



**Improving  
outcomes for  
rural and remote  
Tasmanians**



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National Mission >

To provide excellence in aeromedical and primary health care across Australia.

Tasmanian Vision >

To improve health outcomes for all Tasmanians with a specific focus on remote and rural areas.



RFDS Tasmania supports the aeromedical service and reaches out to communities to deliver a broad range of primary health care services and community projects to benefit all Tasmanians.

In Tasmania, the RFDS South Eastern Section works in partnership with Ambulance Tasmania to fill the vital role in the delivery of essential health care services by supplying the state's fixed wing air ambulance. The RFDS operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to provide Tasmanians with services which include emergency trauma evacuations and inter-hospital transfers to take patients to the specialist care they need.

COVER: ERIN MURALT, 2014 ROBIN MILLER RFDS NURSING SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



2014/15

Strategic plan  
finalised  
**2015/20**

Educational simulator  
visited 20 schools  
and reached over  
**2000**  
students



Appointment of  
inaugural CEO  
**John  
Kirwan**

The Provision of  
Primary Health Care  
Services Strategic  
Study released

Right as Rain business  
plan developed in  
partnership with  
Active Tasmania

Inter-hospital transfers  
**1036**



Medical research  
funding support for  
the Menzies Institute  
ASPREE Study



Annual medical,  
nursing and dental  
scholarships awarded

Advocacy for  
improved health  
equity of rural and  
remote Tasmanians

Expansion of dental  
health program

New patient transfer  
facilities opened at  
Flinders and King  
Islands

Flown around Tasmania and interstate

**465,393 km**



MESSAGE FROM OUR PATRON

I am delighted to write this Message for the 2014-2015 Annual Report of the Royal Flying Doctor Service Tasmania. As your new Patron I was able to be briefed earlier this year by your President, Malcom White, Secretary, Rob Grey and Board Member, Tim Maddock on the excellent work of the RFDS in Tasmania. Their enthusiasm and professionalism left me in no doubt that regional Tasmanians are in good hands in the provision of primary health care through the work of the dedicated staff team and volunteer Board.

RFDS Tasmania operates successfully across a range of areas including patient transfer facilities at airports; specialist medical equipment supporting aeromedical operations; dental services to Flinders island; while

your scholarships and association with the RFDS nationally together ensure best practice outcomes at all levels of your operations.

Donation support is critical and I thank the individuals, corporations, community organisations and government entities who through their support ensure the continuation and efficiency of the operations of the Royal Flying Doctor Service Tasmania.



**Her Excellency  
Professor the Honourable  
Kate Warner, AM,  
Governor of Tasmania**

*K Warner*

Q Their enthusiasm and professionalism left me in no doubt that regional Tasmanians are in good hands in the provision of primary health care through the work of the dedicated staff team and volunteer Board. Q







The Royal Flying Doctor Service Tasmania took a very significant and important step forward this year with the employment of a Chief Executive Officer.

We were fortunate in recruiting Mr John Kirwan, formerly CEO of the Tasmanian Health Organisation – North, including the Launceston General Hospital.

John brings to the RFDS a strong understanding of the health system in Tasmania and nationally together with an interest in primary health care, particularly in regional Tasmania.

Since commencing his role in January 2015, John has met with healthcare providers, government departments, service clubs, donors and local and state government members to hear first-hand how the RFDS can best serve the people of Tasmania, particularly those in rural and remote areas.

This consultative approach will underpin the services that the RFDS will build over the next few years.

Our ability to employ a CEO of John's experience and calibre was made possible by a very generous bequest from the late Mr Stan Merrett. This bequest enabled us to put in place the Stan Merrett Foundation.

Income from the Foundation significantly contributes to meeting the operating expenses of RFDS Tasmania including staff. This also means that each dollar of donated funds received will be fully applied to supporting aeromedical services and providing important health care programs for Tasmanians.

Earlier this year we held a function at the Base to acknowledge the significant contribution made by Stan. It was good to welcome many of Stan's former friends and colleagues from George Town along for the event.

The RFDS aircraft had another very busy year flying patients within

Tasmania and to Melbourne. In support of these operations, we worked with both the Flinders and King Island Councils to put in place drive-through patient shelters at each of Flinders and King Island airports.

We also committed to renewing and upgrading the existing patient shelter at Burnie Airport, Wynyard in recognition that the airport is one of the busiest ports of call for the RFDS aircraft. It is expected this work will be completed by Christmas 2015.

