



LOWE CORPORATION
**RESCUE
HELICOPTER
SERVICE**

OFF THE LANDING PAD

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2024

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Electric Mustang WINNER!

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CYCLONE GABRIELLE REMEMBERED

When Phil (Woogie) Wilson agreed to cover “a couple of shifts” for the Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter, he had no idea the intensity of the weather event that was about to unfold. Those “couple of shifts” turned into seven days and many hours in the air as part of our services’ response to Cyclone Gabrielle.

Woogie has over 25 years of experience when it comes to the skies, having served in the Royal New Zealand Air Force for over 18 years and then Air New Zealand where he flew long haul 777's.

When COVID-19 closed the majority of international flights heading in and out of New Zealand, Woogie took a leave of absence from Air New Zealand and took a role with the Waikato Rescue Helicopter. More recently he moved into the casual cover role for SRS (Search and Rescue Services Limited) who crew the majority of the rescue helicopters in the North Island and will likely return to Air New Zealand in due course.

The night before the cyclone hit, while the duty crew settled in at the crew accommodation, Woogie, Shaun and Steve,

were well aware of the weather getting worse and as the pressure dropped, the rain got heavier and the wind built they knew the next day or two was not looking good. The crew discussed what could happen and ensured they were prepared for the worst.

Around 9am the next morning, they were tasked with their first job. It was two jobs in one. They were tasked to rescue a group of people off a roof in Eskdale and to help search for someone who had been reported as being swept out to sea. As the duty crew had been in the hanger for many hours prepping to support in any way they could, they were ready and able to respond immediately when the call came.

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Helicopter Communications console

Woogie says “Having been in the RNZAF I had responded to weather events before, including the 2004 Manawatu floods. We had expected water, but on getting airborne Tuesday morning there was definitely way more than we expected.”

The Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter was the first winch-capable helicopter in the air. During those first hours we were primarily responsible for the winch rescues. These calls were tasked by the air desk, radioed through by local operators and self-identified as they were moving from one rescue to another.

As the morning went on the Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter Team were joined by colleagues from RNZAF 3 Squadron in a NH90, and other rescue helicopter crews who came from around New Zealand, including teams from Waikato, Otago, and Taupo.

“Everyone just worked together” Woogie said, “Double bunking in accommodation, sleeping on floors and organizing accommodation with friends and family that had the room. For those who weren’t in the air, they just mucked in and made sure everything was taken care of so we didn’t have to. Food, water, rubbish, accommodation and tidying up, the whole base pitched in and supported us from the ground so we didn’t have to worry about anything”.

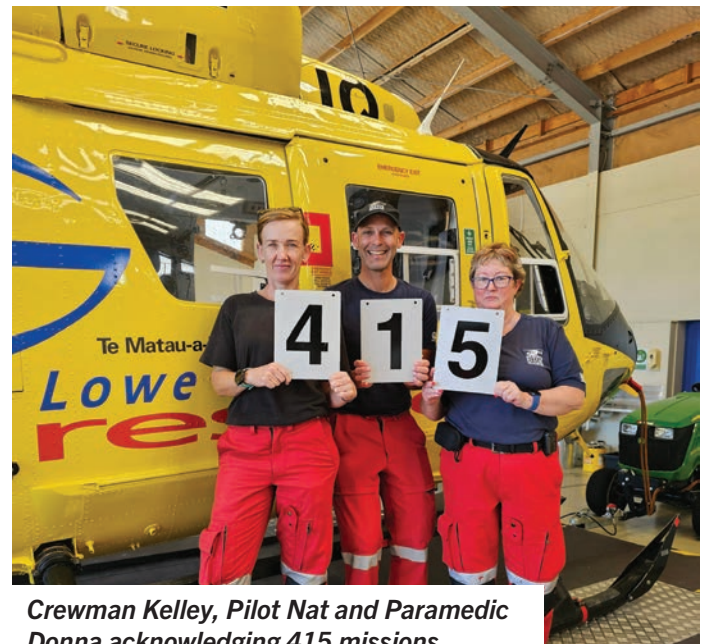
The rescue work that our crew was involved in continued for the next three days, from there they moved to the delivery of aid, but also were continuing the life-saving missions as part of their every day operation. Medical events, accidents, interhospital transfers, and search & rescue missions all still continued.

With the roads being so badly affected it did increase the number of hospital transfers via air, which continued for many months after.

One year on, as we remember that devastating weather event, our hearts go out to those affected by the cyclone. Many lives changed in an instant and our thoughts are with those members of our community who are still working through the results of that day and the days following.

