

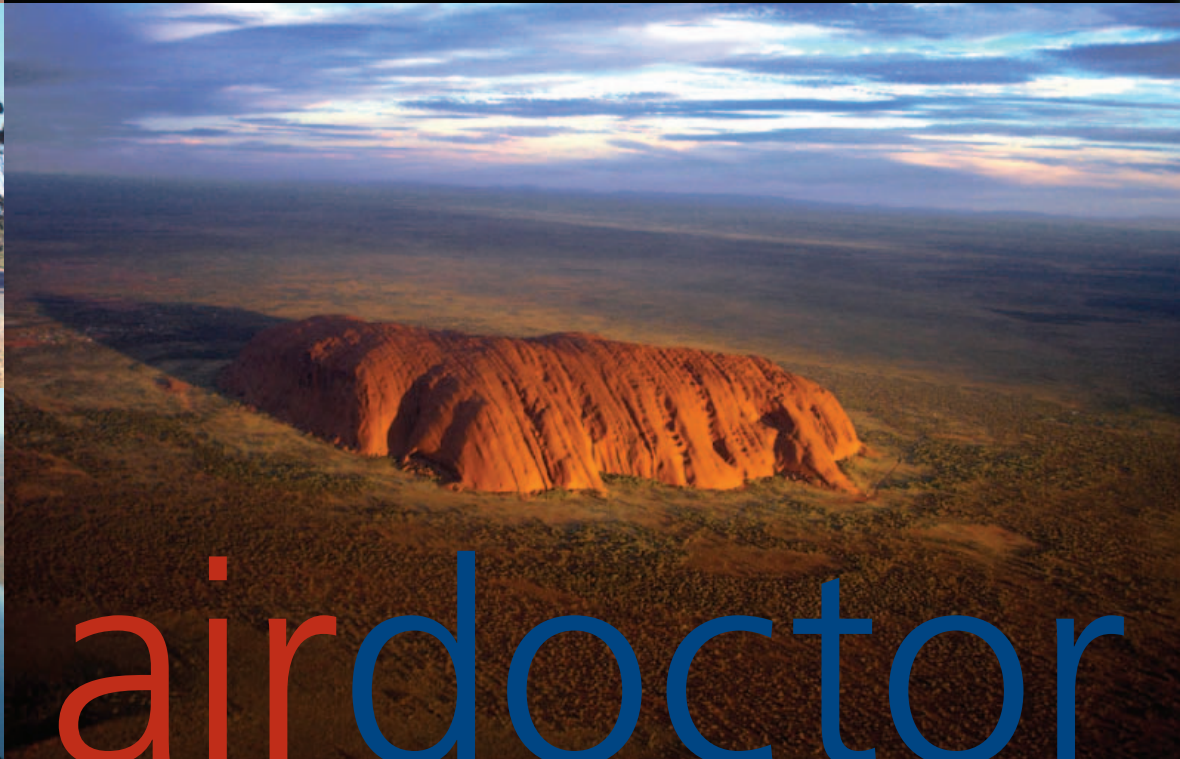


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Flying into 2006



airdoctor

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*Our CEO John
Lynch with the
senior team in
Alice Springs
– Wendy Hartley,
Grant Whan,
Adam Andrews,
Brenton Hissey
and Steve Byrnes.*



From the CEO

I would like to take this opportunity to pay a special tribute to one of our longest serving and most committed employees, Steve Byrnes, on his retirement.

On 6 April 1986 Steve moved to Alice Springs as the Base Manager for the Central Section of the RFDS. Little did anyone know at that stage that in employing Steve we would gain a partnership (with Helen, Steve's wife) that was to be the foundation and the catalyst for much of what was to follow, both in growth in our Service in the Northern Territory and our credibility within Territory Health and the Tourism Industry.

Steve not only performed as the Manager but gained an outstanding knowledge of the Territory and the people who received our services. He and Helen quickly gained the confidence and support of all.

He was to become the man for all seasons.

