#### CONTACTS

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# When only the best service will do

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Taranaki Air Ambulance Trust manager/ trustee David Drummond is delighted to announce Skyline Aviation as the Trust's new operator.

Taranaki

AIR AMBULANCE TRUST

"This is great news for the people of Taranaki," he says. "Skyline is New Zealand's most capable and experienced fixed wing air ambulance service provider and together we will be supporting the Taranaki community, delivering world class services.

With the Trust and Skyline combining its resources, a New Plymouth-based service will continue" David says.

"That's one of the reasons why the Taranaki Air Ambulance Trust was set up, to ensure the people of Taranaki would always have an air ambulance based here. That is absolutely vital." The new partnership between the Trust, Skyline and the Taranaki District Health Board is enhanced through the introduction of a modern, state-of-the-art King Air C90 aircraft.

Skyline Aviation managing director Mike Toogood welcomed the new partnership.

"Our team is fully committed to ensuring the best in patient outcomes and we are honoured to support the communities in Taranaki with world class aeromedical services," he said.

"The King Air is the benchmark for the air ambulance craft internationally. Its cruising speed is around 240 knots, and has all of the latest medical fit out."

David says one of the best things to come out of the new arrangement is Skyline's commitment to Taranaki

"We can now enjoy the fulltime support of another specially fitted-out aircraft which meet global standards and they will provide a back-up aircraft, for when this one is in maintenance. It will also be another fully certified, specially fitted out King Air C90."

#### SOME FACTS

In 2019 our aeroplanes made 334 flights, totalling 185,773 kms to transfer 512 patients. That equates to nearly one flight every day. While we all hope none of us, or our families, will ever need the service, it is reassuring to know Taranaki has its own dedicated Air Ambulance Service!

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

The Taranaki Air Ambulance Trust is a not-forprofit charitable trust approved by the Charities Commission, which means your donations are tax deductible.

We receive no direct government funding so much of our work is devoted to raising money to enable us to fulfil our contract with the Taranaki District Health Board.

We are currently running a telemarketing campaign to Taranaki households and businesses. Remember, if you don't hear the word Taranaki from the operator, it's another air ambulance service based somewhere else in New Zealand.

Every donation made, no matter how big or small helps and we say thank you!

From just \$5 you can play your part in helping to keep a sustainable, professional Air Ambulance Service based in New Plymouth.

#### WHO ARE SKYLINE AVIATION?

"As a family owned-and-operated business, with 30 years' experience in delivering specialist air ambulance services to over 45,000 patients throughout New Zealand and the South Pacific, our family and our team at Skyline Aviation are excited about joining up with the Taranaki Air Ambulance Trust.

"In addition to providing a fully crewed and dedicated King Air turbo prop fixed wing aircraft for the community, the new service will be supported by our extensive engineering, aircraft and crew resources based in Hawke's Bay and Auckland." Mike and Annabel Toogood **Directors, Skyline Aviation Ltd** 

## With 334 flights, we transferred more than 512 patients in 2019.



## FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

The last year has been a time of great change.

The Trust started the year supporting the service with the Cessna 421. The aircraft was almost 40 years old and in need of constant repairs and maintenance.

Unfortunately on May 24, 2019 our plane was involved in an incident at Hamilton Airport. The nose wheel failed to deploy correctly and this necessitated an emergency landing. The patient, nurse and pilot were all uninjured thankfully, but the plane was a complete write-off.

We were fortunate that Air Wanganui was able to continue to provide the service on our behalf as an interim measure, with no disruption to the Taranaki District Hospital Board or patients.

We have now engaged a new aviation operator who is able to supply Taranaki people with the best possible service to our region. As a Trust, we can now concentrate on fundraising for all the extra equipment needed to support the transfer of patients from Taranaki to those other parts of New Zealand which have the specialist care required.

We already have a purpose-built hangar with a private transfer lounge for patients, which allow people time in a space dedicated to their needs.

We would like to maintain and even improve this area as well as adding to the specialist equipment such as defibrillators, baby pods and other medical items as required.

We aim to continue to be a hub of excellence for all patient transfers and we work hard to maintain our level of service exclusively for the benefit of Taranaki people.

It is appropriate to offer my sincere thanks

on behalf of the Trust to all of our family of sponsors; particularly our major sponsor OMV, as well as Craigs Investment, First Gas, the New Plymouth District Council, the New Plymouth Airport company Papa Rererangi i Puketapu, TSB Community Trust, the Taranaki Electricity Trust and NZME.

I also offer my sincere thanks to members of the Taranaki public and the business community for their continued support. I assure you that every single donation, whether big or small, is valued. Remember we are Taranaki-based for Taranaki people.

We still have a lot to do, but with the support of our local communities, I know we will succeed.

Christina Houghton Chair, Taranaki Air Ambulance Trust

## **MEET THE TEAM**

### Trustees

Christina Houghton (chair), David Drummond (manager/trustee), Owen Williams, Cameron Murray, Shona Glentworth.

**Trust Administrator/Supervisor** Dallas Roper

Public Relations/Media Lead Gordon Brown

## TELEFUNDING

We know that telemarketers can be a pain — especially those ones who are clearly from overseas and are more interested in getting hold of your money in a scam.

We're one of those organisations that ring you between 3pm and 8pm, but please be assured all calls made by us are by our small team of locals based at our building at New Plymouth Airport.

If you hear the words "Air Ambulance" just make sure you hear another magic word

- 'Taranaki'. If you're not sure, ask them if it is the **Taranaki Air Ambulance Trust** calling, because chances are it could be an air ambulance trust from another part of the country.

We know they are worthy causes as well, but, as the old saying goes, charity begins at home. Much as we'd like to support all sorts of worthy causes, keeping our loved ones safe has to be our top priority.

It's also a great chance to get on our database as well. That way you'll always be up to date with everything that's happening with your Air Ambulance Trust and how you can help.

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