

# The Flying Doctor



The Official Magazine of the  
Royal Flying Doctor Service



*Celebrating  
90 years of Service*

Photo: Sarah Makse, Esperance Express



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Royal Flying Doctor Service  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# CEO's Message



## Our Flying Doctor crews on the frontline of our 24-hour aeromedical emergency service continue to work through these unprecedented times.

**T**he Royal Flying Doctor Service has been a trusted and quintessential Australian partner in Western Australia for more than 90 years.

We are there to help a mate when they need us the most - and that time is now, in the coming weeks and the many months ahead.

We are actively helping every day in many different ways.



Our response has been swift and collaborative. As a frontline responder, we have a seat at the table of the State's emergency response coordination team and we are collaborating as a key ally in WA's health response.



RFDS WO has an integrated fleet of 16 PC-12 turbo props and two Rio Tinto *Lifeflight* PC-24 jets which have revolutionised the way we can coordinate our resources across the largest health jurisdiction in the world.



Our logisticians in our Coordination Centre are a pivotal resource in coordinating and mobilising emergency service responses in collaboration with our health network partners.



We have five strategically located bases across Western Australia ensuring a far-reaching geographical impact and prompt aeromedical response.



We employ our own specialist emergency doctors, flight nurses, pilots, avionics engineers and logisticians to ensure the highest level of professional care.



We have more than 500 Medical Chests strategically located around the regions – stocked with important pharmaceuticals to treat and stabilise patients.



We have access and experience in servicing 784 landing strips in regional WA.



Each of our aircraft are intensive care units in the sky and fully equipped with ventilators, monitors and innovative, purpose-built aeromedical equipment.

**The response to, and recovery from, COVID-19 will be a critical, ongoing team effort. We are recruiting more doctors, nurses, pilots and support team to keep our teams response ready throughout the pandemic.**

We routinely treat patients with infectious diseases and we have effective and excellent infection control protocols and experience. Our Infection Control, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and aircraft cleaning/decontamination protocols are leading the way in aeromedical retrievals. The health and safety of our patients and staff are at the forefront of our operations.

As we pivot our focus to the most pressing issues as they evolve each day, we have made many decisions in recent weeks which may affect you as one of our valued supporters.

We have suspended visitors, tours and events at all of our bases for the foreseeable future. We apologise if this has inconvenienced you and we look forward to a time in the future when we can welcome you again to our base.

We have introduced working from home arrangements for those staff able to conduct their work remotely. We ask for your patience if this means that your donation may take a few extra days to be processed or your call answered.

As an advocate for health equity and community health care, I strongly encourage you to take heed of the public health advice to ensure hand hygiene, social distancing, cough etiquette and to stay home and avoid unnecessary outings. These are simple measures to contain the spread of the virus and they really do make a difference.

We are all in this together and please be assured that the Flying Doctor is doing our part for Western Australia.

As we respond to this pandemic, we reflect on the privilege we hold at the RFDS, in being able to serve the Western Australian community at this time when they need us the most.

Warmest regards,



**Rebecca Tomkinson**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Royal Flying Doctor Service,  
Western Australia

## Strategic Direction 2020 and Beyond

**RFDS WO has a strategic mission to provide excellence in aeromedical and primary health care.**

We have made a promise to remote and regional Western Australians to:

- continue providing our clinical care where it is needed
- advocate for the needs of communities
- strive to promote health equity and
- work with partners to strengthen the health system.

### Priorities

Emergency healthcare



Community healthcare



Building capacity & capability



Health equity & advocacy



### Enablers



Healthy people & culture



Adaptive service models



Partnerships & relationships



Resource sustainability



# COVID-19 Appeal



## Response Ready for WA

**The RFDS is response ready with our specialist care, aeromedical equipment and deep experience in infection control and serving regional Western Australia.**

We stand ready to support the Western Australian community throughout COVID-19 and beyond.

The response to, and recovery from, COVID-19 will be a critical, ongoing team effort and we are calling on all sectors of the community to support us.

