

Welcome to the May edition of *Touch Base with RFDS Tasmania* through which we will keep you up to date with our latest news and events in Tasmania. Please be sure to read the enclosed letter from our Ambassador **Nick Duigan** who talks about his experiences with the RFDS.

## Educational program takes flight in 2013

RFDS Tasmania launched the educational program in Tasmanian schools in 2012 and was delighted by the outstanding response. 96 classes from 47 schools introduced the free program, providing students with a comprehensive look at the significant contribution the RFDS has made to Australia's history and its relevance today. Over 2,250 student workbooks were distributed in the course of the year and 76 classes enjoyed the aeromedical simulator excursions by **Tom Ryan**, RFDS Victoria, Program Manager, Education in October.

We are set for another exciting year ahead. **Carolyn Mackel**, a retired Principal, will continue her involvement with the RFDS and manage the program during 2013. Carol will visit registered schools and provide professional learning to the teaching staff by sharing the benefits of the program.

The interactive aeromedical simulator will make a welcome return and tour registered schools later in the year. The simulator is a life sized replica of the fuselage of a flying doctor aircraft.



Students will hear fascinating stories about the RFDS and then climb on board, strap themselves in and enjoy a unique experience where they will "rescue" a patient and "land" an RFDS aircraft in the outback.

In addition, the RFDS educational website is now interactive giving students an opportunity to work directly from their computers to complete their exercises.

We thank RFDS Victoria for once again supporting the delivery of the program in Tasmanian schools this year.



## Welcome to the RFDS Tasmania Board

RFDS Tasmania has welcomed two new members to the Board.

Elected in 2012, **Mr Tim Maddock** is a Partner of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu and a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and Taxation Institute of Australia. Tim is a former President and Treasurer of Relationships Australia, Tasmania and a member of the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania's Finance Committee.

**Ms Jan Davis** joined the Board in February 2013. Jan is the Chief Executive Officer of the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association. Jan is currently a non executive Director of Plant Health Australia Limited, Tasmanian Institute of Horticulture Australia Limited and Skills Tasmania. Jan has several degrees and has previously served on a range of not-for-profit and for-profit boards. Her contribution to the agribusiness sector has been recognised by inclusion in the Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation's (RIRDC) list of the 100 top women in Australian Agriculture.



## Organise an RFDS guest speaker

RFDS Tasmania has a group of dedicated speakers who are able to travel throughout the state to share their enthusiasm and knowledge about this extraordinary service.

Please contact us on 03 6391 0504 or by post to PO Box 1087, Launceston TAS 7250, for further information about visiting the Launceston Base or having a speaker visit your organisation. We look forward to meeting you soon!

Left: The Kings Meadows Mens Probus Club visit the RFDS Launceston Base



## Dr Jane Zimmerman AM

Canadian born Doctor, **Jane Zimmerman** moved to George Town in 1978 to take up the role of locum for two years. Due to the strong community spirit, Dr Zimmerman decided to call George Town home and for the past 35 years has involved herself in the local community serving on the George Town Council and has been the patron of the District Hospital. Her work with Soroptimist International has recently been recognised by being appointed as a Member of Australia for her significant service to the community as an advocate and promoter of the status and health of women.

Dr Zimmerman has worked with the RFDS Royal Women's General Practice Service (RWGPS) for the past 10 years at the Beaconsfield Clinic. The service was set up by the RFDS in 1999 to provide female doctors on a periodic basis to remote communities that do not have a regular female GP. During the past 12 months, 16 RWGPS clinics were conducted providing support for 1,407 female rural patients in remote areas of our state.



## Thanks to our supporters

The RFDS would like to thank all the individuals and organisations who kindly fundraise to support the vital work of the Service in Tasmania.

Recent fundraising events include:

- > The IGA Dinner Ladies; (pictured below) **Mrs Fran Still** and **Mrs Maria Perry** conducted a raffle in aid of the RFDS at the St Helens Regatta



- > Launceston Riverside Lions Club donated funding to purchase student workbooks for the RFDS Look! Up in the Sky educational program by presenting the Magic Show in Launceston

**Lindsay Millar OAM** presents a certificate to **Len Healey** from the Launceston Riverside Lions Club



- > The committee of the Latrobe Town and Country Fair raised funds for the RFDS by holding a stall at the annual Fair



- > Enormity conducted their annual Santa Runs in Launceston, Ulverstone and Kingston
- > **Gillian Woods**, RFDS Life Member held her 18th annual musical soirees at her home 'Yirriluka' on Flinders Island

## Mighty Challenges for the RFDS



**David Heap** and **Kathleen Ives-Heap** embarked on a challenge to conquer the 60 Great Walks of Tasmania to raise much needed funding and heighten the awareness of the RFDS. Through rain and shine they completed the 60 walks challenge in two weeks visiting many of the isolated regions of Tasmania that rely heavily on the RFDS for emergency transport and care. David and Kathleen thanked all those who had supported them on their testing journey especially their team of **Christine Bowman**, **Mel Telfer** and **Sophie Bowman**.

Above left: David & Kathleen Ives-Heap



Local bike riding enthusiast, **Lynton Stretton**, placed 2nd overall in the Simpson Desert Bike Challenge held annually in support of the RFDS. Pitted against a competitive field of 15 riders, Lynton rode 570 km across the Simpson Desert over five days. Ably supported by his wife **Kaye**, he endured temperatures of 40° C and strong headwinds to accomplish his goal of completing the race. Celebrations were held at the Birdsville Hotel giving the competitors, crews and officials a chance to share stories about their experience.

Above right: Kaye & Lynton Stretton