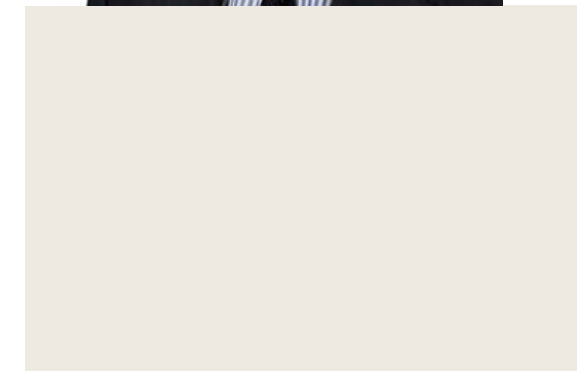
During the year, we commissioned and distributed a report on the health status of rural Tasmanians compared with those who live in the major city centres. This report showed clearly that people who live outside the major centres experience poorer health outcomes. An area of particular concern to us is dental health, particularly for young people living in rural Tasmania.

As a pilot program and working with the State Government we sponsored a dental health check and referral service for a group of children living in the Huon. The program showed that a rural dental outreach program is needed and the Huon program will be the forerunner for further and similar initiatives.

Following on from this work, I believe we will see more and more initiatives conducted in partnership with the State Government. This also recognises the importance of the Government working closely with the Not-for-Profit sector and particularly the RFDS as State health budgets come under increasing pressure.

To this end, our CEO, John Kirwan and I met with the Minister for Health and other State and Federal politicians. It is important they understand the work of the RFDS and how essential the service is to people who live outside the major city centres.

One of the most enjoyable parts of my role as President is to meet individuals



and groups of donors who raise funds for the RFDS. This year I attended the Cam-Somerset, Country Music Jam Session at Somerset and in November a wonderful musical event organised by Gillian Woods and Kathleen Ives-Heap held in the Furneaux Arts and Entertainment Centre at Whitemark on Flinders Island.

A further highlight was the RFDS being chosen as the charity of the year at Agfest. We received thousands of visits at our display and heard from many people who had either themselves or had a close relative travel on the RFDS aircraft.

During the year, I continued my role as the nominee Director for Tasmania on the Federation Board. This Board, Chaired by the Hon Amanda Vanstone, is responsible for the RFDS relationship with the Commonwealth Government, particularly as it relates to medical retrieval services in outback Australia.

I am pleased to report that the incoming Governor of Tasmania, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner, AM, agreed to be our Patron. In company with other members of the Board, I recently had the pleasure of meeting Her Excellency and providing an overview of our work in Tasmania and further afield.

I would like to acknowledge and thank our donors and fundraisers. The RFDS enjoys the financial support of many individuals, families, work groups and



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service clubs. On behalf of the Board and staff, I express our gratitude and give you an assurance that your gift is being put to work to benefit the healthcare needs of Tasmanians.

Again this year we were supported in our community work by RFDS Ambassador, Nick Duigan and my thanks to Nick.

In summary, it has been a significant year for the RFDS in Tasmania during which the foundations for growth have been laid.

**Malcolm White**  
President

I am privileged to Chair a talented and committed Board of Directors. All give of their time and expertise generously and without remuneration. We welcomed Mrs Elizabeth Daly OAM to the Board in June.

Similarly, I acknowledge the work and commitment of our small staff team who share in the values of the RFDS.





Since January 2015, I have spent time meeting supporters, donors and stakeholders. The feedback and goodwill towards the RFDS has been overwhelming. While our role in aeromedical and patient transport is understood, our role and interests in primary health care are less well known, both in Tasmania and the considerable primary health work being undertaken by our other Sections on the mainland. The long history of providing primary health care services to those who cannot access mainstream services is less well known.

The RFDS has a successful history of using innovation and working with dedicated RFDS staff in partnership with other health providers, governments at all levels, and critically the local communities. The long history in providing remote tele-medical consultations and other inventions such as the RFDS Medical Chests is an example of a practical solution being applied to address the tyranny of distance and access. We are now using the same approach to develop solutions to address the health care needs of remote and rural Tasmania today and into the future.

A key element of this approach is to ensure that we use an evidence-based approach, as this will ensure that what we do is contemporary and not a duplication of effort. RFDS, both our section and the Federation have commissioned and released several leading papers, all evidence based and further reports are being prepared. These have been well received and are now being used as a key reference. The need to identify the health task we are facing, at a community level, is critical to ensuring we are able to assist and encourage

the delivery of programs to address the poor health outcomes of remote and rural Tasmanians.

2014/15 has been a period of significant change in the Australian health system, both at a Federal and state level, with both levels of government undergoing a white paper led reform process. The changes in primary care have led to the closing of Tasmania Medicare Local and its replacement with Primary Care Tasmania. All these changes present challenges and opportunities for the RFDS.

In line with our vision and strategic direction, we remain focused on patient transport and aeromedical services, including identifying opportunities where we are able to improve the quality of care for the patient and support RFDS and Ambulance Tasmania staff. We are also working to expand our activities in the primary care area with an expanded dental health program, in partnership with the Oral Health Services Tasmania and the Australian Dental Association.

