



Chopperchat

January 2011



Become a Chopper Champion. 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!

Last November marked 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. In 2011 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 last year 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.

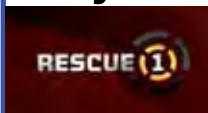
Helicopter manager and maintenance controller Greg Brownson had to work out some complex issues to deal with the new arrival: "Flying two helicopters is one thing... but what about 'parking' them when they're not flying?" he laughs. "Housing the two helicopters in the Mechanics Bay hangar without impacting 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 was based out of Whitianga throughout the busy holiday period of boxing-day through to Auckland Anniversary weekend, to afford better coverage to the ever increasing workload experienced in that area: "We're 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'.

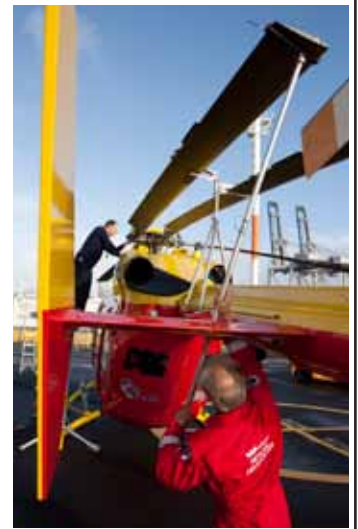
Like all operations in and around any helicopter, the blade folding process requires careful and strict adherence to a stringent deployment routine that is carried out by the pilot and crewman, with every step double-checked by each.



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 winching; 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.

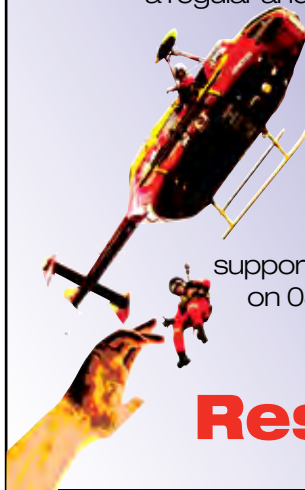
Family: My wife is a doctor so when I get home and just want to talk about pilot stuff, all she wants to know about is paramedic stuff!

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. By supporting our Trust on a regular and manageable basis, you can become a **CHOPPER CHAMPION**, and join the many people who enjoy

the assurance 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 their loved ones. Our corporate sponsors extend exclusive benefits to our **CHOPPER CHAMPIONS** too!

So if you'd like further information on how you can support us in an easy, no-fuss affordable way, 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 2011 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:

Westpac

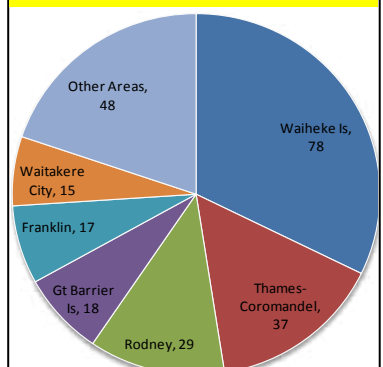
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FUJI XEROX

CANDIDA

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'.





New Rapid Response Vehicle Helps Us To Help You... Even More!

ARHT is thrilled to have the support of LeasePlan, who have provided us with a brand-new Toyota RAV4 vehicle for use as a Rapid Response unit over the next two years.

The vehicle, which is manned by one of ARHT's advanced paramedics and contains similar emergency equipment to that carried on board the rescue helicopters, will fulfill a number of roles that further enhance the service provided to the people of our region, including:

- Additional support for St John Ambulance by providing coverage for incidents in Auckland's central business district and waterfront areas.
- Providing medical services at events where ARHT is participating or holding a display etc.
- Be used for demonstration and inspirational purposes throughout the year at the many organisations and schools we visit as part of our **Chopper Challenge** program. (see on-line for further details)



ARHT thanks LeasePlan for their wonderful support, on behalf of our Trust and the community we serve.

UPCOMING EVENT:

Ride a motorcycle or know someone that does? If so, why not join us raising funds for ARHT at the 16th annual Auckland Ulysses Charity Motorcycle Ride on Sunday March 6th 2011. For further information email ulysses@arht.org.nz or phone Jayne on 09 2961107.

Special Collection Celebrates 40th

Whilst the rescue helicopter crew have been hard-out saving lives over the past forty years, in the background we've also had a range of fluffy fundraiser teddy-bears who have helped encourage support to raise the all-important operating funds, without which the service might not have survived.

So what better way to commemorate their role than by producing a special collector pack of four of our famous bears - in miniature. Keeping faithful to the originals, we have paid attention to detail to bring you Diver, (2003) Winchman (2002), Pilot (1996,1999, 2004) and Medic (2001) bears, each standing approximately 150mm tall and presented in unique commemorative packaging.

You can order the set by using the form on the back page of this Chopper Chat, or visit online at www.rescuehelicopter.org.nz, or by phoning us on 09 9507204. This is a strictly limited edition product.



Filming Underway

If you happen to pop by our Mechanics Bay base over summer... be sure to smile for the camera! Great Southern Television's team are back with us throughout the summer holiday months to capture more real-life moments as they unfold for the next installment of our award-winning **Rescue 1** television series.



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

PLEASE NOTE: WE CANNOT DELIVER TO PO BOX'S

	Price	Qty	Total
Choppy	\$40.00		
Mini bear set	\$45.00		
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.

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Street Address **PHYSICAL ADDRESS ONLY PLEASE** _____

Suburb _____

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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 (no stamp req'd) or place in Freepost envelope where provided.

Hangar happenings...



The Westpac Corporate Chopper Challenge teams working out...



Employee Ruth French is recognised for reaching 10 years service with the Trust



Memorabilia of 40 years of Rescue Helicopter Services to our region

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. It's a simple process, so if you would like further information then please phone, in complete confidence, Kerrie Spicer on (09) 950 7209.

ARHT's Major Sponsors are:

