



RACQ CQ RESCUE COMMUNITY REPORT 2011



Our Community is made up of many individuals, businesses and clubs who support RACQ CQ RESCUE in a number of ways. It is impossible to name each and every one of you for contributions which keep the helicopter in the air so please accept this as a personal 'Thank you' from the Board of Directors, Management, Staff, Crew and Patients of RACQ CQ RESCUE. The aero-medical and rescue service utilised by so many people on a day to day basis would not be available to this community without your support.

For more information relating to sponsorships, Rescue 100 Club memberships, payroll contributions or fundraising support for RACQ CQ RESCUE please contact Leonie Hansen or the office on 4998 5232.



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE HOW FAR RACQ CQ RESCUE HAS COME, AND HOW MANY PEOPLE IT HAS HELPED, SINCE ITS FIRST LIFESAVING MISSION TO HAYMAN ISLAND 15 YEARS AGO.

During that time the service has completed almost 5000 missions with, no doubt, the thumping of its rotors a welcome sound to many who are injured in car crashes, lost in the bush, in danger at sea, and those who are seriously ill.

Our helicopter crews have saved countless lives and improved the outcomes of many others by getting patients to hospital as quickly as possible. They even delivered a baby girl on board while transferring her mother from Hamilton Island to Mackay Base Hospital last year.

When disaster struck much of Queensland earlier this year, they were quick to extend a helping hand to those impacted by Cyclone Yasi and Brisbane's devastating floods.

While some of our crews delivered supplies to isolated areas and responded to medical emergencies in Brisbane and Townsville, other RACQ CQ RESCUE crew members stayed at home to ensure those living in the Mackay, Whitsunday and Isaac areas retained access to a rescue helicopter.

The remainder of 2011 has continued to be busy for RACQ CQ Rescue.

It has already responded to more than 250 missions, bringing the total number to almost 5000.

Of course, all this would not have been possible without the very generous support we have received from the community during the past 15 years.

We'd like to thank each and every person who has helped RACQ CQ Rescue over the years, either by organising or attending fundraisers, giving weekly payroll donations, or donating their time or expertise.

We are also extremely grateful to our Rescue 100 Club members and our very important major sponsors including RACQ, our naming-rights sponsor for 10 of the past 15 years.

All of this support is greatly appreciated, particularly when we are faced with rising operational costs each year.

We have also received much support from local, state and federal governments and the departments within these agencies that work hand-in-hand with RACQ CQ Rescue on a daily basis.

We extend our thanks to our hard working colleagues at Queensland Health, Queensland Ambulance Service, Queensland Police Service, Queensland Fire and Rescue, Volunteer Marine Rescue, the State Emergency Service and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority.

Finally, I extend sincere appreciation to the board of directors and to all our staff members, who work so hard to maintain the highest standards and provide an excellent service the whole community can be proud of.

Dr Peter Bastable





IN THE BEGINNING

DOCTOR BERT SADLEIR CAN CLEARLY REMEMBER CQ RESCUE'S FIRST MISSION ON AUGUST 27, 1996.

The helicopter was yet to be officially commissioned, and he and his colleagues were working out where to put the stretcher when the call came in.

A critically unwell woman with a ruptured ectopic pregnancy needed to be airlifted to hospital from Hayman Island - and her life depended on it.

Bert remembers quickly bolting the stretcher into the helicopter and jumping on board (in his civilian clothes) to fly to the rescue.

"That woman was critically unwell and was required to immediately go to surgery," he said.

"It was the only way to get her off Hayman Island in time.

"The very first mission CQ Rescue did was a lifesaving mission."

There have been almost 5000 more mercy missions since that day, and those involved with RACQ CQ Rescue have many memories of the past 15 years.

Bert can remember when a crewman fainted while he was putting a tube into an injured motorbike rider's crushed chest on a remote cattle property. Chairman Dr Peter Bastable remembers a long, scary trip down a rickety Chinese ship ladder to assess a patient who had fallen from the same ladder.