We acknowledge the support of the corporate sector - Rio Tinto, BHP, Chevron, FMG and members of the Chamber of Minerals and Energy - as we work with government to respond on and serve the Western Australian community at this time when they need us the most.

**Your support will enable:**

### Frontline People

- Surge capacity pandemic response for the immediate needs of COVID-19 across Western Australia.
- The ability to immediately bolster our frontline service with extra doctors, nurses, pilots and avionic engineers.

### Critical Capital

- Response ready, sustainable and robust capital to serve the regional communities of Western Australia during unprecedented times.
- Aircraft and adaptable service platforms which are embedded within RFDS WO and the WA health infrastructure in a sustainable capacity at all times.

### Operational Needs

- Recovery and rebuilding capacity to support Western Australia in the long term.
- Tools, equipment and consumable supplies for on-the-ground emergency response into the long term.

**You can donate to the Response Ready for WA Appeal at [www.rfdswa.com.au](http://www.rfdswa.com.au) or send your donation using the enclosed form.**

**Thank you!**

# Third Rio Tinto *LifeFlight* PC-24 jet to join our fleet

**We are delighted to announce a six year, \$15 million partnership extension with our long standing and highly valued corporate partner Rio Tinto which will see the outright purchase of a third Rio Tinto *LifeFlight* PC-24 jet.**

**D**ue to arrive in 2022, the third jet will further boost patient response times and continue to revolutionise our operations.

The two Rio Tinto *LifeFlight* jets that have been in service for a year have transported over 1,000 patients across more than 1.2 million kilometres. Rio Tinto provided \$10 million towards their purchase.

Royal Flying Doctor Service Western Operations Chief Executive Officer Rebecca Tomkinson thanked Rio Tinto for its continued generous support.

people who live, work or travel across our vast state have access to the world's most advanced and innovative aeromedical capability."

Hon. Roger Cook MLA, Minister for Health thanked Rio Tinto for the significant investment which will improve the delivery of healthcare for people in regional and remote Western Australia.

"The RFDS provides an absolutely essential service and by funding a third PC-24 jet Rio Tinto are helping them further transform their service, expand operations and ultimately save lives," Minister Cook said.

We also recently celebrated the first birthday of our Rio Tinto *LifeFlight* PC-24 jets Victory and Kimberley.



**1,247**

patients transported



patient outcomes



**2,534**

hours flown



direct long haul flights



**1,337,359**

km travelled

**"Rio Tinto's purchase of a third jet will strengthen and expand our aircraft assets for the future, so we can continue our work as a vital link in the health network of our state," Rebecca said.**

"The successful integration of two Rio Tinto *LifeFlight* PC-24 jets into our fleet over the past year has already put time on our side to save lives, and we anticipate the arrival of a third jet will continue to revolutionise the way our 24-hour aeromedical emergency service is coordinated across the state."

Rio Tinto Iron Ore Chief Executive Chris Salisbury added: "We are proud to support the RFDS in its wonderful efforts to ensure



Royal Flying Doctor Service Western Operations Chief Executive Officer Rebecca Tomkinson with Hon. Roger Cook MLA, Minister for Health and Rio Tinto Iron Ore Chief Executive Chris Salisbury.

# 2020 International Year of the Nurse and Midwife

The World Health Organisation has designated 2020 the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife.

Nurses and midwives play a vital role in providing health services for organisations such as ours. Across our five bases in Jandakot, Kalgoorlie, Meekatharra, Port Hedland and Broome, the RFDS has approximately 50 highly trained nurses who are all qualified midwives. This year, these 'Angels of the sky' and on the ground will be in a well-earned spotlight.



## Midwifery scholarship: inaugural winner

**W**estern Australian nurse Alise Tilbury has been announced as the inaugural recipient of the 2019 Savanna Addis Scholarship which was established in joint partnership between the Royal Flying Doctor Service and Rural Health West.

The Scholarship has been established to honour the memory of Savanna Addis, a former patient and supporter of the Royal Flying Doctor Service who tragically passed away in 2018.

Alise, a registered nurse who has served in emergency departments at regional hospitals across

Western Australia for nearly nine years, was presented the scholarship by Savanna's mum and dad, Ralph and Helen Addis, at our Jandakot base in November.



