

# Chopperchat



Become a member of ARHT. Go to [www.4rescue.org.nz](http://www.4rescue.org.nz) or phone 0800 4 RESCUE - May 2008

## Big summer means more rescues for helicopter

**Auckland's Westpac rescue helicopter has flown a record 186 missions this summer, the highest number since records began in 2002.**



Chief executive officer Rea Wikaira said the increase was due to a long, dry summer. "This is one of the biggest playgrounds in the world per capita," he said of the wider Auckland region, which includes the Coromandel Peninsula and Hauraki Gulf Islands. "The good weather brings people out to do all sorts of things and they have accidents or medical episodes.

"As most rescue services do notice, if you have a minimum of two really nice, fine days then our workload goes up. If the third is hosing down or whatever it all slows up again," Mr Wikaira said.

More people were involved in activities such as boating, swimming, mountain biking and surfing in fine weather, and with that came an increase in injuries, searches for people, and car use and crashes.

At a cost of over \$7000 an hour, the aero-medical and search and rescue service has notched up 129.9 flying hours this summer, totalling over \$900,000.

Mr Wikaira said that because the majority of funding for running the service comes from sponsorship and community donations, the more hours the helicopter flies, the tougher it is from a fundraising point of view because it means more money has to be raised to keep the service going.

"In most businesses, the busier you are, the better off you are financially," he said.

"In our case, the more hours we fly, the more it costs us financially."

Hotspots for the helicopter include crash black-spots on State Highway 1, at the Dome Valley north of Warkworth, and on State Highway 2 at Mangatawhiri. Rescues regularly occur of people at Auckland's west coast beaches and of boaties in the Hauraki Gulf. This year callouts to Waiheke also rose as the population increased during summer.

## Message from CEO

This summer has been one of the busiest in over a decade with the Rescue Helicopter carrying out 186 missions in one of the world's biggest playgrounds per capita.

Over the last 30 years it is you, the population of the greater Auckland Region, who have contributed the major portion of the funds that keep the service going year by year. Both central and local government to date still do not provide sustainable funding to the service.

Our key financial goals for the next five years are to pay off the rescue helicopter and work towards a second helicopter, along with a move to more suitable, sustainable premises.

Going forward, we will be working with ACC, and the Ministry of Health and DHBs, to work through the Air Ambulance Review in relation to a more sustainable funding model for future Accident and Medical missions. This is the fourth review in just over a decade, and we look forward to a more positive outcome than in the past.

As always, I can not thank you enough - if it were not for your continued support we would not be able to continue with NZ's only onsite 24/7 Emergency Air Ambulance Search and Rescue Service to the greater Auckland Region

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rea Wikaira".

Rea Wikaira, CEO, ARHT.

## A big thanks to this year's 2008 elite corporate sponsors:

Deane Apparel Ltd  
Boart Longyear Drillwell Exploration  
Stevenson  
New World Eastridge  
Pak 'n Save (Manukau)  
Auckland Radiology Group  
New Zealand Steel Ltd  
Multiplex Constructions (NZ) Ltd  
Sovereign Yachts (NZ) Ltd  
The Kumerich Family Trust  
Hometune  
Learnkey Computer Training  
NZ Hothouse  
Mondo Travel

## New sponsors on the the helicopter!

### Architectural Glass

Architectural Glass Industries NZ Ltd (AGINZ) has recently come on board to help keep the Auckland Westpac Rescue Helicopter running by becoming a tier one sponsor. So look out for the green and black AGI logo on the chopper tail!

AGINZ and staff are proud to be one of ARHT's major sponsors for 2008 and say they certainly see the benefits that the Westpac Helicopter and ARHT team offer to the community in saving lives.

To contact AGINZ phone 09 2573232 or email [wayne@aginz.com](mailto:wayne@aginz.com) or [steve@aginz.com](mailto:steve@aginz.com).

### The Russell Group

The other company that now has its logo on the door of the helicopter as a tier one sponsor is The Russell Group.

The associated companies within the Russell Group – Dominion Constructors, Masonry Concepts, Russell Bricklayers and Aotea Paving provide a full range of construction services from commercial and civil construction, through to residential and related works.

For more info on the Russell Group visit [www.russellgroup.co.nz](http://www.russellgroup.co.nz)



## Miraculous recovery in time to help with Westpac Chopper Appeal



Fire, Police, Ambulance and the Westpac Rescue Helicopter all worked together to save Raymond's life

Raymond Burgess wasn't expected to live when his van collided with a train near Kumeu in October last year, and he was flown to hospital by the Auckland Westpac Rescue Helicopter in a critical condition.