Peter said RACQ CQ Rescue crews worked in some incredibly challenging and difficult environments.

"You have to take your hat off to those guys because it is not easy," he said.

"You're faced with making difficult assessments, actively resuscitating patients and then making decisions about whether to take patients to Mackay Base Hospital or to Townsville.

"Basically they're doing what you would do in an intensive care department out on the side of the road, in the dark often, sometimes with multiple injured patients."

Engineer Dave Jibson (fondly nicknamed Jibbo), has been with RACQ CQ Rescue since the start, and remembers the days when the 'CQ RESQ' team operated from two little demountable buildings that flooded whenever it rained.

"When we first started we had a single pilot who used to do a 24-hour shift," he said.

"His bedroom was in the end of that hangar, right next to the ops room.

"If the phone went we had to carry all the gear out of those demountable buildings around the corner and into the small hangar, load up the aircraft and get it out the door.

"We've certainly had a lot of changes since then.

"I can't speak highly enough of the community support that we get."

Dave has many entertaining stories to tell about his time at CQ Rescue.

"We've certainly got a good crew with practical jokes," he laughed.

"It seems to have dropped off a little bit with a bit more maturity among us but occasionally there's the odd practical joke that keeps everyone on their toes and keeps morale up.

"I don't think anyone's short-sheeted anyone's bed lately but that does happen from time to time."

Most of RACQ CQ Rescue's days have been happy, but others have been sad, including the day three of its crew members were killed when a Bell 407 helicopter crashed into the sea off Cape Hillsborough during a mission to Hamilton Island.

While this was the darkest day in RACQ CQ Rescue's history, it resulted in state-wide changes that made aero-medical helicopters safer and the introduction of safer twin-engine IFR machines.

ELLE'S QUEST FOR FASHION TV TITLE
MODEL COMP STORY, DETAILS PAGE 3

BOY, 3, NEARLY LOST HIS LEG IN BOAT PROPELLER

A shark bit me then I went in the chopper with the army men who gave me a teddy...
A 3-year-old boy was nearly killed when he was struck by a boat's propeller while swimming in the water. The boy, who was rescued by a chopper, is now recovering in hospital.

By SARAH CHAPMAN
A 3-year-old boy was nearly killed when he was struck by a boat's propeller while swimming in the water. The boy, who was rescued by a chopper, is now recovering in hospital.

DRUG CHARGES
Roundhouse residents will face trial - Page 3

SPOTLIGHT ON KIDS
Two pages of eisteddfod news - Pages 20, 21

Desperate swim to survive

The rescue officer was able to land on the island and get the boy out of the water. The boy was rescued by a chopper and is now recovering in hospital.

By JENNA WHOLE
A 3-year-old boy was nearly killed when he was struck by a boat's propeller while swimming in the water. The boy, who was rescued by a chopper, is now recovering in hospital.

SHOT IN THE GUTS: ATTEMPTED MURDER TRIAL BEGINS P3



WRECKED RIGS
Two prime movers were involved in separate highway crashes within 15 minutes yesterday. STORY, PHOTOS P4-5

What's your fit? OUR QUALITY TYRE RANGE INCLUDES

A GLANCE AT OUR PAST

Too impatient

Man dies but waiting drivers could only whinge about delay
A man died after a car crash on a highway. The driver was impatient and did not wait for the traffic to clear before changing lanes.

By CHRIS DONOVAN
A man died after a car crash on a highway. The driver was impatient and did not wait for the traffic to clear before changing lanes.

ROSEY, 5, WINS HER BATTLE FOR LIFE



By MARY KANE
A young girl, Rosey, has won her battle for life after a long and difficult fight with a rare condition.

Riders hurt in highway crash

Several people were injured in a crash involving a motorcycle and a car on a highway. The motorcycle rider was thrown from the bike.