It is a pity that we wait too long to acknowledge outstanding contributions. Steve and Helen gave more of their own time in the promotion of the RFDS than anyone could have expected. Whether it was community organisations or the more formal involvement through the Tourism Industry or flying the flag at civic and political events they were there and never, to my knowledge, did they seek personal applause.

Their main aim was to represent and promote our great Service and that they did. I am sure that many of you who know them would agree that we are what we are and where we are today in Central Australia because of the selfless contributions made by them both where the RFDS came first and second.

During Steve's term (20 years when you count his accrued leave) we not only continued to provide the Aviation and Communications for the provision of our Health Services, but we also grew in the following areas:

- employment of our Flight Nurses
- management and employment of the Tourist Facility Staff
- upgrade of the base residence into an award winning tourist shop and café
- development of the bush kitchen now known as the Daryl Boland Bush Kitchen
- construction of the airport facility with accommodation for all operational staff and hangarage for 3 aircraft
- development of a solid relationship with Inbound Tour Operators ensuring the viability of our Tourist Facility
- our move to Yulara as the provider of services at the Medical Centre

This list is not intended to be the total but an extract of the highlights and we all salute Steve for his dedication, commitment and passion to his role and the organisation as a whole. Steve and Helen also gave of their own home often ensuring no one felt lonely or without family as they opened their doors and their hearts regularly.

Steve and Helen walk away from the RFDS together, just as when they joined us and on behalf of everyone connected with the RFDS we say thank you for everything and whilst we acknowledge that retirement means we lose a workmate we will always retain a friend and that is exactly what they are - TRUE FRIENDS of us personally and the RFDS.

We salute you both and wish you well and whilst you will be missed you have placed your mark on our Service and you will never be forgotten.

Congratulations and thank you from the bottom of our Hearts.
GOOD LUCK TO YOU BOTH.

John Lynch
Chief Executive Officer



Our guests letting their hair down on the dance floor.

WINGS Committee members Nicole Mrdjen and Kelly Wagner

Adelaide's young professionals kick up their heels... & all for a good cause!

It began with a long walk down the RFDS' version of a red carpet entrance, our fully lit runway which led guests into an amazing beach-themed Christmas cocktail soiree at The Shores, West Beach.

Over 300 guests kicked off the Festive Season in sizzling style at Wings, Wine & Waves, a new event on the RFDS calendar for Adelaide's young professionals. The event was organised by the Wings Committee who formed from WINGS, our networking forum for young professionals.

The lovely Lisa Fernandez (Nova 91.9) was special guest MC and was joined by award-winning young auctioneer of the year Phil Harris (Ray White Real Estate) for the main auction which had guests bidding strongly for a ride on the Helavajet boat at the Holdfast Marina and an exclusive dinner at Parliament House.

The evening really picked up the pace when popular Adelaide band Wasabi came on and played hit after hit and getting the dance floor

jumping. At around midnight we put the dancing on hold as Alison Brown from our major sponsor, SGIC, delighted the crowd by joining John Tobin from the RFDS on stage and announcing that SGIC would donate \$5,000 to ensure that our target of raising enough funds to purchase a new cardiac monitor would be realised – proving that, as their slogan says, they can't help but help!

With everyone on the dance floor in such fine spirits, long-time RFDS supporters Stephen and

Lydia Stefani couldn't bear to see the night end and made a major on-the-spot donation to keep the bar staff on and the band playing until 2am. Oh, what a night!

A total of \$22,500 was raised which is an indication of the success of WINGS and we look forward to continuing on again from March 2006 when our regular networking evenings will re-commence at The Archer Hotel, where we receive such great support from this wonderful North Adelaide icon.



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Right: Diana Doherty from the ASO who will be performing in April.

Below: Alice Springs staff celebrating, from left, Kay, Debbie, Sue, Sonia, Beth, Jacinta, Belinda, Kusha, Steve and holding the award is Visitor Centre Manager Grant Whan.



