

Chopperchat

Jan/Feb 2009



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

I think most of us are glad to move on from 2008... though on reflection I can recall the same being said in this column with regard to 2001 and 2004, and I suspect most of us, if given the choice, would sooner be confronted by the recent



financial reality-check than the ugliness of terrorism, or the helplessness of natural disaster. We can lose everything and still rebuild... but as the saying goes, "we're a long time dead".

ARHT completed 553 missions last year, which was more than anticipated and placed significant financial strain on the organisation. Our Fundraising manager reminded me on more than one occasion as the year progressed: "In the past we've been raising funds to allow us to rescue people into the future... but right now we're needing to pay for the last 20 missions we've done".

So like everyone else we've had to tighten our belts further - work smarter... and harder. And we realise that you have most likely had to do the same. Somehow, together, we have, and always will, succeed in being there for those whose world is shaken by some freak accident, illness... or natural disaster.

So, we look forward to sharing with you the opportunities that the coming year will present, and on behalf of the people in our region thank you once again for continuing to support us 'through thick and thin' in that endeavour.

Murray Bolton, Chairman, ARHT.

Investment pay's dividends for family firm

The Russell Group of Companies have long been supporters of the Auckland Westpac Rescue Helicopter, providing sizeable donations since 1995 until, in 2007, the relationship evolved into a major sponsorship. The group includes Dominion Constructors, AJ Russell Bricklayers, Stresscrete and Acrow Limited, who all now feature as part of the sponsorship.

As a family run operation, Directors Alf, Lynne and Brett Russell are all aware of the importance the service plays within the community, but last October the value of their vital contribution towards our often, life saving operation was illustrated in a fashion that was far too close to home.

Enjoying a Sunday on the water off Motuihe Island, Brett and partner Kate were relaxing on their launch while 15 year old daughter Aimee was in the inflatable dinghy, towing one of her friends (and Junior Coast Guard member) Nathan, on a sea biscuit. Lifetime members of the Coastguard and fully aware of the potential risks involved in water sports, the family



always make safety their first priority and Aimee, familiar with operating the dinghy, was wearing a life jacket and had the killswitch safety cord attached to her arm. This device automatically cuts the motor in the event that the operator falls overboard or loses footing.

As can happen, Nathan fell from the sea biscuit, causing the dinghy to surge forward and bank into a tight turn which threw Aimee, who was unprepared for the sudden movement, into the sea. Normally, this action would cut the motor, however on this occasion the killswitch cord slipped off Aimee's wrist and the motor continued to run. To avoid being hit by the dinghy Aimee quickly grabbed the painter line, but it got entangled in the propeller, stalling the motor and trapping her below the surface.

"If it wasn't for Aimee's instinctive actions and then the quick thinking of Nathan, who pulled the outboard off its bracket and into the dinghy, untangling the painter line and freeing Aimee, things could have been far worse" explains a relieved Brett. "I was 200 meters away and knew that by the time I swam to her she'd be in a great deal of difficulty". As he swam, neighbouring boats called emergency services. "It was an overwhelming sense of relief to have the coastguard and the Westpac Rescue Helicopter appear so promptly, the professionalism of these services and their quick response is outstanding and so often under appreciated." Kate recalls: "The whole situation was surreal. You don't think that things like that are ever going to happen to you or your family, but when the helicopter came in to pick Aimee up and there's the company's logo on the door... reality really hit home".

Aimee was airlifted to Auckland Hospital and looked after by the great team at A & E, where her lungs were drained of a quantity of salt water. She was kept in overnight for observation and has since made a full recovery.

A BIG thanks to 2008's elite corporate supporters:

Rank Group Ltd

New World Eastridge

Pak 'n Save (Manukau)

Pak 'n Save (Albany)

Auckland Radiology Group

Endace Measurement Systems Ltd

Hawkins Construction Ltd

Friedlander Foundation

Brookfield Multiplex Constructions (NZ) Ltd

The Kumerich Family Trust

Hometune

NZ Hothouse Ltd

Deane Apparel Ltd

Stevenson

Coltrane Trust

Securimax Ltd

Outdoor Boating Club of Auckland

QBE Insurance (Int'l) Ltd

KIDS!!

ENTER OUR COMPETITION!

Simply answer the following questions to enter. Email your answers, name, age and phone number to competition@arht.org.nz to go into the draw to win a pack of assorted helicopter goodies. Entries to be received by 5pm on Friday February 27th 2009. Drawn on 02/03/09. Winner will be notified by email and phone.

Questions:

- 1 - Name one of the four Russell Group companies
- 2 - What type of bear is the 2009 Bear?
- 3 - Which country is Joel Gruffaz from?
- 4 - What is the name of Tinny's dog?
- 5 - How many missions did ARHT complete in 2008?

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 nearly 15,000 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...

Remember
In an Emergency dial

111

Congratulations to 10 year old Patrick Coughlan for his winning entry from the last Chopper Chat's word-find competition. Zooming off to you is your pack of well deserved helicopter goodies!

New Engineer Bear for 2009!

Engineer bear is the latest addition to the ARHT fundraiser teddy bear collection, following on from past successes such as Diver, Winchman, Nurse, Pilot and Crew-chief bears... to name just a few. Our stock of previous bears is all but exhausted with very limited numbers (less than 200) of Winchman and 2008's limited edition 'Patient Bear' left, so if you don't have these in your collection



then please act fast... because they won't last. Our bears have always been popular with our supporters, and make excellent birthday gifts... or if you just want to put a smile on someones face! Call us on 09 9507204 if you need the bear facts...



