

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 **Cate Kube**, the Fred McKay Medical Student Scholarship recipient, who shares her experiences about her placement with the RFDS and Ambulance Tasmania.

## Serving Tasmanians

The work of RFDS Tasmania is made possible by the support we receive from generous Tasmanians through fundraising, donations and bequests. Here in our state, RFDS Tasmania supports the provision of world-class air ambulance services and reaches out to the communities with primary healthcare.

Your support enables RFDS Tasmania to:

- > provide patient transfer facilities at airports
- > provide ancillary medical and aviation equipment
- > provide scholarships for medical, dental and nursing students
- > provide support for primary healthcare services
- > provide primary school students with an educational resource
- > represent the interests of Tasmanians at a national level



Sam Simpson, John Flynn  
Dental Assistant Scholarship recipient.



RFDS aircraft at the Launceston Base.

## Open Day 2014

The RFDS is opening its doors to the general public on Sunday 18th May at the Launceston hangar, Western Junction from 10am to 3pm to celebrate the 54th anniversary of the Service in Tasmania.

This is a great opportunity to tour our facility, view the paramedic training simulator and discover the rich history of the Service through a photographic exhibition, memorabilia and informative talks. Light refreshments will be available.

Come along and say hello on Sunday 18th May.



Evandale  
Rotary Club  
Members  
cooking up  
a storm at  
the 2012  
Open Day.

## Patient transfer facilities

RFDS Tasmania has provided a grant to Flinders and King Island Councils to enable construction of patient transfer facilities at their respective airports.

Under the arrangement, the purchase of the facility, 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.

The facilities are designed to improve the comfort of patients and assist medical staff in their work during the transfer from road ambulance to the aircraft.

RFDS Tasmania thanks the many individuals and community organisations who have kindly contributed towards this initiative.

## Inspirational fundraiser

At just 10 years of age, **Michaela McLeod** made a special donation to RFDS Tasmania to support the vital work of the Service.

After several trips to the Launceston General Hospital (LGH) to be treated for auto-immune deficiencies, Michaela was flown to Melbourne for treatment by the RFDS as a patient of Ambulance Tasmania.

On return home, Michaela presented her money box to her mother **Sally** and a hand written note that said, "I want to collect money for the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the hospital." At such a tender age, Michaela understands the importance of the available services and wanted to help.

The family rallied behind Michaela in her fundraising efforts; baking and selling cupcakes, conducting a raffle and hosting a linen party with the proceeds being donated to the RFDS and LGH Children's Ward. The family thanked the local community for the support they received.

RFDS Tasmania is grateful to Michaela and her family and wishes them all the very best for the future.

**Michaela and Sally McLeod.**





Riverside Lions Club presents the donation to the RFDS.



Sheryn Brooks hosts the Blue Illusion Fashion Parade fundraiser.



Sarah Merridew and Di Murphy at the Blue Illusion fundraiser.

## Thank you to our fundraisers

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:

- > **Gillian Woods**, RFDS Life Member held her 19th annual musical soirees at her home 'Yirriluka' on Flinders Island
- > Enormity conducted their annual Santa Runs in Launceston, Ulverstone and Kingston
- > **Sheryn Brooks** from Blue Illusion hosted a fashion parade fundraiser
- > **Andrew Boyd** organised a car rally to support the work of the Service
- > The Riverside Lions Club donated funding for the patient transfer facility on Flinders Island
- > The IGA Dinner Ladies, **Fran Still** and **Maria Perry** conducted a raffle at St Helens

## 25 years of service

**Captain Stan Griffiths**, Senior Base Pilot at Launceston has reached a significant milestone by achieving 25 years of service as a pilot with the RFDS.

Tasmanian born, Stan flew aeromedical missions at Broken Hill for a period of nine years before returning home to take up the role of Senior Base Pilot in Launceston. He has been in that role ever since.

Flying at Broken Hill and at Launceston have been very different experiences for Stan, "Broken Hill has dust storms, dirt strips and vast open spaces whereas in Tasmania there are acres of forested mountains to contend with."

Stan's career has been extremely rewarding although challenging at times, especially in turbulent conditions when flying at night into poorly lit aerodromes. "The RFDS is there for anyone who needs help and I'm proud to work for an organisation that belongs to every Australian," Stan said.

**Captain Stan Griffiths, Senior Base Pilot, Launceston.**



## Look! Up in the Sky

The educational program uses the iconic status of the RFDS and its real life stories to teach students about the unique nature of the Australian landscape and our people's relationship with it in every-day settings. In addition, it builds on school community awareness of the organisation and pays tribute to its past and present work.

Exciting developments are underway with the resource moving to an online focus that provides an online teacher's manual and student workbooks with specific links to the Australian Curriculum. The resource will move to a fully interactive website during 2014.

RFDS Education Consultant, **Carol Mackel** will visit schools to share information and provide teaching staff with specific learning ideas that link directly with the mandated Australian Curriculum. The aim of the professional learning is to ensure teachers have a greater understanding of the online program for utilisation in primary school classrooms.

For more information about the free program contact **Nicole Henty** at the RFDS on 6391 0512 or visit [www.flyingdoctor4education.org.au](http://www.flyingdoctor4education.org.au)



## 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!