In addition, we have developed and are in the proof of concept stage with an innovative primary care initiative focused on the rural show circuit with a strong focus on prevention, health promotion and early diagnosis and referral.

We would not have been able to progress as quickly without the support and guidance of the other RFDS Sections and their CEO's. In particular, I would like to thank the Federation CEO, Mr Martin Lavery and his staff, the CEO of RFDS Victoria, Mr Scott Chapman, his Board and staff and the CEO of the RFDS South Eastern Section, Mr Greg Sam and his staff.

**John Kirwan**  
Chief Executive Officer




We are now using the same approach to develop solutions to address the health care needs of remote and rural Tasmania today and into the future. 

## Our Community >



### Music for the RFDS

For 20 years, a remarkable woman from Flinders Island has presented musical soirees to support the work of the Flying Doctor.

Gillian Woods trained as a classical pianist in London before moving to a farm on Flinders Island. Realising the vital link that the RFDS provides for people who live in rural and remote communities, Gillian used her talents to organise, host and perform in 'Music for the RFDS'.

On the third weekend each November for the past 20 years, the RFDS Tasmania Honorary Life Member has opened her home, Yirriluka to present two musical soirees.

To mark the 20th anniversary of Gillian's concerts, a gala event was held at the Flinders Island, Arts and Entertainment Centre. Over 170 people attended

to enjoy a music-filled evening which featured classical piano solos by Gillian, flute renditions by Kathleen Ives-Heap, the Island Harmony Choir and the a capella singers.

RFDS Tasmania was represented by President Malcolm White, who thanked Gillian and talked about the future vitality of the service.

Congratulations Gillian and thanks from us all.



Horse riding a staggering  
**3000 km**



### Long Ride 4 Life

A unique fundraising idea originated out of a need to transport four horses from Queensland to Tasmania. Self-professed city slicker, Terrill Riley-Gibson, thought why not ride them? It couldn't be that hard! The Long Ride 4 Life was born as a joint community fundraiser to support the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the Leukaemia Foundation.

The courageous foursome included Terrill and her husband, Andrew Gibson, who is a leukaemia survivor. Terrill's father, Harold Riley, a lifelong stockman who had been rescued by the Flying Doctor in Outback Queensland, and Anna Hoogeboom, a Dutch architectural technician completed the team.

The horse ride commenced at Longreach, Queensland and followed many of the stock routes on their journey south through NSW and Victoria before arriving in Tasmania three months later, having ridden a staggering 3,000 kilometres.

From all at the RFDS, thank you, Terrill, Andrew, Harold and Anna for your incredible support.



Visited school classes around the state

75



Look! Up in the Sky

The educational program is an innovative resource that teaches students in grades 3 to 6 about the important contribution that the RFDS makes to those who live, work and travel throughout Australia. The program builds on school community awareness of the organisation and pays tribute to its past and present work.

The online program was developed by RFDS Victoria and is based on the RFDS core values of respect, teamwork, leadership, fairness and compassion.

The Tasmanian Educational Consultant visits schools to share information with teachers to provide learning ideas that link directly to the mandated Australian Curriculum.

The interactive educational simulator made a welcome return during the year with Tom Ryan, Program Manager – Education, visiting 75 primary school classes around the state to bring the educational program to life through a fun engagement session.

We thank RFDS Victoria for their continuing support to help lift the profile of the service in Tasmanian primary schools and their parent communities.



Aeromedical simulator



Australian Early Holden Federation National Titles

FX and FJ Holden national titles

The 22nd Australian Early Holden Federation (AEHF), FX and FJ national titles were held in Tasmania in December and the RFDS was nominated as one of their charities of choice during the titles.

The AEHF is a not-for-profit organisation that promotes the use,

modification or restoration of all FX and FJ Holden vehicles. Membership is drawn from various clubs around Australia and the members meet bi-annually in a different state to participate in the national titles.

Thanks to the AEHF and Holden enthusiasts for your charitable support of the Flying Doctor.

Dental outreach program

Research undertaken on behalf of the RFDS indicated that dental health was of an area of need in rural and remote Tasmania.

Subsequently, a preventative dental health care trial was carried out at a primary school in Southern Tasmania. Students were provided with screening, fluoride varnish, fissure sealant and referrals where required.

RFDS Tasmania has since partnered with Oral Health Services Tasmania to deliver dental clinics for the South East Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation. The aim of the program was to help families that were not able to attend services at local Oral Health Clinics and to provide education and information at the time of consultation.