But in what his doctors are describing as a miracle, and after checking himself out early from the rehabilitation centre, Raymond, his wife Angela, and Mum Elmer, are helping out with collections for the Westpac Chopper Appeal this month.



Photograph: Courtesy of the New Zealand Herald. Photographer: Dean Purcell.

Raymond pays the Auckland Westpac Rescue Helicopter crew a visit to say thanks.

At the time of the accident, Raymond had hot oil from the van dripping into his mouth and emergency services worked together to try and stop the flow. It was then a team effort to lift the van off of Raymond to retrieve him from the wreckage.

Last month Raymond came in to personally thank the crew of the Westpac Rescue Helicopter for their part in helping to save his life.

## Heartfelt thanks

It's always a real buzz for Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust crew when they get a thank you letter from someone they have helped.

Below is a thank you letter from a person who was one of four crew recently rescued from a yacht off the Kaipara Harbour by the Auckland Westpac Rescue Helicopter, and the Northland rescue helicopter.

*Greetings,*

*As one of the four sailors who were rescued from the yacht Air Apparent on Tuesday evening, 25 March '08, I am writing to convey my sincere and deepest appreciation for the superb service which your helicopter crew provided to my friends and myself.*

*I highly commend their professional performance. Please extend to them my sincere and deepest appreciation for their fine effort.*

*I have grave doubts that we would have survived that next night. I believe that your helicopter was the difference between my life and my death by drowning.*

*Thank you all.*

*Sincerely,  
Carl Horn.*

## Take a light source to help us find you!

With the new Civil Aviation Authority approved Night Vision Imaging System technology onboard the Auckland Westpac Rescue Helicopter, taking a light source of any kind with you when recreating could save your life.

The Auckland Westpac Rescue Helicopter is involved in many Search and Rescue operations, over land and sea. Night Vision Goggles (or NVG's for short) enable helicopter crews to spot a cigarette lighter burning as much as 1000 metres away, and given that a couple of nights lost in the bush can kill, a light source as small as this could be the difference between getting found dead or alive.

Likewise in the water, the cold can be deadly in only a few hours, but often a person floating in the water after a boating accident will not be found until the next day because they can not be seen in the dark. In a recent case, a man was rescued after being in the water for nine hours. The Westpac helicopter and police had been out searching in the night – but it wasn't until daylight that this man was finally spotted. If this person had turned on a waterproof torch he may have been found a lot sooner.

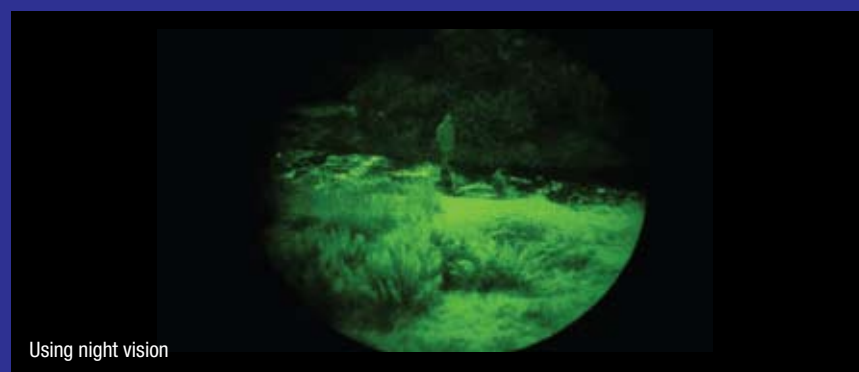
ARHT Training Manager and helicopter pilot Armin Egli says NVG operation is probably the single most important thing that has happened in the rescue helicopter industry in recent years.

“When properly used, NVGs can increase safety, enhance situational awareness, and reduce pilot workload and stress that are typically associated with night operations, Mr Egli says. “Night Vision Imaging System is an integration of all elements (goggles, aircraft lighting, training and airworthiness) required to successfully operate on NVGs.”

With the approval of the Civil Aviation Authority under Part 141, the Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust is now conducting an industry first by carrying out its own NVG re-currency programme, requiring pilots and crews to undergo ground and flight training.



Standard vision at night using ordinary lighting



Using night vision



Using night vision when the survivor has a lit cigarette

## Missions possible – with a little help from our friends

Did you know that the Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust is only able to keep the Westpac Rescue Helicopter operating through corporate sponsorship and community donations? Approximately 80 per cent of our funding comes to us through the generosity of the community we serve.