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Congratulations to Flight Nurse Jeannette Spark who is a finalist in the 2020 WA Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards for her Excellence in Education and Research. From the moment a new Flight Nurse walks through the door at RFDS, Jeannette warmly welcomes them with enthusiasm and practical wisdom. She reassuringly and confidently mentors and guides our new nurses through the challenges of working in a new environment. We wish Jeannette all the best in the awards which will be announced later this year.

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A reunion two years after the mid-air triple brain surgeries.  
Pictured left to right: Flying Doctor Dean Boyatzis, Savanna's mother Helen and the late, inspirational Savanna (then 12 years-old).

Dr Boyatzis was forced to perform emergency brain surgery on his young patient. As a feature in the West Australian newspaper would report: "He had never performed the painstaking procedure before, let alone mid-air in turbulent weather with the 10-year-old's worried mother looking on."

With support from the neurosurgeon via satellite phone, Dr Boyatzis would carry out the life-saving procedure three times during the flight.

**It is the support of wonderful people like you who enable the Flying Doctor to save the lives of patients like Savanna.**

Following her mid-air surgery, the Flying Doctor transferred Savanna to the Princess Margaret Hospital where she would spend weeks in recovery and rehabilitation. In gratitude, Savanna would later go on to raise thousands of dollars for the RFDS.

Tragically, Savanna passed away in 2018.

Savanna was an inspirational Western Australian known for her compassion, emotional resilience and commitment to improving the life of others. In honour of her memory, the Royal Flying Doctor Service has partnered with Rural Health West to award The Savanna Addis Scholarship.

**The \$10,000 Scholarship, funded by Rural Health West, will be made available to nurses with critical care experience who do not have the necessary midwifery qualifications required to work for the RFDS.**

# Savannah's indomitable spirit lives on

## Savanna Addis held a very special place in the hearts of Western Australians.

**A**s a plucky 10-year-old, she stepped into the limelight as the 2011 Little Telethon Star.

Her story touched a chord with so many. Savanna (or 'Bam Bam' as she was fondly known), was born with Alagille Syndrome, a rare genetic disorder that affected her liver and heart.

In 2011, while eating breakfast at her parents' farm near Kununurra, she fell off a chair: fracturing her skull which caused bleeding on her brain.

She urgently needed specialist treatment in Perth. As the Flying Doctor scrambled to retrieve the injured Savanna from the Kununurra District Hospital, no one could

predict the chain of events that would turn a routine transfer into a marathon retrieval that would include not one, but three heart-stopping mid-air brain operations.

An hour into the flight, and with hours to go before the RFDS plane touched down in Perth, Savanna's conditioned rapidly deteriorated. A drain in her head had become blocked. Attending Flying Doctor, Dean Boyatzis, contacted a neurosurgeon for advice via the satellite phone.

He would later recall: "It quickly became apparent that something needed to happen there and then. Waiting wasn't an option."

# RFDS Heroes



## Hip' hooray for RFDS



What began as a routine day in his truck ended with an emergency aeromedical flight with the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) for truck driver Ernie Riley last November.

Ernie was completing a routine delivery to a mine site in the Mid-West region of Western Australia, when a strong gust of wind caught while standing on a 1.6 metre-high working platform unloading a 15kg board.

"The wind swept me up and I was parasailing in the air before I hit the floor and shattered my hip," he said.

"The next thing I remember was being on the ground and feeling ill. The people around me lifted me up and that's when the wave of excruciating pain ran through

my body, I knew I had damaged myself badly."

Ernie was taken to the mine site nurse who confirmed his hip was in bad shape. With limited treatment available onsite, the nurse contacted the RFDS to transfer Ernie to the specialist care available in Perth.

Arriving quickly at the mine site to safely transport Ernie to Perth, the RFDS team reassured Ernie he was in safe hands while they provided the delicate care required for his situation.

"The Flying Doctor staff were very professional. It was such a smooth transition from the ambulance to the plane.

"The nurse and doctor on board the flight made sure I was as comfortable as possible and told plenty of jokes to lighten the mood."

