



NOVEMBER 2011

MISSION TRANSMISSION

FROM THE CREW OF THE PALMERSTON NORTH RESCUE HELICOPTER

PALMERSTON NORTH RESCUE HELICOPTER

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The helicopter completed a variety of missions during the month of November. Taskings included a beacon search, air-assistance for Police to look for a missing tramp and rescues in challenging weather conditions.

We were tasked to Iron Bark Hut where a lady had sustained a knee injury while hiking in the Ruahines. She also had a medical condition, which needed some attention. Her sister had hiked out and raised the alarm. We flew in, landed on the riverbed next to the hut and St John Advanced Paramedics tended to her before we flew her to Taihape's Medical Centre for attention.

A man in Levin was very seriously injured while using some farm machinery. His clothing was caught up in the tractor PTO and it dragged him into the drive. Paramedics tended to the man and we airlifted him to Palmerston North Hospital for treatment. Later that night we airlifted him to Hutt Hospital to the plastics and burns unit.

We were tasked to carry out a beacon search in Waikanae by RCC, which turned out to be a false alarm. A man returning from a fishing trip had accidentally activated his beacon and we tracked it to his back garden where he was still washing his boat. A lesson to all boaties to check your beacon upon returning to shore to make sure it has not been inadvertently activated.

Rangiwahia Hut was our next mission where a man had suffered a medical emergency while tramping. We struggled to get to the hut located on top of the Ruahine Ranges due to low cloud, but we finally got a break, sneaked in and hover loaded him out to safety. We transported him to Palmerston North Hospital.



The rescue helicopter team went to the aid of an 85 year old man after an accident on a farm motorbike. He was airlifted from Makotuku to Palmerston North Hospital. St John personnel and volunteers from the

Ormondville Fire Brigade also attended.

The Police called for our assistance to search for a missing hunter 45 miles east of Waiouru on the edge of the military training area. We inserted teams in adverse conditions in to the last known position he was seen. He was sighted a few hours later further down stream by another helicopter aiding in the search.



We were called to a serious motor vehicle accident at Norsewood late one night. With the aid of NVGs, we flew the patient to Palmerston North Hospital

with multiple fractures and internal and external injuries. Local fire, ambulance, Police and our helicopter team combined for a successful air extraction in inclement weather conditions including strong winds and showers of rain in the middle of the night.

The helicopter team along with local Fire Rescue and Ambulance teams attended a car accident 1 km south of Hunterville. Air Force and Army personnel, including a medic, were travelling on the road at the time and stopped to provide assistance. Three patients were transported to Wanganui Hospital; one by air with serious injuries, the other two by ambulance. One occupant was still trapped in the vehicle upon arrival.

A big thanks this month to the many people who helped us out this year with ongoing support that we value very much. Also we'd like to mention the Palmerston North Rescue Helicopter volunteer crew who provide an amazing service crewing the helicopter day and night. Without you, we couldn't do a half the work we do for the community.

Fergus & Marc

NEW NEWSLETTERS NEW YEAR

In 2012 we are changing the face, timing and distribution of our newsletters. We are going to produce four bigger newsletters per year that will go to all our sponsors, supporters, Corporate Friends and our thousands of FRIENDS of the Rescue Helicopter. The newsletter content will be more in-depth and profile both our life-saving work and the events happening in our region. By distributing to our full database the circulation is going to increase significantly and will mean a greater level of exposure for our highly valued sponsors. The first newsletter will be issued in February, profiling our summer missions, and your feedback will be welcomed.

Many thanks for your unwavering support, Merry Christmas and have a safe holiday.

Kylie Harcourt

Marketing Manager, Philips Search & Rescue Trust

We wish all our sponsors and supporters a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.



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