By CAROLINE OSBORN
Several people were injured in a crash involving a motorcycle and a car on a highway. The motorcycle rider was thrown from the bike.

Switch your home loan to us in 2007 and we'll transport you to...

WIN A BRAND NEW NISSAN MICRA
GRAB YOUR ENTRY FORM PAGE 15

MIRACLE BIRTH IN HELICOPTER

CQ Rescue crew delivers premature baby mid-flight
A premature baby was delivered in a helicopter by a rescue crew. The baby was born during the flight and is now recovering in hospital.

By SARAH CHAPMAN
A premature baby was delivered in a helicopter by a rescue crew. The baby was born during the flight and is now recovering in hospital.

There is still a locally owned...

FORUM: 1 DAY DOCTORS' CHIEF SAYS 'SHOW UP OR LOSE OUT' TO GO

Five boaties spend four hours at sea clinging to an esky
A group of five people spent four hours at sea clinging to an esky after their boat was damaged. They were rescued by a chopper.

By SARAH CHAPMAN
A group of five people spent four hours at sea clinging to an esky after their boat was damaged. They were rescued by a chopper.

YOUR LAST WEEK TO WIN A VRX LANCER SPORTBACK - STORY PAGE 2

EXCLUSIVE: NEW HOSPITAL MASTERPLAN RELEASED P7

Five people were killed yesterday afternoon near St Lawrence, south of Mackay, after a horrific crash involving two vehicles. One woman survived. Story, Page 5

SPECIAL COVERAGE OF THE FIRE TRAGEDY IN VICTORIA, PAGE 11

DISASTER ZONE

The monsoonal wet is creating havoc for our coal mines and rail network but the problems are much worse in towns like Theodore, above, which have been swamped by an inland sea. The Daily Mercury sent a reporter and photographer on a chopper yesterday to survey the damage being caused by the flood crisis in Central Queensland. STORIES, PHOTOS P4-5

CUTTERS CLIP SEA EAGLES WINGS IN Q-CUP COMP - P26

Rough weather hampers widespread search off coast
FISHERMAN, 79, MISSING AT SEA

By SARAH CHAPMAN
A 79-year-old fisherman was missing at sea after a search party was hampered by rough weather. The fisherman was eventually rescued.

SHIVERS! WHAT HAPPENED TO SUMMER?

Four fishermen survive by clinging to a capsized boat and telling jokes
Four fishermen survived a capsized boat by clinging to it and telling jokes. They were rescued by a chopper.

By SARAH CHAPMAN
Four fishermen survived a capsized boat by clinging to it and telling jokes. They were rescued by a chopper.



WHAT A YEAR IT'S BEEN...

THE TWELVE MONTHS BETWEEN JULY 2010 AND JUNE 2011 WERE THE BUSIEST RACQ CQ RESCUE HAS EVER RECORDED WITH THE CREW CLOCKING UP 835 FLYING HOURS.

To put that into perspective, five years ago the average number of flying hours per annum was 450 and while the figures have not quite doubled, there has been a significant increase.

January and February this year were by far the busiest months with up to 46 missions carried out. January involved one helicopter and rescue crew from RACQ CQ RESCUE in Mackay deploying to Brisbane in the aftermath of the floods and another crew was sent to Townsville in February after Tropical Cyclone Yasi wreaked havoc in the north.

The slowest month for the crew was May this year when they were tasked to only 23 missions during the month. Over the twelve month period, the crew averaged 35.9 missions per month in the year ended June 2011.

A total of 43 patients were airlifted as a result of vehicle accidents including motor bikes, cars, trucks and bicycles; 36 properties were visited during the year - 11 of these were due to injuries caused by horses and cattle, 5 were due to quad bike accidents and the remaining missions for a number of medical reasons.

The Whitsunday Island Resorts were the destination for the RACQ CQ RESCUE helicopter on 75 occasions however the helicopter rescue crew flew to the Bowen Basin more regularly with almost half of the overall missions to various areas within the Bowen Basin.