Ernie arrived at the RFDS Jandakot base and was transported to Royal Perth Hospital by ambulance for hip replacement surgery.

On the road to recovery, Ernie is grateful for the role of the Royal Flying Doctor Service during his time of need.

"As a long distance truck driver, the RFDS has always been important to me. People, like myself, who are venturing out in the regions of Western Australia are a long way from anywhere," he said.

**"The RFDS is a life saver to those who are out in isolated communities and stations.**

**"I am very appreciative of the Flying Doctor and the service they provide."**



Ernie Riley in hospital



Back home in recovery



# A midnight emergency



Doreen was enjoying her pre-Christmas holiday down south in Denmark when she awoke to a burning sensation and tightness in her chest. She went to lift her arms to get out of bed but they flopped back down beside her.

"It was a scary experience, I immediately began to panic," she said.

Her partner Leith woke up and took her pulse when he noticed she was also having difficulty breathing. Fearing the worst, Leith called 000 immediately. The ambulance arrived and took Doreen to the Denmark emergency unit.

The nurse's assessment confirmed Doreen had had a heart attack and she was immediately transferred to Albany for retrieval by the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

"I am not overly keen on flying but the RFDS staff were very considerate and the Flight Nurse held my hand to get me through the flight to Perth," she said.



Doreen and Leith Ward at the Jandakot base after donating to the RFDS in gratitude for service provided to Doreen.

"The flight went by so quickly, I was there before I knew it!

"Being transported with the RFDS was brilliant. I couldn't fault anything, the staff were fantastic."

Shortly after arriving at the Flying Doctor's Jandakot aero medical base, Doreen was taken to Fiona Stanley Hospital for an angiogram and observation and subsequently discharged with strict instructions to rest and slow down. Recovering well, Doreen is appreciative of the RFDS who looked after her and flew her to the specialist care she needed.

"Leith and I see the RFDS planes fly over us from time to time. We always look up and are grateful to have them servicing Western Australia."

Her partner Leith agrees. "The Royal Flying Doctor Service is the most amazing thing in Australia. They are such an incredible organisation who provide emergency care to those in need," he said.

# Bob just loved the ride!



When Bob Niven's daughter and family moved to the Pilbara town of Marble Bar, he felt the distance keenly. But he took comfort in the knowledge that his donations to the Flying Doctor would help protect his grandchildren if ever there was a need. He never imagined that he would be the one to call on our emergency service.

Late last year, he was seconded to project manage a school site in Broome and had a heart attack far from home. The healthy 72 year-old, felt his chest tighten at his Broome worksite but didn't think much of it until his wife insisted he go to the hospital.

The Broome hospital nurse immediately realized the severity of Bob's condition and wired him up for monitoring. Not long after, while

a Doctor confirmed Bob had had a heart attack, Bob had a second massive heart attack in the bed.

Only hours later, Bob was in an RFDS aircraft en route from Broome to Royal Perth Hospital for specialist care. Bob was aero medically treated throughout the four-hour journey, ensuring he had the very best chance of recovery.

The stabilisation and speed to get down to Perth had a positive impact in minimising the damage from the two heart attacks.

Bob said that amid the stress of a high-pressure situation, the comforting presence of the Flying Doctor medical team kept Bob relaxed as he made his way to tertiary care in Perth.

"The in-flight care was fantastic! The calmness of everybody was a



big factor. If they were stressed, I would have been stressed," he said.

"The medical team on board took great care of me. They monitored my condition by taking cardiographs throughout the flight."

Bob was so impressed with his RFDS experience, that when he arrived at the Jandakot base, he turned around to the crew and joked: "Thanks guys! I just loved the ride in your stretch limo. My experience in-flight was just so good. It was the best soft landing I have ever experienced."

# Thank You

## "I made a promise to my 12-year-old self..."

**B**ryony Baker of Victoria credits the Flying Doctor with saving her dad's life and says she will be forever grateful. So much so that she has become a champion fundraiser for RFDS, and a vocal ambassador for our aeromedical service.

