



Harold Riley, Anna Hooeboom,  
Andrew Gibson and Terrill Riley-Gibson.

## 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 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 Hooeboom, 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.

## Dental Clinics

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

Subsequently, a preventative dental care trial was carried out at Cygnet Primary School, resulting in 40 per cent of students being referred to a public clinic for further treatment.

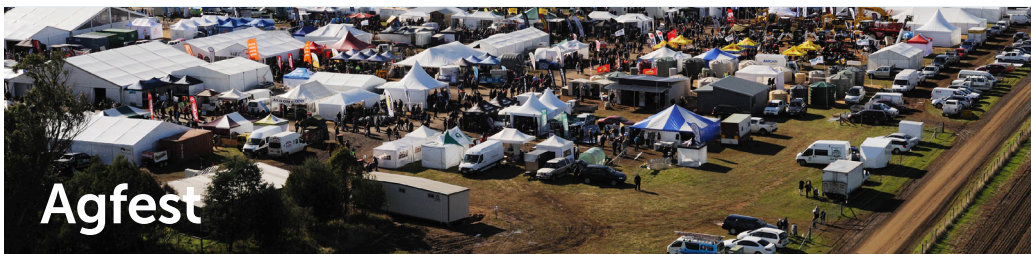
In addition, RFDS Tasmania partnered with Oral Health Services South to provide two dental clinics for the South East Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation (SETAC). The aim of the program was to help families that were not able



RFDS Project Officer, Di Murphy with Lottie Birley, Madeleine Tatnell and Ruby Tatnell from Cygnet Primary School.

to attend services at local Oral Health Clinics and to provide education and information at the time of consultation.

The clinics provided screening and the application of fluoride varnish and fissure sealants to 33 children to prevent tooth decay. SETAC considered the program a success because 14 of the children had never previously accessed dental care.



## Agfest

We are proud to announce that the RFDS in Tasmania has been nominated as the Agfest Official Charity for 2015 and will be on site with the aeromedical training simulator.

Agfest is organised by a volunteer committee from Rural Youth Tasmania and will take place at Quercus Park, Carrick on the 7, 8 and 9 May.

It is a premier rural event that attracts in excess of 65,000 patrons and is recognised as one of the top three field days in Australia.

We hope to see you there at site M09, corner First Avenue and Main Street!

## Invitation to see the educational simulator

You are invited to attend a presentation by Tom Ryan, Program Manager – Education and view the educational aeromedical simulator at the RFDS Launceston Base.

**Date:** Saturday, 27th June  
**Time:** 10.00 am – 11.00 am  
**Venue:** RFDS Launceston Hangar,  
305 Evandale Road,  
Western Junction  
**RSVP:** By Friday 5th June to Mary Frost  
**Phone:** 03 6391 0504  
**Email:** [enquiries@rfdstas.org.au](mailto:enquiries@rfdstas.org.au)



RFDS educational simulator.





Australian Early Holden Federation National Titles.



The quilt made by the Bridport Textile Group.

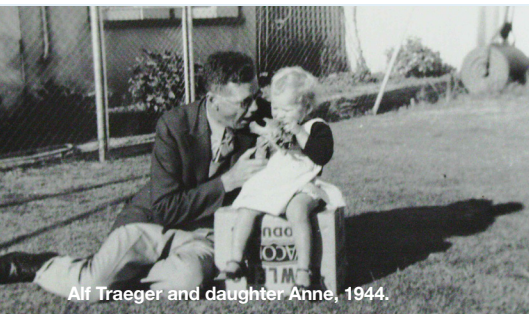


Terry Sheehan, Sam Walker-Smith, Claire Sargent, LCGS and Mary Frost, RFDS.

## Thanks for your support

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:

- > **Australian Early Holden Federation** provided charitable support at the national titles held in Tasmania
- > **Bridport Textile Group** produced and raffled a beautiful quilt
- > **Hawkes House**, Launceston Church Grammar School (LCGS) nominated the RFDS as their charity to support
- > **Gillian Woods**, RFDS Tasmania Life Member held her 20th annual musical soiree at Flinders Island
- > **David Mansfield** supported the RFDS by selling meat trays at the Bayside Inn
- > **Sally Stephenson** raised funds at Steamfest Tasmania



Alf Traeger and daughter Anne, 1944.

## My Dad, Alf Traeger (1895 – 1980)

By Anne Smallwood (nee Traeger)

I am amazed at the number of electronic communication devices we have today. My father would be overwhelmed by it all, and a little pleased, I suspect, in the small part he has played in the development of this technology.

It all started when he was a child. Dad told me that his parents decided to move the family to Adelaide from country South Australia because of the better educational opportunities there.

I suggest it was more likely that the neighbours begged them to move after Dad's experiments resulted in mountains of dust blowing from his yard to the neighbour's verandah.

The trouble continued in Adelaide. Dad managed to blow the entire electrical system at the School of Mines, where he was a student. But he did put together a radio transmitter, completed an Engineering Diploma and set up his own small electrical business.

Then one day the Rev. John Flynn walked in. He needed a portable and reliable generator to provide sufficient power for transmitting messages to and from the isolated people of the Outback. And so the pedal radio was invented. A long lasting and successful working relationship began between the two men. And it was the beginning of the RFDS.

The two travelled the Outback, sometimes together, sometimes not. It was the trips of my Dad that were the source of my bed-time stories when I was a child. I loved the story about the first Morse code message that ever got through. Dad said that he wouldn't admit it to too many people, but he was as surprised as anyone else that it actually worked!

Like many people whose parents have died, I wish I had listened more carefully, encouraged the reminiscences and appreciated more the wonderful stories that were told.



Tom Ryan presenting to students.

## Look! Up in the Sky

The educational program provides students with a comprehensive look at the significant contribution that the RFDS has made to Australia's history and its relevance to all Australians today.

The resource uses the iconic status of the RFDS and its real life stories to teach students about the unique nature of the Australian landscape and how distance and isolation can affect those who live, work and travel in rural and remote areas. In addition, it builds on school community awareness of the organisation and pays tribute to its past and present work.

The interactive educational simulator will make a welcome return in June with Tom Ryan, Program Manager – Education, visiting 80 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.

For more information about the free program please visit [www.flyingdoctor4education.org.au](http://www.flyingdoctor4education.org.au)



## New patron

The RFDS is honoured that the newly appointed Governor of Tasmania, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner, AM, has accepted the position of Patron for the Service in Tasmania. The support of Her Excellency is sincerely appreciated.