



The late Stan Merrett (right).

Stan Merrett Foundation

Stan Merrett was a long term member and supporter of the RFDS in Tasmania. He sadly passed away in 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 the state.

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.

RFDS Tasmania President, Malcolm White said, "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."



From left: Tim Maddock, Her Excellency, Rob Grey and Malcolm White.

Visit to Government House

Malcolm White, RFDS Tasmania President, and Board members Rob Grey and Tim Maddock met with our Patron, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner, AM, Governor of Tasmania, at Government House.

The purpose of the visit was to brief Her Excellency on the projects and activities currently being undertaken by the RFDS in Tasmania, particularly the dental outreach programs for children, in which Her Excellency has a special interest.

RIGHT AS RAIN

Right as Rain is an innovative health promotion that has been developed by RFDS Tasmania in partnership with the University of Tasmania's Active Tasmania project to improve health equity in rural and remote Tasmania.

- > Right as Rain will assist in the coordination and delivery of a range of primary health care activities by attending and participating in community events over a five-year period.
- > Right as Rain will provide a platform to focus on improving health outcomes by working closely with the community and existing services.
- > Right as Rain will focus on enhancing local services and building sustainable outcomes that focus on health promotion, prevention and early detection.
- > Right as Rain will visit the most rural and remote areas of Tasmania.

Join us on this exciting journey to improve the health of rural Tasmanians and the outcomes will be celebrated for generations.

For further information on sponsorship, partnerships, donating, volunteering or supporting Right as Rain please call 03 6391 0504 or email enquiries@rfdstas.org.au

Thanks for your support

To our wonderful supporters, donors and fundraisers, thank you for your ongoing generosity and your commitment and belief in the work of the RFDS in Tasmania. From the Board, management and staff we extend warm Christmas wishes to one and all.

Ministerial meeting

The RFDS Tasmania Board met with State Treasurer, The Hon Peter Gutwein and Minister for Health, The Hon Michael Ferguson. The Board members discussed the role that the RFDS plays in Tasmania and the opportunities for expanded primary health care programs in rural and remote areas where services are not easily accessible.



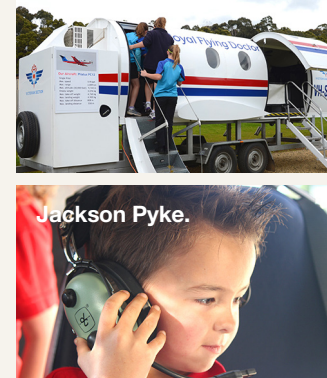
The RFDS Tasmania Board meeting with The Hon Michael Ferguson and The Hon Peter Gutwein.



Lindsay Millar OAM accepting the Rev. John Flynn Fellowship.



Lucy O'Connor and Bridget Marshall.



Jackson Pyke.

50 years of service

Mr Lindsay Millar OAM joined the Tasmanian Section of the Royal Flying Doctor Service as a Foundation Member in 1960 when the Section was formed in Tasmania.

He was invited to join the Council in 1965 and has served continuously on the Board for 50 years including periods as President and is an Honorary Life Member.

He served on the Federal Council and Executive and was a member of the National Aviation Committee for ten years, all in an honorary capacity. For service to the RFDS, Lindsay is one of only seven recipients who has been awarded the prestigious Rev. John Flynn Fellowship in recognition of extraordinary achievement and merit of the highest degree.

During his 50 years with the RFDS Lindsay has seen extraordinary developments: from single-engine aircraft carrying minimal medical equipment to twin-turbo-prop aircraft that are flying intensive care units, able to carry two stretchered patients and highly-trained medical personnel in pressurised comfort, with satellite phones and sophisticated GPS systems that are accurate within metres.

Lindsay has recently retired from the Board, although he will remain extremely active in the service. His unwavering enthusiasm and commitment have been a constant thread underpinning the growth and success of the RFDS in Tasmania and we pay tribute to his 50 years of service on the Board.

Aeromedical simulator on the road

The RFDS Victoria Program Manager of Education, Tom Ryan, toured 20 Tasmanian schools with the interactive educational simulator to give students some hands-on knowledge about the vital role that the RFDS plays throughout Australia.

The simulator is a life-sized replica of the fuselage of the flying doctor aircraft. It is fully equipped with stretchers, communications, oxygen, suction and the equipment used by the doctors, nurses and pilots of the RFDS.

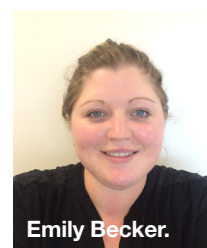
The fun engagement session was enjoyed by over 2,000 students who heard fascinating stories and then climbed on board to enjoy a unique experience where they 'rescued' a patient and 'landed' an RFDS aircraft in the Outback.

Thanks to RFDS Victoria for their ongoing support of the Look! Up in the Sky educational program that they help to deliver in Tasmanian schools. For more information about the free online program please visit www.flyingdoctor4education.org.au

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 provide the students with a greater understanding of medicine in the bush and an appreciation of the valuable contribution that the RFDS makes to thousands of Australians every year. The aim is to encourage future involvement by students in rural medicine and dentistry, especially here in Tasmania.

Emily Ingram was nominated as the Fred McKay Medical Student Scholarship recipient in 2015. Emily spent two weeks at the RFDS Broken Hill Base in NSW and two weeks with Ambulance Tasmania flight paramedics as an observer accompanying patients in RFDS aircraft.



Emily Becker.



Emily Ingram.

Elise How won the Robin Miller RFDS Nursing Scholarship, which comprised two weeks flying and clinical work at the RFDS Port Augusta Base, SA.

Emily Becker was selected as the 2015 John Flynn Dental Assistant Scholarship recipient and enjoyed two weeks of flying and clinical work experience at the RFDS Dubbo Base as an assistant to the RFDS Dentist, Dr Kah Chong.

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

Facts at a glance

RFDS South Eastern Section Tasmanian Operations 2014/2015

> 2182	Landings
> 465,393	Kilometres flown
> 1036	Inter-Hospital Transfers
> 60	Rural Women's GP Clinics
> 6	Medical Chests

Annual Report & Calendars

The RFDS Tasmania 2014/15 Annual Report is now online and RFDS 2016 calendars are for sale at www.flyingdoctor.org.au