During 2023 the Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter completed 415 missions, including our response to Cyclone Gabrielle. The support we receive from the Hawke’s Bay Community meant we were willing and ready when the call came, and we are so proud of those men and women who are part of our regular crew or came from around New Zealand to support our community.

Many emergency services pulled together on Valentines Week 2023 to save as many lives as possible - and one year on we thank everyone involved in that response. 🚁



Crewman Kelley, Pilot Nat and Paramedic Donna acknowledging 415 missions



WE HAVE A WINNER!

Late last year we embarked on the single largest fundraising campaign we have ever undertaken.

Our lottery to win the Mustang MACH-E GT valued at \$125,000 ran from September to December 2023 with the winner being drawn just before Christmas. The lucky winner was Andy Robinson from Ormondville, who we think is still in shock at winning the fantastic prize!

We would like to thank everyone who supported this fundraiser and bought a ticket. We would also like to acknowledge all the businesses who helped make the lottery happen, in particular Steve and the team from Bay Ford, Hastings.

Earlier this month we indicated via an email survey that we are investigating Lottery 2.0 and asked for your feedback on a number of things including the type of prize. *Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey and we are excited to review the results and come back to you with another great fundraising lottery in the near future.*

MEET THE CREW - KELLEY WAITE

In late 2023 we welcomed Crewman/EMT Kelley Waite to the crew.

Born in Wairoa, Kelley attended high school in Napier. She was a member of the Royal New Zealand Air Force from 2000 to 2017. Following in the footsteps of her grandad Alan, who had been a radio technician in the Royal Air Force UK, her nana Betty who drove bulldozers as a member of the Women in the Air Force programme, and her maternal grandfather Rex, who was a member of The British Army.

In 2017 Kelley joined SRSI and has moved around the Central bases until settling in Maraekakaho. She is a mum to a busy preschooler and an unlikely pack of dogs.

During Cyclone Gabrielle Kelley was based in Gisborne as a Crewman for the Eastland Helicopter Rescue Trust.

How were you involved with the Cyclone response?

"Thankfully we didn't see the same level of personal devastation up the Cape and definitely felt for our brothers and sisters in Hawke's Bay. When Cyclone Gabrielle first hit we attempted to get down to assist in Hawke's Bay, but due to the ongoing weather situation we couldn't get out of the area.

As the weather moved north there were a number of isolated communities who needed support and access to supplies and medical assistance due to power failures, road closures and limited communication.

We know that our rural communities are resilient, but we were so grateful for the outside support from the Otago and North Island Rescue Helicopter crews and bases coming to assist during those first few days.



Kelley Waite and Günther

Having the additional assets really helped to share the mahi and get help/supplies to our rural community as quickly as possible".

In the weeks after Cyclone Gabrielle Kelley would travel the 80 minutes from Wairoa to Gisborne with everything she needed for an overnight shift... and a chainsaw. There were always trees down, so you just had to be prepared. ▮



COFFEE FOR SALE

What do three paramedics, one pilot, two crewman and three coffee professionals have in common?

"Rescue Me" – Rescue your morning with this strong, smooth blend. This organic and fairly traded coffee is roasted in Hawke's Bay by the team at Bay Espresso and \$5 from the sale of each bag goes directly to the Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter Trust.

Purchase your bag now from Bay Espresso Organic Coffee Co – 304c Ellison Road, Hastings or online at www.bayesspressocoffee.co.nz/products/rescue-me



SCAN FOR MORE INFO

COMMUNITY CHEER

DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR A FUNDRAISER?

Please contact Amber – email mfm@hbhrt.org.nz or call 06 878 1630 to discuss how we can help you, help us!



Garden Makeover

In late January we reached out to our Facebook followers for support with our front garden. We were overwhelmed by the response and teams from the Hawke's Bay Gardeners, Mitre10 Waipukurau and A4dibble Plants jumped onboard and created a great new welcoming space for our visitors. Thank you!



Good in the Hood

We were excited to be selected for two Z stations as part of "Good in the Hood 2023" – Karamu Road and Wairoa. Thank you to Z Energy and their staff for selecting our life-saving service again this year and to everyone who voted for us.

Thank you also to Keziah, Hamish and their family who represented our service at the presentation in Wairoa. Hamish has used our service a few times now so was able to tell the team at Z Wairoa just how important we are in the community!



Open Days

After 3 years of cancellations, we were excited to hold Open Days in CHB and at the Hastings Hanger. The weather was polar opposite with rain in Waipukurau and 31 degree temperatures in Hastings, but the crowds still turned up to support our service and a collection of other emergency services and organisations. Thank you to everyone who was involved.



