



December 2009

RACQ CQ RESCUE Bulletin

Our best wishes for the festive season



The Board, Management, Staff and Crew of RACQ – CQ RESCUE would like to wish our patients well.

We thank every one of you who have supported our helicopter rescue service in any form during 2009.

Take care during this Festive Season and best wishes from everyone at RACQ – CQ RESCUE

Another year behind us...

During 2009 the crew averaged just over one mission each day however January was by far the busiest month with the crew carrying out 40 missions in 31 days. Although not quite as hectic, February, October and April were also high tasking months.

The most frequent destination for the rescue crew was Moranbah followed by Hamilton Island however the Bowen Basin in general was the region in which the CQ RESCUE crew was most regularly tasked in 2009.

The RACQ – CQ RESCUE helicopter was in demand over the past twelve months having been asked to help our northern and southern neighbours. CQ RESCUE responded to calls outside the specified 300 kilometre radius from Mackay on more than 20 occasions helping both Townsville and Rockhampton regions when requested.

This figure does not include the number of missions flying patients from Mackay for specialized care in Townsville.

RACQ – CQ RESCUE operational costs remain at \$4.5 million per annum with 20% of this amount being provided by the State Government. The remaining funds are sourced through sponsorships, business donations, payroll contributions, bequests and community donations.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the 2009 Annual Appeal a success; to everyone who has contributed to RACQ – CQ RESCUE through payroll contributions: the Rescue 100 Club Members, sponsors, companies and community groups; to fundraisers and to those who have contributed goods or their time for fundraising purposes and for those who chose to bequeath funds to this vital service – you are the ones who ensure RACQ – CQ RESCUE is a lifeline when it's needed most.



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Remembering 2009



It is obvious that all missions cannot have a happy outcome but the overall result of missions during 2009 has been very positive.

The RACQ – CQ RESCUE crew attended numerous motor vehicle accidents and conducted quite a number of search and rescues throughout the past year.

24.01.09: The crew was tasked to Clermont Creek where a 31 year old Middlemount man was in anaphylactic shock and experiencing critical breathing difficulties. He was transferred on board the RACQ – CQ RESCUE helicopter to Rockhampton Base Hospital where he received medical attention and remained in Intensive Care for several days. The patient was so grateful he has since joined CQ RESCUE's 'Rescue 100 Club'.

08.02.09: A horrific day for the helicopter crew when they were tasked to a motor vehicle accident at St Lawrence. Five people were killed in the accident with the only survivor, an Italian Tourist, being transported to hospital by the RACQ – CQ RESCUE helicopter crew.

11.02.09: Another fatal motor vehicle accident when a 4WD and a tanker collided near Nebo. Two seriously injured men were airlifted by the RACQ – CQ RESCUE helicopter for medical treatment at Mackay Base Hospital.

14.02.09: Flood waters took the crew out of our region when they went to the rescue of a Queanbeyan resident and his family stranded on the roof of their car at Cape River near Charters Towers. The crew flew from Mackay to the flooded location, transferred the family to safety and returned to Townsville.

10.03.09: Who could forget the miraculous story of James Palmer, the young man whose colleagues and trawler were lost as a result of Cyclone Hamish off the coast of Rockhampton, near Swain Reef. If not for the EPIRB floating in the ocean, James would not have been so fortunate.

He was winched from the vast, angry ocean by the RACQ – CQ RESCUE crew and returned to terra firma.

04.04.09: A rescue with a slight difference after a boat capsized near Newry Island. Sider the dog became the first canine to be rescued by the helicopter crew. Sider's owners Karl and Tracee were also winched on board the RACQ – CQ RESCUE helicopter and taken to Mackay Base Hospital as a precaution.

15.04.09: The RACQ – CQ RESCUE crew responsible for retrieving passengers on board the stricken vessel Romance a year earlier in February 2008, were rewarded at Government House with Bravery Medals.

17.05.09: At Clermont a 30 year old man was severely injured during a Moto X accident. He received head injuries and was transported from Clermont to Townsville for specialized medical care.

12.06.09: A wonderful achievement came to RACQ – CQ RESCUE in the shape of a new hangar which was built with the help of a Federal Government Grant. The hangar which is approximately three times the size of the existing facility was officially opened on 12th June 2009.

08.07.09: RACQ – CQ RESCUE was able to put a brave smile on a young boy's face when the Make-A-Wish Foundation approached the crew to make Joel Bethel's dream of flying in a rescue helicopter come true. Joel and his family drove from Georgetown in the State's north just for this experience. He was treated to a brief flight over Mackay Harbour and north along the coastline before returning to the airport in Mackay.

01.08.09: Making headlines from Cairns to Brisbane was the transfer of a critically ill patient with Swine Flu. The man was a resident of Malanda and because of bed shortages at the Cairns and Townsville hospitals, he was transported by the Cairns-based rescue helicopter

to Townsville where he was met by the RACQ - CQ RESCUE crew. After his epic journey, the 48 year old man was finally admitted to Mackay Base Hospital where he remained for the duration of his recovery.

15.08.09: Jake Bryan is a very brave little boy. He was on his parents' boat near the Goldsmith Group of islands when he jumped off the boat as it was reversing. RACQ – CQ RESCUE was called to attend to Jake whose leg was severely damaged by the boat's propeller. Jake and his mum were airlifted from Goldsmith Island to Mackay Base Hospital where surgeons were able to save his leg and his outlook for an excellent recovery is very positive.

27.08.09: Back in Townsville again, the RACQ – CQ RESCUE helicopter was tasked to search for a missing man in bush land at Paluma. The newlywed embarked on a hiking expedition and failed to return on schedule. RACQ – CQ RESCUE was tasked by the Queensland Police Service to assist them in searching for the man who was eventually located safe and well.

11.09.09: The launch of Platinum Partners was on the agenda for RACQ – CQ RESCUE. Recognition is important at all levels of giving so what better way to recognize donations over \$100,000 per annum. Thank you BMA, CFMEU, G & S Engineering and Xstrata Coal - our inaugural Platinum Partners. We also welcomed new major sponsors in 2009 including: Arrow Energy, Macarthur Coal and Mackay Rod & Custom Club.

22.10.09: For the first time since 2003, RACQ – CQ RESCUE was called upon to assist the Queensland Fire Service (QFS) to locate and assess possible damage being caused by a fire near Eungella Dam. A representative from the QFS in Mackay was an aerial observer on board the rescue helicopter to report on the fire damage.