Thirty-six (36) patients were transferred to larger hospitals from outlying regions due to cardiac-related illnesses and 20 missions included transferring patients to Townsville for specialised medical care.

Of the total 835 hours flown by the crew, approximately 61 were spent searching for people missing at sea or in bushland and 341,591 litres of fuel was used to fly RACQ CQ RESCUE's Bell 412 helicopter for 835 hours.

In July 2011, the crew flew 40 missions so already the 2011/12 financial year is shaping up to be yet another busy twelve months.

With almost 5,000 missions to its credit and the countless lives that have been saved due to the rescue helicopter, it tends to make you wonder how this region ever managed before the service commenced in 1996.



A few weeks ago, my baby Alexander became quite ill after a weekend trip to Sydney. After several days of becoming gradually worse, the doctor advised us that he would have to be flown out to be admitted to the Paediatric unit of the Mackay Base Hospital.

The CQ rescue helicopter was used as our emergency transport from Clermont to Mackay. This made the normally 3 ½ hour trip a very fast 45 minutes and was made much less stressful knowing that he was receiving the best medical care possible en route.

The team that were accompanying us on the chopper were compassionate in both the care of my baby and myself and I am truly indebted to these people who went out of their way to make us at ease during this highly stressful time.

I would like to extend a very big thank you to the CQ rescue team and their ongoing efforts to ensure quality care for all of their patients. It is comforting to know that even in rural and remote areas we are able to receive such high quality critical care assistance.

Sam, Jane and Alexander Barton
Huntley Station



TESTIMONIALS

We have owned a cattle property in the Nebo District for the past 20 years and have happily made a small donation each year to your service, glad to have it in the sky but hoping to never have to call upon its help.

Well, as luck would have it (or should we say bad luck), our daughter was helping a friend on a cattle property in the Moranbah District do some fencing. Unfortunately, her arm became entangled in some wire which was dragged under a wheel and damaged her forearm.

She was taken to Dysart Hospital and received fantastic support however the doctors deemed it necessary she see an Orthopaedic surgeon. The nearest facility was Mackay Base Hospital and your chopper was called to transfer her. It was late at night on a Sunday.

Thank you for providing this marvellous service you give to people like us in the bush. It is always greatly appreciated especially when the time comes to call upon you. Keep up the good work.

John & Rosalie Cox
Glensfield Station

I was in a great deal of pain as I lay on the ground waiting for help to arrive. The ground was so wet the only way out of there was in the rescue helicopter so when I heard the sound of the helicopter I had such a feeling of relief. I just wanted to get to hospital.

The doctor and ambulance officer were able to give me some pain relief which was a huge help. It's been a few months now since the accident and I still have a way to go with my recovery but I'd hate to think what might have happened if not for CQ RESCUE.

I am extremely grateful to them.

Warrick Smyth
Cerito Station

In 2002 and 2004 I was involved with the Australian Open Garden Scheme. The scheme is a not for profit organisation dedicated to funding community gardening projects throughout Australia. Income is derived from the entry fee and part of the garden-holders' entry fee is donated to charities at the Garden-owner's discretion.

CQ Rescue was my designated charity and I donated proceeds from both open gardens to them. It seemed every week CQ Rescue were involved in a rescue or emergency of some kind in the Whitsundays and back then their motto was "YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU'LL NEED US".

On 2nd March this year I had an unfortunate accident, coming off my pushbike and smashing my pelvis during a training ride. Fortunately I was not alone, as I was knocked unconscious and do not have any recollection of the events as they took place. Through my family and friends I have learned of my fantastic treatment and care shown by the medical staff on board the CQ chopper. Had they not been available a trip by road in an Ambulance to Mackay could have been a very uncomfortable experience.

Although I do not remember my flight or the wonderful team who cared for me on my way to Mackay I will remember one thing - the motto from many years ago: "YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU'LL NEED US" - and I did! THANK YOU!

Janelle Eastwood
Whitsundays



On 14th February this year I was fencing on a four-wheeler at my property near Collinsville when my life as I knew it was instantly changed.

As a result of the wet weather and remnants of Cyclone Yasi a tree had fallen across a road on the property. The four-wheeler I was riding struck the tree and I sustained spinal injuries in the accident.



HOW YOU CAN HELP US!

THIS YEAR OPERATIONAL COSTS FOR RACQ CQ RESCUE WILL EXCEED \$5 MILLION. TWO MILLION DOLLARS IS PROVIDED BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT WHICH MEANS MORE THAN \$3 MILLION IS FUNDRAISED BY THE SERVICE ANNUALLY.

This support comes to RACQ CQ RESCUE in a number of ways. Such as:

Sponsorships

Major sponsorship of RACQ CQ RESCUE allows companies to have their logo added to the helicopter. This involves two logos, one on each side of the helicopter for maximum exposure. We also offer the opportunity for cross-promotion which enables sponsors' employees to be involved with RACQ CQ RESCUE and permission to add our helicopter rescue service to your website as a recipient of your company's support. Contact Leonie Hansen at RACQ CQ RESCUE on 4998 5232 or 0427 578 182 for more information.

Rescue 100 Club

Currently we have approximately 140 Rescue 100 Club members who donate \$1,000 each year to RACQ CQ RESCUE. This amount is tax deductible for organisations and individuals and members are invited to sponsored events each quarter which allows them to meet other supporters and network with other businesses. Call Leonie on 4998 5232 for more details.

Payroll contributions

This is another way in which people can help RACQ CQ RESCUE. By making a donation from as little as \$2 per week, contributors are helping to keep the rescue helicopter in the air without them having to make a lump sum payment each year. Simply ask your payroll officer about making a donation through payroll deductions or call RACQ CQ RESCUE on (07) 4998 5232 for more information.

Matched giving

To encourage employees to take part in payroll contributions, some companies choose to match donations made by staff. Employees are often eager to donate to the helicopter rescue service through payroll deductions when they know their employer will match their contributions.

Donations

One major appeal is held each year by RACQ CQ RESCUE. This appeal is generally held in September however donations can be made at any time of the year by cash, cheque, credit card or debit card. Credit cards payments can be made by phoning the RACQ CQ RESCUE office on (07) 4998 5232. Pay Pal and donation forms are available at www.cqrescue.com.au.

Bequests

The thought of knowing that you, through bequeathing funds in your Will to RACQ CQ RESCUE may help to save lives after you are no longer with us is a comforting thought to a lot of people. RACQ - CQ RESCUE is an organisation which people are happy to assist financially if they are able. Unfortunately for some, this opportunity may only arise after they are gone. For more information about bequests, please call Phillip Dowler at RACQ CQ RESCUE on (07) 4998 5232, ask your solicitor or visit our website www.cqrescue.com.au

Fundraising Events

Are you the type of person who likes to get busy organising functions? Perhaps you would like to organise an event in support of RACQ CQ RESCUE.

Fundraising events are a great way to raise funds for RACQ CQ RESCUE. If you are planning a fundraising event, please consider RACQ CQ RESCUE as a recipient of your fundraising efforts. Call RACQ CQ RESCUE on 4998 5232 to share your ideas.

Merchandise

RACQ CQ RESCUE branded items currently available include polo shirts, pens, keyrings, stubby coolers, water bottles, caps and golf balls. For a full range of items for purchase please contact RACQ CQ RESCUE on 4998 5232.

CQ RESCUE Testing Services

CQ Rescue testing services offers drug and alcohol testing by accredited testers at RACQ CQ RESCUE or testers will go to individual businesses as requested. The service offers urine and saliva screening and alcohol breath testing.

All profits from CQ Rescue Testing Services are donated back to the helicopter rescue service. For more information, call 4998 5232 or email testing@cqrescue.com.au.