The magical garden world of Colin Harvey-James

The Spirit of Napier Lions offered the public a chance to see a magical garden, not normally accessible to the public. The garden walk and high tea delighted all the senses with profits from the event donated to our life-saving service.



Property Brokers dinner

In late 2023 the team at Property Brokers held another fantastic charity dinner and we were excited to again be chosen as one of the recipients of the evening.

HBRHT CEO Andy Quayle had the opportunity to meet with Joe Snee – Property Brokers Hawke's Bay/Gisborne Regional Manager to thank him in person and present one of our new sponsor boards for the office.

Check out some of these great 'from the air' images our crew have captured in the last couple of months.



RECENT MISSIONS



11/11/23

Many people thought the sight of the Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter at Robbie Williams Concert at the Mission Winery was Robbie arriving, however it was in fact the rescue of a patient who had suffered from a heart attack. The patient was transferred to Wellington Hospital.



11/1/24

The crew of pilot Nat, crewman Julian, and paramedic Donna were called to Pourerere Beach to help out two year old Charlie who was transported to Hastings Hospital with his Mum Ruby.

"Just wanted to say a massive thank you for your incredible service today. Though Charlie's injuries were not life threatening it meant he was in pain for much less time than he could have been. Happy to say within minutes of being in the hospital the doctor put his elbow back in place and he was back to himself almost instantly! Forever grateful for people like you guys." Ruby Issac.

THANK-YOU TO THE FOLLOWING GROUPS/CLUBS WHO HAVE DONATED TO THE TRUST RECENTLY

- Farmlands – Tag a charity - **\$2,154.22**
- Joe and Otis Paton - **\$6,957.50**
- Lighthouse Lions - **\$1,000**
- Oscar How - **\$1,200**
- Pourerere Beach Community - **\$2,000**
- Property Brokers Golf Day (Tom Lane) - **\$7,094.50**

We also appreciate the support from the following;

Hawke's Bay Clay Target Club – Hawke's Bay Motorcycle Club – Mahia Hunt Club – Maraetotara Rural Fire Brigade – Napier Freshwater Anglers Club – Napier RSA, Women's Section – Rapid Relief – Taradale RSA

- Property Brokers Charity Auction - **\$25,000**
- Tahaenui Fete - **\$5,700**
- Total Sports - **\$1,885**
- Two Fold Opportunity Shop - **\$1,000**
- Z Karamu Road - **\$1,439**
- Z Wairoa - **\$1,629**
- Zeelandt Brewery - **\$4,060**



Cooler Bag & USB stick

NEW MERCHANDISE

Keep your lunch cool and your files safe with two new merchandise items!

HBHRT Cooler bag - 600D polyester 13L cooler bag with PE foam insulation encased in a water-resistant PEVA inner liner. Available in Yellow or Black

USB Stick - **64GB USB** stick with a key chain.

Visit – www.hbhrt.org.nz and click the “purchase merchandise” button to find out more.

THANK YOU TO OUR PLATINUM, DIAMOND, GOLD AND SILVER CORPORATE SPONSORS

Who help to keep our services free of charge and available 24/7 to everyone in our Community.

PLATINUM AND DIAMOND

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Napier City Council
Napier Pine Ltd
Vet Services (HB) Ltd
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Logan Stone Ltd
Mike Kettle Contracting Ltd
Morice Ltd
Newstead Farm
Oldershaw & Co Ltd
Oslers Bakery and Café
Patton Engineering Ltd
Plan A Consulting
Porangahau Fishing Club
QC Engineering HB Ltd
Quality Roding & Service
Redshaw Livestock Ltd
Suvic Engineering Ltd
Taradale Service Centre
Tasman Harvester Contracting
Walsh & Associates
Waterforce Limited
Websters Hydrated Lime Co Ltd

This list was prepared on the 29th of February 2024.

If your business would like to become a Corporate Friend of the Rescue Helicopter, please call Jo on 06 878 1630 or email jo@hbhrt.org.nz

OUR FAMILY OF SPONSORS



Corporate Sponsors

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Hawke's Bay Today | COF's Hawke's Bay | Brandt NZ
Sign Central | Matau Media | Brebner Print | HB Online
Complex Forme | Silver Fern Farms – Takapau Staff | Einn Ûlfur Design

Corporate Supporters

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE HASTINGS DISTRICT COUNCIL FUNDS THE PRINTING OF THIS NEWSLETTER?

They support us every year to ensure we can get our messages to the Hawke's Bay Community, and we are so appreciative!



KEEP IN CONTACT

Fundraising and Administration (06) 878 1630

Email: mfm@hbhrt.org.nz

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