Alice Springs Visitor Centre wins major award

The wide appeal of the RFDS Visitor Centre at Alice Springs was recently recognised when it won the 2005 Northern Territory Brolga Award for Tourism Excellence in the Significant Tourist Attractions category. Winning this award is a reflection of the commitment of the entire team that operates this engaging and educational facility which incorporates a museum, souvenir shop, one of the oldest functioning RFDS communication bases to be found and our café which serves up some delicious treats in very relaxed, informal surroundings.

This year around 80,000 tourists from all over the world will make their way to one of the truly historic attractions in Central Australia so if you are heading that way, make sure you stop in and allow yourself an hour or two to really enjoy the experience.

Located at Stuart Terrace which is a five minute walk from the Todd Mall, the Centre is open from 9am to 4pm Monday to Saturday and 1pm to 4pm on Sundays and we are open every day except Christmas and New Years Days.



RFDS and ASO in Harmony

In an exciting new initiative the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra will support the RFDS in 2006 by making a donation when you attend a nominated ASO performance.

The ASO recently launched its new program for 2006 filled with more artists, more concerts and bold programming. In celebration of its 70th anniversary, the ASO has extended its Master Series from 12 to 14 concerts featuring big choral works, grand symphonies by the grand masters of classical music and a number of piano concertos performed by world renowned soloists. Included in this series are such favourites as Carmina Burana (currently being used by Carlton United for its TV commercial) and Saint-Saens' Organ Symphony as heard in the movie Babe.

In a year of great diversity, the orchestra is also presenting an extended Community series including an Alfresco concert at Mt Lofty Botanic Garden and 7 Showcase concerts in which it will be working alongside some of the world's most renowned artists in a range of concerts to suit all musical tastes incorporating rock, pop, jazz, lounge, opera and even a Scottish theme!

There can be no more thrilling opening to an orchestra's season than the introduction to Richard Strauss' mighty Thus Spake Zarathustra, the music immortally linked to Kubrick's 2001: A Space Odyssey. Following this stunning presentation, you will be enchanted by Ross Edward's Oboe Concerto for soloist Diana Doherty, an acclaimed Australian work of recent years, abounding with joyful dancing rhythm. The program sweeps to a brilliant climax with Debussy's Impressionist masterpiece La Mer, seducing the listener into a voluptuous world of sound inspired by the beauty of the sea.

The concert will be at the Adelaide Festival Theatre on Friday 7 April at 8.00pm and Saturday 8 April at 6.30pm. Tickets for this concert range from \$41 to \$67. To book tickets, simply call BASS on 131 246 and quote "Royal Flying Doctor Service" and for every ticket sold the ASO will donate \$10 to the RFDS.

Plane Crazy School Day

Principals, teachers, parents and most importantly students, this is your chance to get involved with Plane Crazy Day, a brand new initiative which invites all South Australian Primary Schools to take part in raising money to help purchase a new Pilatus PC-12 aircraft for the RFDS whilst learning about one of Australia's great most famous and respected organisations.

Plane Crazy Day is the culmination of this new project and will take place on Friday 12 May 2006 but we are inviting schools to contact us as soon as the new school year commences.

We have designed an RFDS Education pack full of fun exercises and activities to suit all primary school year levels and which can be undertaken at any time during the lead up to 12 May. The pack will help students to learn about our history and the Services that we provide today to anyone that needs our help and this includes people in both country and metropolitan areas.

All Principals will have been sent a letter on their return to school to encourage the participation of their students, teachers and the broader school community. All schools wishing to take part have been asked to register with the RFDS and they will then receive copies of our Education Pack which also provides some great ideas of how funds can be raised for the RFDS.

In 2005 we received wonderful support from schools including Westminster College, Annesley College Boarders, Burra Community School, Seymour College Boarders, Portside Christian School, St John The Apostle Parish School and St John's Grammar School. If you have a child currently at school or you are involved at your local school in some capacity, why not encourage your Principal to get behind this important new community project.

On Plane Crazy Day, students are encouraged to become creative and take part in a fun fundraising activity – the sky's the limit as to what sort of ideas can be put into action! It might be a Spellathon, your own special jeopardy or kids may simply come dressed up as their favourite RFDS crew member. Schools that don't wish to hold a fundraising event but would like to take part are able to sell stickers for a nominal donation or the very popular flashing PC-12 aircraft pin for \$4 each. We will organise to get these out.