Di Murphy RFDS, Lottie Birley, Madeleine Tatnell and Ruby Tatnell from Cygnet Primary School

3 day event attracts

60,000 patrons



RFDS volunteers, Daniel Kosta, Phil Rylands & Zoe Duniam, PR & Friends



RFDS Pilot Andrew Roe & Eli Hefford

Agfest supports the Flying Doctor

The RFDS was chosen as the 2015 official charity of Agfest, the state's premier rural field event, held annually at Quercus Park in Tasmania.

As the 2015 official charity, the RFDS received a donation and a prime vantage point near the entry gates to increase awareness about the important work that the service performs here in Tasmania.

Agfest is entirely self-funded and run by a volunteer committee from Rural Youth Tasmania to support rural business in the state. The three-day event attracts in excess of 60,000 patrons.

The aeromedical training simulator and medical dummy were on show, attracting a high level of interest and our volunteers heard heart-warming stories from many patrons about their experiences with the RFDS.

Our site featured a photographic and historical memorabilia display and a colouring-in competition for children which was judged by our ambassador, Nick Duigan.

Thanks to the wonderful volunteers who worked tirelessly to ensure that our appearance at Agfest was a great success.



Nick Duigan judging the colouring-in competition

Scholarships

RFDS Tasmania offers three annual scholarships to provide medical and nursing students and dental assistants with the experience of living in remote Australia and working there with the RFDS. The scholarships aim to encourage future involvement by students in rural and remote medicine and dentistry, especially here in Tasmania.

Congratulations to the 2014 recipients, Sarah Henderson, Erin Murali and Hannah Mackinnon. Their reports are provided in the following pages.

RFDS Tasmania thanks the RFDS South Eastern Section, RFDS Central Operations, the University of Tasmania, TasTAFE, Ambulance Tasmania and Mr Colin and Mrs Betty Hite OAM, for supporting the scholarships.





Primary health care services study

A report and associated study commissioned by RFDS Tasmania, Provision of Primary Health Care Services Strategic Study found that there are considerable differences in health outcomes between remote Tasmania and those residing in areas where services are present and easily accessible.

The report and associated study brought together a wide range of evidence-based information about the health status of the Tasmanian population and described the potential opportunities for the RFDS to contribute in primary health care.

RFDS Tasmania is now building on past good work and looking to expand primary health care programs to assist in bridging this gap.

ASPREE: Healthy Ageing Biobank study

RFDS Tasmania partnered with the Menzies Institute for Medical Research to provide philanthropic support for important research to improve health outcomes of people in the state's regional areas.

The Menzies ASPREE: Healthy Ageing Biobank study aims to determine whether the potential benefits of aspirin outweigh the risks for people over the age of 65.

The RFDS funded the employment of a Burnie based skilled research assistant to service the rural and remote areas of Tasmania in the Menzies Biobus to collect, process and store blood and other biospecimens from participants.



Professor Mark Nelson, Menzies Institue & Malcolm White, RFDS Tas



King Island patient transfer facility



Flinders Island patient transfer facility

Transfer facilities for the Islands

RFDS Tasmania developed the design of patient transfer facilities for regional airports around Tasmania. The purpose built facilities are used to improve the overall comfort and safety of Ambulance Tasmania patients and assist medical staff during the transfer of patients from road ambulance to air ambulance.

Under the arrangement, the purchase of the shelter, together with a contribution towards the cost of installation is met by RFDS Tasmania and local Councils install and maintain the shelters on airport land. During the year shelters were constructed at Flinders and King Islands.

Fred McKay Medical Student Scholarship >

By Sarah Henderson

My parents, both rural GPs, brought me up in the bush of Western Australia. Here, I played in the dry creek beds, roamed amongst the gums and fell in love with red dirt and wide open spaces. I also developed a strong sense of adventure and a slight addiction to adrenalin. Fast forward 20 years to the end of my medical degree and it seemed that being a rural GP was the natural choice.

To any young doctor looking at country general practice as a career path, spending time with the Flying Doctor is definitely a dream come true. For me, the Fred McKay Medical Student Scholarship was just that. A shining cherry on top of the graduation cake served with some unforgettable experiences and valuable lessons.

I started my placement at the RFDS Base in Broken Hill, a town comprised of two perfect grids of streets connected by a man-made hill. Here I was able to join regular clinic flights, patient transport flights, telecommunication with remote community health centres and the occasional retrieval.

Flying out to the towns of the NSW and SA outback is amazing. Across that vast expanse of desert appears a tiny pocket of humanity – again arranged in a perfect grid – and dotted between these little centres, if you look hard, you see tiny specks of farmers stations, the odd dust cloud kicked up by a car and maybe a fence line.