In 2016, while travelling in regional WA, Bryony's father, Paul, had a heart attack that demanded urgent specialist care. The local doctor's clinic advised the family that Paul would not survive if he was not airlifted to Perth immediately.

The Flying Doctor arrived in the remote town of Monkey Mia to transfer Paul to specialist care in Perth. Thanks to the specialist in-flight medical care, Bryony's father survived. And today, she is proud to be paying it forward.

**"That day I made a promise to my 12-year-old self that I would do whatever it took to raise money for this lifesaving organisation," Bryony remembers.**

"Fundraising for the RFDS is my way of giving back to the amazing people that work for the organisation, helping them keep families like mine together."

Bryony first fundraising initiative was the creation of an online fundraising page for the RFDS, encouraging her

network to donate and share the page to reach as many people as possible. After reaching her initial goal of \$700 in less than a week, she increased it to \$1,000.

Not content with raising funds, the energetic school student set to work raising awareness about the



The Baker family travelling in Monkey Mia the day before Paul's heart attack.





Recent photo of Paul (centre) and his two daughters; Bryony (right) and Taryn (left).

work of the Flying Doctor. She made a presentation to her class, and later to the entire school, sharing her family's experience with the Flying Doctor and encouraging her peers to donate.

"The students and staff were moved by my story and how amazing the crew and organisation are." Bryony also created a school fundraiser to further contribute to keeping the Flying Doctor flying.

"Across five days, at recess and lunchtime, I set up a stall selling hand-made RFDS information cards for one dollar each. Students and teachers were encouraged to write a message of appreciation or love to each other on the card.

"On the last day of the fundraiser my friends and I attached a red chocolate heart to the cards – symbolic of my Dad's heart attack and delivered them to all the students and teachers who participated.

**"The RFDS is so important to my family because they saved my dad's life."**

"I would absolutely encourage others to fundraise for the Royal Flying Doctor Service. They are a crucial part of rural Australia, and you might find that you could need them one day, just like my family did."



RFDS aircraft at the nearest airstrip to retrieve Paul.

To date, Bryony's fundraising efforts have raised more than \$1,500 to support our work. We are inspired by Bryony and the many wonderful people like her who come up with increasingly creative ways to fundraising on behalf of our service.

**You can help keep the Flying Doctor in the air by fundraising like Bryony, or donating today at:**  
[www.rfdswa.com.au](http://www.rfdswa.com.au)

## RFDS appointed sole WA supplier of Defibrillators

**R**FDS Western Operations has been selected as the sole supplier of Mindray AEDs in Western Australia. Mindray is one of the leading global providers of medical devices and solutions and their top of the line AEDs are now available for you to purchase.

The latest AED from Mindray is offered to you at a heavily discounted price of \$2,000. This offer is exclusive to the Royal Flying Doctor Service in WA.

Onsite AEDs allow a quick response to people suffering cardiac arrest, saving precious treatment time. These defibrillators are easy to use and can be used by anyone at any time, increasing the likelihood of survival among cardiac arrest patients.

To find out more about the product or to purchase your AED today, please contact our Medical Chest Coordinator – phone: **08 9417 6302** or email: [medicalchest@rfdswa.com.au](mailto:medicalchest@rfdswa.com.au)





# Thank you... to our generous donors and grantmakers



## RFDS Esperance Auxiliary

The RFDS Esperance Auxiliary recently launched the stunning RFDS mural on the corner of Dempster and Andrew Streets (pictured on cover), painted by Phil Shelton and honouring the 90 year service of the Flying Doctor. The mural was the idea of Auxiliary member Marilyn Hart who was spurred along by Helen Scott. Local businesses, Esperance Firewood Cutters and community members raised funds specifically for the project with an overwhelming response, and there was more to share as a further \$25,000 was donated when RFDS CEO Rebecca Tomkinson visited town.



## Arc Infrastructure

Arc Infrastructure recently donated \$30,000 to help us purchase vital aero medical equipment for our fleet. Perfusor space pumps are small, lightweight units used to deliver precise measures of pain relief and in-flight medication to patients and can be used as a complex infusion system where the patient may need various infusions at once.

## Thrifty Car & Truck Rental

Thrifty Car & Truck Rental recently donated a brand-new Mitsubishi Triton GLS 4WD which will be used by the RFDS at future fundraising and community events, including regional field days and the Perth Royal Show. We'll also be able to transport the RFDS PC-12 model aircraft and training simulator for display at community events in metropolitan and regional areas.



STAN PERRON  
CHARITABLE  
FOUNDATION

## Stan Perron Charitable Foundation

The Stan Perron Charitable Foundation, established by the celebrated late Stan Perron – one of Australia's most successful businessmen and philanthropists – has pledged \$200,000 per year for the next five years towards our Aero Medical Fund.

## Personnel Employed at Alcoa Charity Help

Alcoa employees generously supported the RFDS through the Personnel Employed at Alcoa Charity Help (PEACH) program. The \$14,008 grant from Alcoa's thoughtful employees was used to purchase essential medical equipment and an engineering toolbox.

## Australasian Mining Services Pty Ltd/FMG

Three cheers to Australasian Mining Services Pty Ltd/FMG for raising more than \$100,000 through the recycling of old drill bits over the last four years. Their continued support of the Flying Doctor is greatly appreciated. This hard work and dedication literally keeps us flying!

## Wongan Hills RFDS Fundraising Dinner

The Wongan Hills RFDS Fundraising Dinner was a feast of good food, wine and entertainment which saw \$8000 raised and then generously matched by **Rio Tinto** to total \$16,000 for the service. With thanks to Rod Clarke, Steve Clarke and Jaime Hanson.

## Friends of the Flying Doctor

Friends of the Flying Doctor donated an amazing \$49,500 towards a Hamilton Ventilator. This was raised from various events including a Bridge Mahjong day, various catering events including a very successful luncheon at the Royal Agricultural Society, Christmas Sundowner and memberships.

## IGO Limited



We are delighted to officially welcome IGO Limited as a new corporate partner.

"IGO's purpose is Making a Difference and for our people, this means we come to work every day with the vision of making the world a better place for future generations. As a proud Western Australian mining company, we do this not only by mining and exploring for the metals critical to energy storage and renewable energy, but also by putting our support behind an essential service that helps so many within our industry. We are incredibly grateful for the assistance that the RFDS provides for our remote operations and our exploration teams in the field. It goes without saying that the quality of service and medical aid RFDS provides is outstanding, and to know they do so without charge to the recipients of their help is incredible," said Peter Bradford, IGO CEO.

## RFDS pilot thrills student with surprise school visit

**Y**ear seven student, Harrison Clarke, could not believe his eyes when his normal Monday morning aviation class was interrupted by a surprise visit from Flying Doctor Pilot, Drazen Tolic.

Pilot Drazen was on hand to personally thank Harrison, a budding pilot, for an incredibly generous gesture. When Harrison visited our Jandakot base for our Open Day in October, he donated his birthday money to the Flying Doctor.

Harrison explained why he had been moved to support the RFDS in such a special way.

"The Royal Flying Doctor Service is special to me as they have cared for a close friend in the past," Harrison said.

"My grandfather has also been flown by the RFDS three times when he was living in the country.

"I told my parents that I didn't want birthday presents this year, instead I wanted to donate to the RFDS so they can continue to care for people like my grandfather."

RFDS Pilot, Drazen attended Harrison's aviation class at Kent Street Senior High School to both thank Harrison personally, and to inspire the young students to pursue their aviation dreams.



Year 7 Student, Harrison Clarke meets RFDS Pilot, Drazen Tolic.

**"Harrison's fundraising efforts provide a great example to his fellow classmates on the impact each individual can have in their community," Drazen said.**

# Updates & News

## Flying Doctor recognised at 2019 Make a Difference Awards

**We were proud to have been recognised for our contribution to the provision of youth mental health services at the 2019 Youth Focus Make a Difference Awards.**

**T**he award was in recognition of our unique partnership with Youth Focus to ensure youth living in remote and rural Western Australia have access to essential mental health services.

Through the partnership, Youth Focus, who already have a strong presence in the state's Midwest, Murchison and Goldfields regions, were able to employ an additional two clinicians to support Meekatharra and nearby Aboriginal communities three days a week.

Through the partnership, Youth Focus, who already have a strong presence in the state's Midwest, Murchison and Goldfields regions, were able to employ an additional two clinicians to support Meekatharra and nearby Aboriginal communities three days a week.

An additional clinician was also employed in Wiluna three days a week with counsellors visiting remote communities Cue, Yalgoo and Yulga Jinna on a monthly basis.



RFDS Primary Health Care leaders Dr John Fisher and Dr Amanda Bedford with the award.





## Meet our new Board member

**W**e have welcomed Joanne Farrell to our Board of Directors.

Ms Farrell recently retired as Rio Tinto's Group Executive Health Safety and Environment and Managing Director Australia, and will bring a wealth of experience, insights and regional understanding to her new position, having spent her childhood in Esperance and working in country towns throughout much of her career.

Ms Farrell has held a variety of leadership roles in human resources, training, communications, health, safety, environment, government and community relations at both a corporate level and in Rio Tinto's key commodities including iron ore, exploration, energy, aluminium, diamonds and coal. She has worked in most Australia states as well as in the UK and the USA.

We are delighted to welcome Ms Farrell to our governance Board.



## Our Fundraiser Allen Scott

Congratulations to Allen Scott who was awarded Senior Community Citizen of the Year this Australia Day! Allen has been supporting the RFDS Busselton fundraising committee and selling jam for more than 35 years where proceeds are donated to the RFDSWA.

## Rottnest Channel Swim

**22 February**

This year's Rottnest Channel Swim held in February showcased fit and fabulous individuals who took on the challenging 19.7km crossing while raising funds for essential services such as ours. John Peacey a solo swimmer and a team of 4 who made up the Canning Fire Rescue swim team chose to fundraise on behalf of the RFDS. Our grateful thanks to both teams, and to all who participated.

## Local physio 6-week challenge

**4th November to 15 December**

Earl Street Physio in Narrogin launched a 6-week challenge encouraging registrants to collectively walk or run the combined total of the Australian coastline (25,000km). With the aim are to promote physical and mental health locally, encouraging participants to challenge themselves and work within teams in the community. RFDS were the grateful beneficiary of this novel event which raised more than \$5,800 to keep the Flying Doctor in the air.

## Special Thanks

We would like to sincerely thank everyone who has raised funds for RFDS within their communities whether it be an event or get together. We are constantly humbled and amazed by the support and generosity of our community. Special thanks to Denmark Country Club, On the Road Again Tours, Hai's Coffee, Dampier Volunteer Fire & Rescue, Father & Son Golf Day, Shire of Denmark Australia Day Breakfast, Rogue Riders Social Club, Joondalup Lifestyle Village, API Management, WACKED Wine Club, Retravision Esperance, South East Coast Golf Tour and Nullarbor Santa for your support.

# Thank You to our Partners

## Principal Corporate Partner

RioTinto

## Major Partners



KARARA MINING LTD



## Corporate Supporters



HORIZON POWER

PILATUS



## Community Partners



## Government Supporters



## Community Supporters

We would like to thank all of our amazing volunteers, committees and community fundraisers who generously donate their time and effort to fundraising for the RFDS.

**With special thanks to:** Patron Governor Hon Kim Beazley, Ambassadors Melva Stone OAM and Dr Erica Smyth AC, Flying 1000, Friends of the Flying Doctor, RFDS Eastern Goldfields Auxiliary, RFDS Esperance Auxiliary, RFDS Volunteer Committees – Busselton, Dongara, Geraldton, Jurien, Katanning, Lake Grace, Mount Barker, Narrogin, Pannawonica and Paraburdoo.

## Stay connected

We want to stay connected with you – especially over the coming months. If you have an email address please let us know so we can keep in touch. Email us at [fundraise@rfdswa.com.au](mailto:fundraise@rfdswa.com.au) and let us know that you'd like to be on our email list for further updates or call our fundraising team on **9417 6400**.

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