There will also be some fantastic prizes on offer. The metropolitan school that raises the most money will be invited to bring a class of their students on a tour of the RFDS Hangar at Adelaide Airport where they will be able to look inside one of our aircraft and also talk to our flight nurses, pilots and engineers.

The country school that raises the most money will have the choice of either visiting the Adelaide Hangar or having a special visit from our crew. We will arrange to fly one of our aircraft with a pilot and flight nurse to the nearest town for students to have a look inside the aircraft and speak to our crew. Both metropolitan and country school winners will also receive a selection of RFDS memorabilia which they can proudly display at their respective schools.

We also have a category for small schools (150 students or less). The small school that raises the most money will have a visit from an RFDS staff member to present students with lots of RFDS goodies.

We even have a couple of great individual prizes for the highest metropolitan and country money raisers which includes RFDS shirts, caps and we will throw in a few surprises as well – these will depend on the age of the winners.

Although this program is ideally suited to primary school students we also encourage secondary students to get involved in fundraising activities and we can also provide speakers from the RFDS to talk to secondary classes. Furthermore, if the program is a success in South Australia we will make this an annual activity Australia-wide.



Of course all this would not be possible without the help of our wonderful sponsors SGIC & B.d – Farm Paris Creek. This is one of the many RFDS projects which SGIC supports on top of their annual financial sponsorship, whilst for the first time we welcome aboard B.d – Farm Paris Creek, the Adelaide Hills based producer of premium organic yogurts, quarks and soon-to-be-introduced flavoured milks.

We think that both companies are ideal partners for this important new educational initiative, especially as SGIC is a South Australian icon itself with a catchcry of *we can't help but help*, whilst B.d – Farm Paris Creek prides itself on producing quality, nutritional food products which is very consistent with the RFDS' goal of fostering healthy lifestyles as a key component of our preventative health care programme.

For more information or to register your school for Plane Crazy Day please contact Amanda Lovelock on 8238 3333 who will help your school to get ready to take off!



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Champion by Name and Nature

Profiling Malcolm Champion, our Aboriginal Health Coordinator

In this staff profile we focus on Malcolm Champion, or Eddie as he is known to many of his colleagues in the RFDS. Malcolm is based at the Port Augusta Hospital as our Aboriginal Health Coordinator and his life story certainly makes for interesting reading.

Born in Kalgoorlie in WA, Malcolm is a member of the Gubrun people whose traditional lands extend across large areas of the State down to the Great Australian Bight. He is the second oldest of 11 children and has 8 sisters and 2 brothers.

Following school, Malcolm took up his first job for the Kalgoorlie City Council at the age of 14 performing, as he describes “all sorts of general maintenance and garden up-keep.” A couple of years later the Champions packed their belongings and headed over to Port Lincoln where Malcolm worked at Safcol’s canning operation.

“It was a job, but that was about all,” recalls Malcolm. “I was going through an interesting time in my life as teenagers often do but then I got what I would describe as *the call* which had a fundamentally huge impact on my life.”

That call took him to Cootamundra in NSW where he enrolled in a Christian Vocational College, Bimbadeen, to study theology. “During this time we would attend quite large Christian conventions in Port Augusta and it was there that I met a young Adnyamathana girl by the name of Denise that I took quite a shine to. By the time I was 19 I proposed to her and although she said yes, she made me wait a couple more years until my studies were completed at Bimbadeen before we were actually married in Port Augusta. We had our honeymoon on the West side!”

Malcolm and Denise then headed to Melbourne where

they took up Ministries with the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship. “We spent four years in Fitzroy and Richmond and loved what we were doing as we could see the difference we were making whilst the experience was having a very positive impact upon our own lives,” recalls Malcolm.