Here's just a few of the missions we've carried out this year that have been made possible with the help of those who have donated to us:



ARHT Chief Paramedic Barry Watkin assists this patient after he was shot by an arrow in the bush and flown to hospital.

**2/2/08** The helicopter responded to Tiri Tiri Matangi and transported a female suffering a reaction to a sting to North Shore Hospital.

**6/3/08** After falling from a bicycle at Woodhill a male was transported to Auckland City Hospital.

**8/3/08** After a near drowning at Kariotahi two children were transported to Starship Hospital.

**9/3/08** After a 4x4 rolled down the sand dunes at Bethells Beach a male was transported to Auckland City Hospital.

**9/3/08** A male who had been shot by an arrow was transported from Wellsford to Auckland City Hospital.

**23/3/08** A female with a medical condition was transported from Kawau Island to Auckland City Hospital.

**4/4/08** The helicopter responded to Maramarua and transported a female who had fallen from a motorcycle to Middlemore Hospital.

**5/4/08** The helicopter responded to Pakiri and transported two male children who had been thrown from a horse to Starship Hospital.

**5/4/08** The helicopter responded to Great Barrier Island and transported a male with a stingray barb in his leg to Auckland City Hospital.

**6/4/08** The helicopter responded to Muriwai to a male who had been thrown from a boat. He was transported to North Shore Hospital.

**8/4/08** New Zealand Police tasked the helicopter to a visual search at Port Waikato.

**8/4/08** New Zealand Police tasked the helicopter to a visual search at Awhitu.

**13/4/08** A female child suffering burns was transported from Wellsford to Starship Hospital.

**22/4/08** A female child suffering burns was transported from Wellsford to Starship Hospital.

# Westpac Rescue Helicopter supporter products



Please make all cheques payable to  
Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust  
All enquires ph 09 366 1123 or  
email database@arht.org.nz



	Price	Quantity	Total
 Winch Bear	\$40.00	_____	_____
 Diver Bear	\$40.00	_____	_____
 Crew Chief Bear	\$40.00	_____	_____
 Baseball cap	\$25.00	_____	_____
<i>Total items and payment</i>		_____	_____

First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Suburb \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment Method

Cheque  Visa  Diners  Amex  Mastercard

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.

cut here



## Community fundraising update

### Celebrity Fashion Preview raises \$15,000

The ladies of the Waiheke Women's Network worked hard yet again to raise over \$15,000 for ARHT, by holding a Celebrity Fashion Preview and charity auction on Waiheke Island in April. Celebs Megan Alatini, Greer Robson, Siobhan Marshall, Jay-Jay Feeny, Dom Harvey, Kate Woodham, Lana Coc-Kroft, Renee Wright and Rodney Hide all donated their services as models for the occasion, with compering by Brooke Howard-Smith and style guru Jackie O'fee. The Waiheke business community was also very generous in donating auction items, while residents were not afraid to get out their cheque books and bid for a worthy cause!



Megan Alatini struts her stuff in Claire Kingan Jones to raise funds for the Helicopter.

### Ulysses ride

The annual Auckland Ulysses Motorcycle club raised \$8,000 from more than 800 motorcyclists for the Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust on a hot rain soaked Sunday in February.

Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust CEO Rea Wikaira said the funds will go towards helicopter crew personal 406 MHz locator beacons. He also said that the annual Ulysses ride is always a major event and they have contributed in excess of \$100,000 dollars towards equipment for the Helicopter over the past decade.

### Gourmet luncheon

Over \$50,000 was raised for ARHT from a degustation lunch held at the home of the Prendegasts on Waiheke Island in February. Renowned chef Simon Gault designed a gorgeous menu for the event and provided the chefs, while John Hawkesby MC'd and donated a bottle of his sought-after wine, which was auctioned off. Mondo Travel also showed huge generosity by donating a business class flight for two to Thailand for auction at the event.

### Concert in the Orchard

The "Rock 'n' Opera in the Orchard" concert at the Hikuai home of Gary and Anne Fowler in January raised \$22,000 for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter.

Concert organiser Gary Fowler said over 1700 people attended the action filled concert, which has now become an annual event in the region and thanked the many local sponsors who contributed to its success.

Rea Wikaira, CEO of the Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust said the Trust appreciates the hard work of the Fowlers in having the annual concert at their home and that the proceeds will be put to 24/7 coverage of the Region.