After arriving in town, I went to Yunta, Ivanhoe and Wiawera and met some of the most genuine and resilient people I have ever encountered. Whether it was a 25-year-old motorcyclist who came a cropper two days earlier and was bleeding internally, or an 86-year-old man with heart problems who fainted after throwing four dead sheep over the fence, it felt like every fourth person at the remote clinics had a story to tell and a nasty scar to show; usually as the result of a farming accident. Every one of these stories ended with ‘Gee, the RFDS helped me out that day!’.

From the great dry spaces of NSW, I went to the much greener, much smaller Tasmania. Here the busy Launceston RFDS Base provides an intrastate and interstate patient transport service, as well as an emergency service to Tasmania’s islands in partnership

with Ambulance Tasmania. What an adventure it was to travel between Wynyard, St Helens, Hobart, Melbourne and to both Flinders and Cape Barren Islands, all the while learning from the dedicated Ambulance Tasmania flight paramedics and skilled doctors working on the plane. One memorable night, we transported a critically ill patient from Launceston to Hobart for emergency neurosurgery then flew back along the east coast as the sun rose.

Thank you so much to the RFDS for providing this scholarship and to the staff I have met along the way. The lessons I have learned will make a difference to my professional practice and the memories I have will last a lifetime.





# Robin Miller RFDS Nursing Scholarship >

By Erin Muralt

I was privileged to have the extraordinary opportunity to undertake a clinical placement with the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) of South Australia as the 2014 recipient of the Robin Miller RFDS Nursing Scholarship. For two weeks, I was positioned with the RFDS Central Operations with bases in Port Augusta, Adelaide and Alice Springs.

Registered nurses at the RFDS are highly skilled and experienced practitioners who are required to have a background in emergency care, intensive care and midwifery. This corresponds with the nature of the duties in which they may experience at any time. The RFDS involves a multidisciplinary team including a community health nurse/flight nurse, doctor, mental health nurse, pilot, communications team, aircraft engineer and administration team.

I completed shifts doing both on-call work and community-based work. I have been able to work alongside a very close knit and knowledgeable health care team to work with people from different cultures, lifestyles and a diverse range of backgrounds.

Outback Australia is absolutely incredible and it has definitely opened my eyes to a range of roles that the

Registered Nurse plays in health care in rural and remote Australia. I completed a range of tasks from assessing cardiac arrhythmias, to antenatal care, to assisting the doctor in small procedures, to feeding premature twins.

Over the period of two weeks I travelled extensively to places like Billa Kalina, Commonwealth Hill, Challenger Gold Mine, Kingoonya, Glendambo, Ceduna, Cook, Oak Valley, Port Pirie, Adelaide, Coober Pedy, Cowell, Yalata, Maree, Mungeranie, Cowarie, Muloorina and Port Augusta. I experienced everything from closed Aboriginal communities, cattle station homesteads to transferring critical patients from small regional hospitals to the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia has such a pivotal role in allowing people to access world-class health care in rural and remote Australia.

I am thankful to the RFDS for providing the scholarship and the team at Port Augusta has certainly inspired me to pursue my nursing career hopefully as a Flight Nurse at some stage in the future.



I completed shifts doing both on-call work and community-based work. 9



# John Flynn Dental Assistant Scholarship >

By Hannah Mackinnon

During my time in Broken Hill I learnt a lot about the Australian Indigenous culture because most of the patients we saw were of Aboriginal descent. Having lived in the Northern Territory for around 4 months a few years ago, I had learned of the struggle with health care in remote places.

Working in the health care setting of Broken Hill and the small surrounding communities, opened my eyes a little more to the importance of the work carried out by the RFDS.

If there were no available services it would be extremely difficult for patients to seek medical help. In emergency situations residents are able to radio the RFDS for help and a plane with the necessary equipment wouldn't be far away. How many fatal injuries or deaths would occur without the RFDS?

It was also very clear for me to see the appreciation towards RFDS staff members from the patients we had seen. We removed a tooth from a man who had been in pain for around 6

weeks and was unable to eat properly or tend to his duties on the cattle station. The relief in his eyes, as he shook the dentists hand at the end of treatment, was a very pleasing sight to see.

At the end of my placement I was excited to go home and see my family although very sad to leave behind the work I was doing. I had met some wonderful people along the way and will keep in touch with them.

The John Flynn Dental Assistant Scholarship is a wonderful opportunity for a dental assistant seeking an exciting experience and one that a regular assisting job could not offer. Flying to work every day was my favourite part of the placement along with the nice big grins we received from the grateful patients after treatment.

I'd like to once again thank everyone involved in the scholarship and I will cherish the great memories always.



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Stan Merrett was a long term member and supporter of the RFDS in Tasmania. Stan died in late 2013 and generously left a significant bequest to RFDS Tasmania.

The RFDS Tasmania Board decided to establish a separate investment fund named the Stan Merrett Foundation to support the work of the RFDS in Tasmania. The Foundation is an internal fund controlled by RFDS Tas, and hence has the Deductible Gift Recipient and Tax Concession Charity status of RFDS Tas.

In collaboration with the RFDS Tas Board, JB Were manages the assets of the Stan Merrett Foundation in accordance with an investment policy and a mandate that aims for a conservative but competitive return.

The Board intends that two thirds of the earnings of the Foundation be available each year to support projects that further the achievement of our aim to improve health outcomes for all Tasmanians by focussing on the needs

of remote and rural Tasmania. The remaining third will be reinvested in the Foundation. The Board may in future contribute additional amounts to the Foundation from significant bequests or donations.

At 30 June 2015 the value of the Stan Merrett Foundation was \$4,988,609.

The Stan Merrett Foundation has given us the capacity to substantially increase the scale and continuity of our operations to help people in need in rural and remote Tasmania.

Malcolm White  
President

The late Stanley Raymond Merrett

7/6/1928 – 18/12/2013

Stan was born in the county of Hampshire, England in June 1928. He studied to become a chartered Electrical Engineer and at a relatively young age moved to Germany to work on a new power station after the 2nd World War ended. He also worked in Italy, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia and toured India extensively.

He returned to England before accepting a position with Comalco in Tasmania and settled at George Town. While working with Comalco, he travelled frequently to New Zealand and Japan to check on the installations occurring in those regions.

He always dressed in a suit and tie and worked with a clear desk issuing most of his instructions verbally. Stan was a well-respected member of staff.

He purchased his home in George Town in 1974 where he lived for the

remainder of his life. He established warm relationships with the neighbours who fondly remember him for his love of classical music, poetry and sports cars.

He obtained his pilot's licence at age 60 and joined the George Town Airport Association, a volunteer group that was instrumental in the development of the George Town Airport.

He became a member of the Royal Flying Doctor Service in Tasmania attending many of the Annual General Meetings and received his Australian Citizenship in 2008.

A quiet and unassuming man, Stan Merrett will be remembered for his kindness and caring nature, respected by all who met him.

RFDS Tasmania pays tribute to the late Stanley Raymond Merrett and the lasting legacy he has left to support the work of the Flying Doctor here in Tasmania.



The late Stan Merrett (right)

The RFDS has provided aeromedical and primary health care services to the people of Tasmania for more than 50 years.

The generosity of our supporters has enabled the RFDS to provide specialist medical equipment and ancillary aviation equipment for the aircraft and build patient transfer facilities at regional airports around the state.

Thanks to our committed supporters we have been able to deliver oral health programs, provide annual scholarships for medical, dental and nursing students and fund important research to advance the long-term health of Tasmanians.

We are now building on past good work and expanding our primary health care outreach programs for rural and remote areas of the state.

RFDS Tasmania thanks the University of Tasmania, Active Tasmania, TasTAFE, Ambulance Tasmania, Oral Health Services Tasmania, RFDS South Eastern

Section and RFDS Central Operations for partnering with us to deliver scholarships and health care programs to benefit Tasmanians.

We sincerely thank Mr Colin and Mrs Betty Hite OAM for supporting the John Flynn Dental Assistant Scholarship.

We are deeply grateful to our supporters who choose to pledge a bequest to the RFDS in their will. In doing so, we are able to continue to provide our services into the future. Every gift in every will makes a difference no matter how large or small.

RFDS Tasmania recognises the bequests made by the: **Estate of the late Robin Allan Cannon, Estate of the late Allison Jennifer Turtle, Estate of the late Bertha Florence Chandler, Estate of the late Paul Roderic John Dalton, Estate of the late Mollie Lorraine Ogilvie, Estate of the late Rene Wilhelmus van den Heuvel and the Estate of the late Leonie Ransom.**

We wish to acknowledge and thank our donors. Your generosity and commitment are invaluable by allowing us to achieve the mission and vision of the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Special thanks to Brian and Wendy Faulkner for supporting RFDS Tasmania.

Thanks to Nick Duigan, our honorary Ambassador, for his ongoing commitment to represent the interests of the RFDS.

We are grateful to our dedicated, hardworking and loyal volunteers who give so generously of their time and skills.

RFDS Tasmania thanks all the individuals and organisations who kindly fundraise to help keep the Flying Doctor flying. We are grateful for your support.

Thank you for helping us to take the finest care to the furthest corners of Tasmania during 2014/15.





RFDS Tasmania is governed by a Board, comprising a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 2 -5 other members, all of whom are elected on a rotational basis at the Annual General Meeting. The RFDS Tasmanian Board also nominates a representative to the RFDS Australia Federation Board.

All positions are honorary and Directors are independent of management and key contractors. The Board has appropriate policies in place to declare and manage conflicts of interest. Details of the Directors and their qualifications and experience are set out on the following page. The Board meets at least six times each year.

The Board operates in accordance with the Governance Standards set for charities by the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission.

**Purpose and Not-for-Profit nature**

The Board is responsible for the overall governance of RFDS Tasmania in accordance with our Constitution. The Board sets the values, goals and strategic direction of RFDS Tasmania;

monitors achievement of these goals; and oversees the operations of the RFDS in Tasmania (except for the Air Ambulance contract operated by RFDS South Eastern Section).

**Accountability to members**

RFDS Tasmania receives strong community and government support and the Board is cognisant of our obligations to the community in which we operate. We ensure that our staff and volunteers understand our mission and values. We have established fundraising principles and guidelines to meet State and Federal legislative requirements and provide regular communications to our members and supporters.

**Compliance with Australian laws**

The Board is accountable for compliance with all statutory and regulatory authorities. The Board has established a Risk and Finance committee to assist in developing appropriate policies, controls and delegations and to monitor compliance with laws and regulations.

**Suitability of Responsible persons**

The Board has established a Governance and Nominations Committee, to assist the Board to discharge its responsibilities in relation to the composition, structure and operations of the Board including evaluation of the Board's performance and identification of suitable development opportunities for Board members. The Board undertakes due diligence prior to the appointment of new Board members to ensure that they are not disqualified from being a responsible person under Commonwealth legislation.

**Duties of responsible persons**

Board members receive a letter of appointment setting out their duties and expectations and are provided with relevant induction processes and materials.



**Top row L-R** Malcolm White, Dr George Merridew, Rob Grey, Sarah Merridew.  
**Bottom row L-R** Lindsay Millar OAM, Caroline Wells, Tim Maddock, Jan Davis, Elizabeth Daly OAM.

RFDS Tasmania Board >

**Mr Malcolm White**

**PRESIDENT**  
**CHAIR GOVERNANCE AND NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**  
**MEMBER RISK AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Elected 2005

A/CEO, TAFE Directors Australia  
Director, Royal Flying Doctor Service Australia  
Former CEO, TAFE Tasmania  
Master of Business Administration  
Air Transport Pilot Licence

**Dr George Merridew**

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
**MEMBER GOVERNANCE AND NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

Elected 1995

Fellow, ANZ College of Anaesthetists  
RAAF Reserve (Ret)

**Mr Robert Grey**

**SECRETARY/PUBLIC OFFICER**

Elected 1999

Retired RAAF Officer  
Master of Defence Studies  
Company Director  
Justice of the Peace  
Commercial Pilot Licence

**Mrs Sarah Merridew**

**TREASURER**  
**CHAIR RISK AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**MEMBER INVESTMENT COMMITTEE**

Elected 2006

Non Executive Director of MyState Limited and TasRail  
Chartered Accountant  
Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors  
Former Partner of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

**Mr Lindsay Millar OAM**

Elected 1965

Retired Orchardist  
Foundation member and Past President RFDS National Council and Aviation Committee 1976 – 1988  
Former Director, Royal Flying Doctor Service 2002 – 2008  
RFDS Rev. John Flynn Fellowship Award (National) 2009  
Tasmanian Aero Club Past President and Life member  
Private Pilot's Licence

**Ms Caroline Wells**

**MEMBER GOVERNANCE AND NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

Elected 2009

Chief Executive Officer, Diabetes Tasmania  
Master of Business Administration  
Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors  
Former Director of Nursing, Hobart Private Hospital

**Mr Tim Maddock**

**CHAIR INVESTMENT COMMITTEE**  
**MEMBER RISK AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Elected 2012

Partner, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu  
Fellow, Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand  
Chartered Tax Advisor, The Tax Institute  
Former President and Treasurer of Relationships Australia, Tasmania  
Member of The Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania's Finance Committee

**Ms Jan Davis**

**MEMBER GOVERNANCE & NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

Elected 2013

Agribusiness consultant  
Chief Executive Officer, Agribusiness Association of Australia  
Non Executive Director, Landcare Australia Ltd and Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture Masters in Agribusiness and Environmental Planning  
Bachelors Degree in Economics  
Graduate Diplomas in Education and Environmental Studies  
Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors  
Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management, Australian Institute Of Agricultural Science and Technology and the Australian Society of Australian Executives

**Mrs Elizabeth Daly OAM**

Elected 2015

Northern Manager, Colony47  
Fellow, University of Tasmania  
Chair of Tasmanian Early Years Foundation  
Former Chair, University of Tasmania Council  
Former interim Commissioner for Children  
Retired Principal, Senior Superintendent, Director of Education  
Master of Education





For the year ended  
30 June 2015 >

The financial statements and other specific disclosures are a summary of and have been derived from the audited financial statements of the Royal Flying Doctor Service Tasmania Inc (RFDS Tasmania) for the year ended 30 June 2015.

The summary financial report does not, and cannot be expected to provide a full understanding of the financial performance or financial position of RFDS Tasmania as the full report.

A copy of the Annual Financial Statements and Auditor's Report will be available at the Annual General Meeting and can be provided upon request.

RFDS Tasmania is an association established under the Associations Incorporation Act (Tasmania) 1964, and operates in accordance with the legislative requirements and its Constitution. The accounts are audited each year and a copy lodged with the Business Affairs branch of the Department of Justice.

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR  
THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

| REVENUE   | 2015<br>\$ | 2014<br>\$ |
|---|------------|------------|
| Donations, bequest & fundraising                | 464,246    | 215,762    |
| Bequests – Stan Merrett Foundation              | 4,988,609  | -          |
| Grants  | 144,000    | 116,063    |
| Interest received                               | 154,196    | 64,769     |
| Market Value Movement – Stan Merrett Foundation | 194,815    | -          |
| Other income                                    | 5,264      | 4,038      |
| Rent  | 35,000     | 35,000     |
| OPERATING INCOME                                | 5,986,130  | 435,632    |
| EXPENSES  |            |            |
| Administration and other                        | 77,178     | 65,438     |
| Depreciation & impairment                       | 60,408     | 154,454    |
| Employment costs                                | 217,813    | 145,918    |
| Facilities costs                                | 35,276     | (20,542)   |
| Fundraising and events                          | 14,076     | 5,220      |
| Primary health care                             | 95,029     | 91,497     |
| Schools education program                       | 17,015     | 25,787     |
| Aeromedical donations                           | 12,846     | 49,682     |
| OPERATING EXPENSES                              | 529,641    | 517,454    |
| OPERATING PROFIT/(LOSS))                        | 5,456,489  | (81,822)   |

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2015

|   | 2015<br>\$ | 2014<br>\$ |
|---|------------|------------|
| ASSETS                                      |            |            |
| Cash at bank and on hand 1                  | 1,533,526  | 1,840,711  |
| Accounts receivable                         | 29,591     | 14,577     |
| Inventories                                 | 632        | 499        |
| Investments                                 | 5,735,974  | -          |
| TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS                        | 7,299,723  | 1,855,787  |
| Property, plant and equipment 2             | 204,446    | 192,277    |
| TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS                    | 204,446    | 192,277    |
| TOTAL ASSETS                                | 7,504,170  | 2,048,064  |
| Trade and other payables                    | 36,642     | 38,625     |
| Provision for annual leave                  | 11,835     | 10,236     |
| TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES                   | 48,477     | 48,861     |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES                           | 48,477     | 48,861     |
| NET ASSETS                                  | 7,455,692  | 1,999,203  |
| EQUITY                                      |            |            |
| Accumulated Funds - Other                   | 1,867,083  | 1,399,203  |
| Accumulated Funds – Stan Merrett Foundation | 4,988,609  | -          |
| Total Accumulated Funds                     | 6,855,692  | 1,399,203  |
| Capital Maintenance Reserve                 | 600,000    | 600,000    |
| TOTAL EQUITY                                | 7,455,692  | 1,999,203  |

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2015

| ACCUMULATED FUNDS                              | 2015<br>\$ | 2014<br>\$ |
|--|------------|------------|
| Accumulated funds at the beginning of the year | 1,399,203  | 1,481,026  |
| Total comprehensive income for the year        | 5,456,489  | (81,823)   |
| ACCUMULATED FUNDS AT THE END OF THE YEAR       | 6,855,692  | 1,399,203  |

NOTES

1. Cash at Bank comprises current accounts and term deposits with major Australian banks.
2. Property, plant and equipment includes buildings on leasehold land. All assets are depreciated over the shorter of their useful lives or the term of the lease.

*Sarah Merridew*

Sarah Merridew  
Hon Treasurer





# How you can help >

Thanks to the kind support of individuals, families, corporations, governments and the community, the Royal Flying Doctor Service has proudly served Australia for 87 years.

To continue our work in the Tasmanian community, we need your support.

- > Send your donation to Royal Flying Doctor Service Tasmania, PO Box 1087, Launceston TAS 7250
- > Phone us on 03 6191 0504 or 1300 669 569
- > Visit **flyingdoctor.org.au** to make an online donation



[flyingdoctor.org.au](http://flyingdoctor.org.au)



[facebook.com/royalflyingdoctorservice](https://facebook.com/royalflyingdoctorservice)



[@RoyalFlyingDoc](https://twitter.com/RoyalFlyingDoc)

## RFDS Tasmania

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**Royal Flying Doctor Service**  
**TASMANIA**

ABN 93 785 910 050