In a major lifestyle change, a move to Ceduna on the far west coast of SA then occurred in the mid 1980s where again Malcolm and Denise worked as Ministers. It was during this time that Malcolm was asked to occupy a short term managerial position with the State Government but as often happens, the eight week stint lasted four years. Malcolm helped to initiate the Community Development Employment Programme which was effectively a work for the dole scheme as well as a new

arts initiative which was to provide new income earning opportunities for the local community.

The experiences he gained opened up other opportunities and Malcolm started to work increasingly as a consultant and Aboriginal advocate, covering issues including land rights, social justice and equality. In the early 1990s a move to Port Augusta saw increasing community involvement, most notably as a regional chairman of ATSIC and also, in co-operation with wife Denise, as the leader in a project which saw the establishment of the new Uniting Aboriginal Islander Christian Congress Church.

It was in the latter part of the 1990s that Malcolm’s first serious involvement with the RFDS took place when, whilst



*Right: Malcolm
with our General
Manager Health
Services,
Dr John Setchell.*



*Left: Malcolm
over-seeing the
barbie with
Michelle Bissell
and Caroline
Eckert at the Port
Augusta Hospital
on International
Nurses Day.*

working in the Aboriginal Health Unit at the Port Augusta Hospital, he was asked to go to Yalata in the far west of SA to coordinate a meeting of the local community, the hospital and the RFDS with the aim of improving the quality of health outcomes for people in remote communities.

In an interesting twist, Malcolm recommended that a special position be created to coordinate and assist all patients (both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal) coming into Port Augusta from isolated communities – a position that he would later take up in 2001 and one which he continues to fulfil today with enthusiasm and commitment.

We asked Malcolm to define the role of the Aboriginal Health Coordinator as many of our supporters are probably not familiar with this very important function and this is what he had to say. “My role is to work with all RFDS clients that are transferred to Port

Augusta and the majority of these are Aboriginal. I have the responsibility of maintaining constant contact with the patient, ensuring they understand what treatment they are receiving and what steps they need to take to improve their long term prognosis – so there’s an important educational element. Sometimes people do not want to listen and I guess it’s because of the networks I have and the respect that I have earned in the remote communities that I can help to get important messages across.

If you think about a tribal elder or even a young child coming in from a remote community, there is a culture shock, there are language barriers and even the sheer enormity of a major hospital can be overwhelming. My role even incorporates arranging people’s travel back to their communities, whether it be by bus or organising a ride with someone heading in the same direction.”

The RFDS is repeatedly informed from the many patients that have benefited from Malcolm’s expertise that the attributes he possesses in abundance are also the most important requirements for his role: compassion, great listening ability, humour and a genuine desire to help.

When he is not at work, Malcolm spends a lot of time with his family which, aside from Denise includes son Joel who is 21, daughters Candace, 18 and Shellander who is 4. They also have a special relationship with David, who Malcolm says “has also been part of our family for many years.”

Joel is also married and has a young family of his own which is another source of great pride to the Champions. The family is also extremely talented, with Candace having represented South Australia in national under age netball championships and all family members very adept with various musical instruments.

The RFDS is fortunate to have Malcolm as part of our team and we trust that he will continue in his role for years to come so that many more of our patients in the north and far west communities of SA will also benefit from his care and commitment.

*The RFDS would like to thank
WMC Resources and Henkel
Australia for their generous funding
support for the Aboriginal Health
Coordinator position.*



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Geraldine Scott

A Friend for Life

Mrs Geraldine Scott is a long time supporter of the RFDS. Through her many years of living and working on the land and through her travel experiences, she has been able to see just how necessary the RFDS is to people living in both the country and the city. Geraldine was born at Cooonooburra (near Burra) where she grew up on her parent's Marino stud farm.

When she was 20 Geraldine left the farm and moved to Adelaide where she worked as a nurse for what is now known as the Women's and Children's Hospital. She then married and had two daughters before she and her husband made the decision to return to the land in western Victoria. Geraldine gave up nursing to work next to her husband on the farm and she had their third child, a son.

Once old enough he took over the running of the farm and Geraldine and her husband moved back to Adelaide. Today Geraldine is a proud grandmother of 8 and she is also lucky enough to have a gorgeous great grandson who she adores.

Geraldine's parents were strong supporters of the RFDS and she has continued this tradition by deciding to leave a gift in her Will to the Flying Doctor. "Although I have never used the Service personally, I would hate to think what would happen without it. Leaving a legacy is my way of ensuring that this wonderful organisation can continue to provide its life saving services well into the future," she commented.

Geraldine is also an active member of our Friends for Life, a group of wonderful supporters who have all left legacies to the RFDS. They meet at various special functions throughout the year where they come together to have a few laughs and keep up to date on the work of the RFDS. If you are interested in speaking to someone confidentially about leaving a special gift to the RFDS or becoming a member of Friends for Life please contact Amanda Lovelock on 08 8238 3333.

Cricket Australia goes into bat for RFDS

Two of Australia's most recognised icons – the RFDS and Australian cricket – have come together in a three year national partnership to raise awareness of the importance of our work and to also promote new fundraising opportunities.

Commenting on the partnership, Australian Prime Minister The Hon John Howard said "I commend the Royal Flying Doctor Service and Cricket Australia for joining forces to raise awareness and funding for the marvellous work the RFDS does in providing comfort and peace of mind to those Australians in regional and remote Australia."

Cricket Australia Chief Executive Officer James Sutherland said the partnership was about connecting and contributing to the Australian community. "While cricket is a not-for-profit entity itself,

we recognise that we have a responsibility to reinvest back into the community which supports Australian cricket on and off the field," said Mr Sutherland. "Australian cricket encourages active and healthy lifestyles which is part of the work performed by the RFDS."

The partnership was officially launched at the Sydney Cricket Ground on 2 January before the commencement of the 3 mobile Test match between Australia and South Africa.

John Lynch, RFDS Central Operations Chief Executive who represented the Service at the SGC commented: "We look forward to the Australian people embracing this partnership as their own as at the end of the day, our grassroots are found in communities large and small, metropolitan and remote and spread right across the country," said Mr Lynch.

In the first fundraising initiative to get off the ground, a gentleman successfully bid \$30,900 for the opportunity to spend a day with the Australian team in this year's VB Series. If this is a little out of your league, don't worry as there are many initiatives coming up that will enable everyone within the community to be involved.



Australian fast bowler Nathan Bracken is all smiles about our new partnership.





Above: Dr Andy Thomas with RFDS Central Operations CEO, John Lynch



Left: The public lining up to inspect our PC-12... in spite of the weather

Thousands visit the RFDS... including one very special guest

A famous guest made a visit to the RFDS on Saturday 8 October 2005 in the form of South Australian Astronaut Dr Andy Thomas, who was in Adelaide to celebrate the inauguration of the new Airport Terminal.

Dr Thomas was one of an estimated 40,000 people who ventured out on a wet and windy day for a rare opportunity to climb aboard and inspect a range of historical, military and other aircraft – including one of our own PC-12s which had a lengthy queue for the duration of the day – even when it rained people were lining up under the wing!

Speaking at length with staff from the RFDS, Dr Thomas commented “I have been fortunate to be involved with the shuttle program over quite a period of time now and it has been an amazing experience. Unfortunately expeditions to the moon were not on NASA’s agenda during this time however I am excited by the potential to have some input into its new program which will see exploration to the moon re-emerge as a priority which I think is so important because it will lay the foundations for exploration activity in other parts of the universe.”

Dr Thomas was impressed with the Pilatus PC-12 and by the end of our 30 minute discussion we think he asked just as many questions of us as we asked of him which certainly kept us all on our toes.



A spectacular sunset over Wilpena Pound

Wilpena Keeps Getting Bigger!

The most spectacular event on the RFDS social calendar, Wilpena Under the Stars, will entertain a sell out crowd of over 500 people who come together in the captivating surrounds of Wilpena Pound to support the RFDS in this special 2006 Year of the Outback event.

This year legendary Australian singer/songwriter James Reyne will be performing an intimate unplugged set while guests tuck into a delicious three course dinner which will be prepared locally by recent SA Great award winner, the Cradock Hotel, which cooks up an absolute treat. Later in the evening, very popular Adelaide band Clearway will take to the stage and play all the hits under a kaleidoscope of stars.