Name: Tinny Cannell (Mark) - Crewman

Age: 36

History: RNZAF serving for 15 years, detachments to Scott Base, Bougainville & East Timor. Have been with the Trust since 2004.

The Helicopter: Great machine to work from & an ideal platform to provide an outstanding service to the greater Auckland area.

Teamwork: Great to know that there are dedicated professionals who work as one. Liaising with other organisations hopefully to a successful conclusion for people we are trying to assist.

Best Part of the Job: The unpredictable nature of the job and the multiple challenges this can bring. It's a nice feeling being able to help people who find themselves having a "not so great" day.

Family: Married to my true love (Phillipa) who is loving life in NZ. Recently adopted "Taz", a Lab X with either a Staffi, Ridgeback, Mastiff or maybe even a bulldozer...

Spare Time: Plenty of time with Pip & Taz. Plenty of fishing & hunting when time permits.

ARHT Team Member
PROFILE

Heli-Hardware: Traffic Collision Avoidance System - TCAS

Our BK-117 is equipped with a Traffic Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) - a device which, as the name suggests, aids in preventing mid air collisions. The system works by monitoring other aircraft in the vicinity (approximately 40 miles radius) that are fitted with an appropriately configured transponder, and issues 'voice' advisories where needed. These Resolution Advisories (RA's), as they are known, may be either preventative, ('maintain vertical speed', 'monitor vertical speed') or corrective ('climb, climb', descend, descend, 'adjust vertical speed').



TCAS systems coordinate their advisories before issuing instructions so that if one aircraft is instructed to descend, then the other is typically told to climb, thereby maximising the separation between the two aircraft.

It's important to realise that TCAS is a pilot *aid*; visual observation, communications and situational awareness play the major role. And TCAS does have limitations,

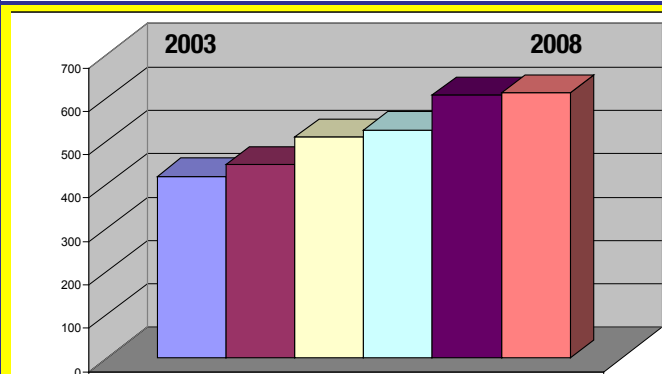
including only being 'aware' of transponder equipped aircraft, only advising on vertical separation, not aware of terrain/ground conditions and doesn't automatically communicate its advisories to Air Traffic Control, thereby raising the possibility that a conflicting command could be issued.

The picture shows three aircraft in the vicinity of HLN whilst on the helipad at our Mechanics Bay hangar.

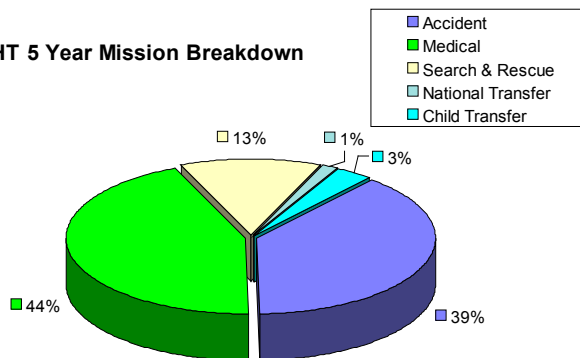
Support ... from afar très bien!

Recently, we got a message from overseas.... from Joël Gruffaz in Haute-Savoie in France, on the edge of the French Alps between Geneva and Chamonix. Joël has built a radio-control model of our past BK117 helicopter, ZK-HHV, after noticing some photo's on www.airliners.net and then on our website (www.rescuehelicopter.org.nz).

Joël sent though some photo's, one of which is included here, that show off his BK-117 and his recently received supporters merchandise. We'd like to thank Joël for his wonderful donations and messages of support - he must be, at 18618 kms away, our most distant supporter!!



ARHT 5 Year Mission Breakdown



The graphics above show the number and type of missions carried out over the last five years and clearly show the steadily increasing workload. We couldn't do it without your support - thank you!

Chopper Chat Is Made Possible With The Help Of The Following Sponsors:



WESTERN MAILING
Print, Mail, Analyse, Report.

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	Quantity	Total
Winch Bear	\$40.00	_____	_____
Engineer Bear	\$40.00	_____	_____
Patient Bear	\$40.00	_____	_____
Baseball cap	\$25.00	_____	_____
<i>Total items and payment</i>			_____

First Name _____
 Last Name _____
 Phone _____ Mobile _____
 Email _____
 Street Address _____
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 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.

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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 and further confirmation when completed. Once subscribed, you can
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ARHT's Major Sponsors are:



Hangar Happenings...



Outdoor Boating Club Auckland Commodore, Fraser Elder,
presents ARHT donation to Chief Pilot Dave Walley



Sunnies Courtesy Of Alan Beach At Sport Optics NZ Ltd



Crewman 'Tinny' accepts donation from Stephen Wong
of Rakino Ratepayers Association

Bequesting: Your Legacy... for Life.

One way that you may like to consider helping ensure the continued survival of the Rescue Service, is by leaving a bequest in your Will. A bequest is a thoughtful way in which to carry on giving even after you are no longer here. If you would like further information then please phone, in confidence, Kerrie Spicer on (09) 9507209

