantastic event, raising awareness and funds.

"It was a real success and it was the dedicated ARHT, Cooper and Company (landowners) and Westpac Real Estate



team that made it happen," says Mark. "As well as thanking them, we'd like to extend a big thank you to all the generous Kiwis who dug deep this year to show their support."

Aucklanders raised \$365,871.95 for their local rescue helicopter during this year's Chopper Appeal – nearly 25% more than last year. And with Westpac covering the campaign costs, 100% of the amount raised has gone back to the service.

"We are overwhelmed by New Zealanders' generosity," says Mark. "These funds help our rescue helicopters to continue to provide this important community service."

Given the success of this year's Britomart landing, the team hope to run it again next year.

Introducing... Chippy the Rescue Helicopter!

our cuddly fund-raiser for 2010!

We are extremely proud to introduce you to our soft toy, Chippy the rescue helicopter.

In the past we have produced a wide range of teddy bears representing the various roles within our organisation, so it seemed only natural to complete the line-up with a cuddly version of the Westpac Rescue Helicopter itself. 'Chippy' is available now – you can use the order form on the last page of this newsletter, order online at www.rescuehelicopter.org.nz or phone us on 09 950 7204 – and we'll courier Chippy to your door pronto! Chippy makes a great gift and is a readily identifiable way of showing your support of this crucial rescue service.



Westpac Rescue Helicopter Supporter Products



Please make all cheques payable to Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust. All enquires
ph 09 950 7204 or email database@arht.org.nz

	Price	Qty	Total
 Choppy	\$40.00		
 Engineer Bear	\$40.00		
 Baseball cap	\$25.00		
 Die-Cast Model NEW!	\$25.00		
Total items and payment			

You can pay by internet banking if you prefer - please call us on 09 950 7204 to discuss - we'll give you the bank account details plus a reference so that we can reconcile your payment.

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Phone _____ Mobile _____

Email _____

Street Address _____

Suburb _____

City _____

Payment Method _____

Cheque Visa Diners Amex Mastercard

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Name on card _____

Expiry date _____ Signed _____

Total amount included _____

Post to Freepost 137292, ARHT, P.O Box 2252, Shortland St, Auckland, 1140 or place in Freepost envelope provided.

Hangar happenings...



Heli crew-members Bruce and Ernie both celebrate their 2000th rescue mission



Recently appointed ARHT Trustee, Ken Baguley



Are those snarlers cooked yet boys? Early morning BBQ for Bruce & Ernie

A big thank-you to our elite corporate supporters:

- QBE Insurance (Int'l) Ltd
- New World Eastridge
- Brookfield Multiplex Constructions (NZ) Limited
- Friedlander Foundation (Lochiel Farmlands Ltd)
- The Kumerich Family Trust
- Pak n' Save Manukau
- New Zealand Steel Limited
- Neptune Pacific
- Rank Group

Bequesting: Your Legacy... for Life.

One way that you may like to consider helping ensure the continued survival of your rescue service, is by leaving a bequest in your Will. A bequest is a thoughtful way in which to carry on contributing toward the safety of those you care about even after you are no longer here. If you would like further information then please phone, in complete confidence, Kerrie Spicer on (09) 950 7209.

ARHT's Major Sponsors are:

