



Chopperchat



October 2011



Become a Chopper Champion. Go to www.4rescue.org.nz or phone 0800 4 RESCUE

With winter behind us, we once again hope that the summer months' pursuits are enjoyed by all and approached with safety in mind, and take the opportunity to reflect on just how important that is. Whilst the number of missions have been on



the increase over the last eight years or so, 2011 figures are around 35% higher than the previous year, and a staggering 85% up on 2003! Having two rescue helicopters [since mid-2010] has certainly enabled us to keep on top of the demand.

Following on from the successful deployment of one of the rescue helicopters at Whitianga over the Xmas period (and various other holiday weekends) during 2011, we are repeating the exercise throughout this holiday season also.

Fundraising during 2011 has been challenging. The events in Christchurch, Pike River and Japan, and the subsequent generous public support has impacted the fundraising of most charities.

We are extremely grateful for the strong and loyal support that we continue to receive from the public and corporates.

Finally, some obvious-but-often-overlooked safety tips for the holidays: Be sun-safe - hats, sun-screen, umbrellas etc. Watch the tides, be aware of local conditions. Drive safely, be patient. Pack a First-Aid kit. Then... relax, have fun!

Bob Parkinson ARHT CEO.

Got Any Spare Space?

We need somewhere to store some operational equipment - perhaps you have a warehouse with some spare room? If so, call Alice on 9507205 .

Just What The Doctor Ordered!

ARHT and the Auckland District Health Board (ADHB) have launched a two-year pilot to bring Emergency Medicine and Critical Care doctors on-board to work with Advanced Paramedics, Crewmen and Pilots to improve patient care. In many parts of the world, the paramedic-doctor team is established as a crew configuration that allows for seamless care from the roadside to the bedside of the hospital.

Doctors from ADHB completed their initial safety training and started as part of the flight crew in time for the beginning of the Rugby World Cup. "It is an honour to collaborate with ARHT, who are now into their fifth decade of providing a crucial service to the people of the communities in and around Auckland." states Helicopter Emergency Medical Services (HEMS) Medical Director



Dr Chris Denny. Chris has recently arrived from Canada, where he worked as an emergency physician, trauma team leader and flight physician in Toronto, Ontario. The Clinical Director of Auckland City Hospital's Adult Emergency Department, Dr Tim Parke, says earlier clinical intervention will lead to better health outcomes for patients: "It is really about taking the hospital to the roadside. We will be able to administer anaesthetic to the patient at the scene and will be able to perform amputations and ultrasound if necessary. Until now, this had to be done on arrival



at the hospital. The trial allows a faster care pathway, resulting in improved health outcomes, and will expand the services and adopt the recognised best practice model of a double medical crew, consisting of a doctor and a paramedic working closely together,"

Barry Watkin, ARHT Chief Paramedic, says he and his team of Advanced Paramedics are enthusiastic about the trial. "This is a win-win for all involved - doctors, paramedics, patients and the public we serve - and we're proud to be involved."

ARHT chief executive Bob Parkinson says having emergency doctors on board would be a valuable addition to the helicopter's services. "We operate more than 700 missions a year throughout the greater Auckland region and the Coromandel with this year looking to be our busiest ever. We see this as an exciting development and a significant enhancement to the services that we provide."

ARHT Flight Simulator Gains NZCAA Approval

The Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust Helicopter Flight Simulator has been gradually taking shape over the last 5 or so years, and has benefited from the enthusiastic input of a number of staff and external personnel throughout.

Our aim for the simulator's development was always clear; we ultimately wanted a professional tool that could fulfil both pilot training and promotional roles.

In September 2010, the Flight Simulator achieved 'Approved Synthetic Training Device' accreditation from New Zealand Civil Aviation Authority, which is a fantastic achievement and one that brings substantial benefits to ARHT, including:

- Our pilots can now complete around 30% of their IFR (Instrument Flight Rules) training in the simulator. This represents a considerable cost saving when compared with the costs associated with training in the actual helicopter.



- Our supporters get to enjoy an experience that is very close to the real thing when they fly the simulator. Whilst we suppress a lot of 'the 'boring stuff', we do keep the control response fairly realistic.
- The simulator is mobile, so we are able to take it to fund-raising events and to Elite Corporate Supporter staff and client functions.

Dave Walley, ARHT's Chief Pilot and Flight Operations Manager was simply 'over the moon' when the accreditation was awarded: "Years ago this project kicked-off as a 'dream-in-the-making' in my garage, leaving no room for cars! Thanks to the many people who have put many hours into making this thing a reality, we now have a first-class piece of equipment... and I've got my garage back!"

If you're interested in finding out how you can become an 'Elite Corporate Supporter' and have the simulator at your event, contact John Hooper, General Manager of Marketing and Fund-raising, on 09 950 7260.

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 in December we'll draw a name for the winner and a friend to join us at our base for a personal tour and morning tea with the helicopter crew!!

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



Family Fishing Day

There's a great day to be had for the whole family at the Leigh Family Fishing Contest on March 17th 2012 with some awesome prizes to be won - the most notable being a 4.85 metre Surtees boat package!

The annual event is hosted by the Leigh Fishing Lodge as a fund-raiser for ARHT. We're still in the final stage of planning so keep an eye on our website (under upcoming events) for further news and details of how to register.

Go to www.rescuehelicopter.org.nz

ARHT Team Member Profile

Name: Steve Oliver (Steve-O)
Position: Pilot
Age: 50.. just!
History: 30 years helicopter flying in various roles. 20 years rescue flying with over 4000 missions completed.



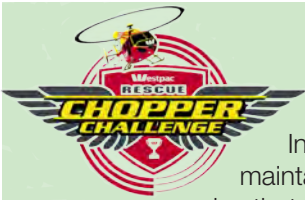
The Helicopter: First flew the BK in 1994 and it has proven to be a rugged and reliable machine. It's a very adaptable helicopter and a pleasure to fly.

Teamwork: We have some hardcase characters here who work well together to achieve positive outcomes for our patients.

Best Part of the Job: The instant feedback you get when you make a difference, in what is in most cases, the most memorable day of someone's life.

Family: Married to Viv. We have an 8 year old daughter Caitlin, 2 cats, a goat and several pet sheep!

Spare Time: We live in the country on a commercial avocado orchard. When not working on this and the weathers good, I love to go out on the boat and catch fish.



CHOPPER CHALLENGE

Keeping Fit Can Take You To New Heights!

In 2007 a project was developed that introduced school pupils throughout our region to the rigours of maintaining the level of fitness necessary to be on the rescue helicopter crew, and to encourage fundraising that will hopefully develop into a degree of social awareness and responsibility as they journey through life. Chopper Challenge was born, and since its inception many, many children have participated, and enjoyed the competition, the rewards (getting flown to school is unbelievably cool!!), and learning more about how we help others. Late last year a Corporate Chopper Challenge was launched which puts business' staff teams through a six week 'Boot Camp' involving early morning starts three days a week to complete a variety of fitness exercises. Teams also rally their friends and family to get behind them to sponsor their efforts, and at a prize-giving breakfast BBQ at the hangar, the coveted top-team trophies are awarded and winners treated to a scenic flight in the Westpac Rescue Helicopter.



The 'Westpac Wonder Women' team take the top trophy in 2011's first corporate bootcamp.

The Chopper Challenge coordinator, Duncan Hodgson, gets a kick out of putting the entrants through their paces: "Young or old, you see the teambuilding, determination, pride, and finally the satisfaction of having finished. It can be tough, but it's fun... and in the end our community wins because it gets to have such an awesome service available for all. There are no losers in Chopper Challenge - everybody walks away taller for the experience".

Chopper Challenge is available to all schools and businesses within our operational area. Prize and flight winners are determined based on physical and fundraising performance, attitude, and effort. All persons sponsoring a participant also go into a draw for a flight.

If you'd like to know more about the Chopper Challenge programs, or check progress of current challenges, take a look at our website:

www.chopperchallenge.org.nz - or give Duncan a call on 09 9507213

Special Collection Celebrates 40th Anniversary

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.

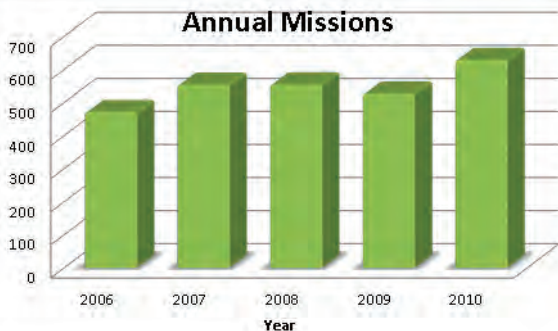


ARHT Missions

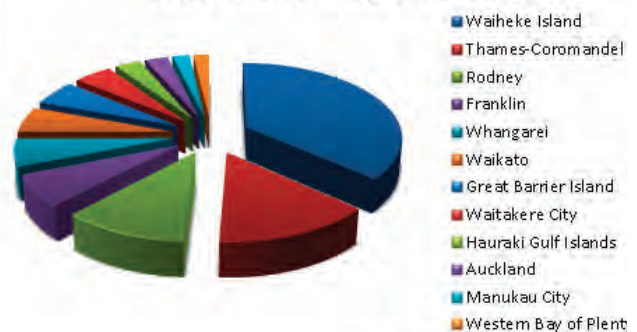
These charts illustrate some of our mission statistics over the last five years, and for calendar year 2010.

The upward-trending number of annual missions seems likely to continue with levels at the time of writing up some 33% compared with the same time last year, and an average increase since 2006 of almost 75%!

Motor vehicle related accidents are our most frequent call, closely followed by sport and leisure injuries, home and workplace accidents and general medical health issues.



2010 Missions by District



2010 Missions by Type