The generosity of prominent South Australians has once again come to the fore, with a phone call to Chester Osborne from d’Arenberg ensuring that McLaren Vale’s finest wines would be served complimentary along with premium ales from Coopers, courtesy of long-time RFDS supporter Dr Tim Cooper. SGIC further extended their support when Sponsorship Manager Alison Brown offered to bring James Reyne and his band over for their special performance. We would also like to thank long time major sponsors NRG Flinders and Elders for their continued support and for the first time welcome aboard Heathgate Resources as a supporting sponsor.

The RFDS would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous support and we would also like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands, the Adnyamathana people, and thank them for participating in this celebration.

Major Sponsors



Supporting Sponsors





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Welcome aboard Internode

We are delighted to welcome aboard national broadband innovator Internode which is providing us with a faster and more cost-effective communications solution to support and link our offices and activities in South Australia and the Northern Territory.

Internode Business Connect (IBC) delivers faster access to central network resources for our staff in Port Augusta and Alice Springs and is less expensive to run than the system previously in place.

Simon Hackett, Managing Director of Internode commented, "In addition to providing these important new commercial services we are delighted to be involved as a sponsor of the RFDS which provides such a vital service to the Australian Community."



Guy Sebastian entertaining the locals at Rawlinna Station



Children who made the journey to Watson in the far west of South Australia show their delight in meeting Guy.

Great Southern Railway Spreading the Joy of Christmas

Great Southern Railway (GSR), a loyal supporter of the RFDS for many years, brought smiles across the country on its annual Indian Pacific Outback Christmas journey from Sydney to Perth where this year the star of the show was singer Guy Sebastian.

After an initial concert in Sydney where a cheque for \$5,000 was handed over by GSR to the RFDS, Guy performed in Bathurst, Broken Hill, Adelaide, Watson, Cook, Rawlinna Station, Kalgoorlie and finally in Perth.

This was the sixth of these special Christmas journeys and as GSR Chief Executive Officer, Tony Braxton-Smith explained "The free concerts are our way of thanking all those communities along the route for their wonderful support of the Indian Pacific. You can see the joy that

it brings to these people who would rarely have the chance to see and listen to their heroes in the flesh. Of course having Father Christmas on board also brings extra enjoyment to the many children who come to see us."

Guy was accompanied on the journey by his brothers Ollie, Chris and Jeremy and close friend Carl and together they made a fantastic team, covering a wide range of songs including the Motown era, modern rock and Christmas carols. The biggest cheers however, were for Guy's major hit *Angels Brought Me Here*.

John Tobin from the RFDS who made the journey on the Indian Pacific commented "It's amazing to see the reaction of the kids, especially those from the Yalata and Oak Valley communities

who were driven for hours in sweltering heat to a rail siding at Watson – which is in the middle of nowhere – to come and hear Guy and see Father Christmas. The trip is also a great way for the RFDS to acknowledge the fantastic support that we receive from Great Southern Railway and from a personal perspective, I would have to say it is undoubtedly one of the great train journeys of the world."

The RFDS would like to thank Great Southern Railway, operators of The Indian Pacific, the Legendary Ghan and the Overland services for their generous support of the RFDS which is worth \$40,000 annually.

Year of the Outback 2006

Following on from the success of 2002, the Year of the Outback will become a regular feature commencing in 2006 and continuing at four year intervals. What a great year to hold an event or fundraising activity to aid the RFDS, a true Australian icon! If you are planning an event in 2006 please visit www.outbackinfront.com and find out how you can register as an official Year of the Outback 2006 event and access other information. Please don't forget to let us know if you are holding an event or fundraising activity on our behalf by calling Michelle Foy on 08 8238 3333 or emailing events@flyingdoctor.net

Auxiliaries and Support Groups

South Coast Support Swells!

In just its second year of operating, the RFDS South Coast Support Group raised a terrific \$11,000 through their energetic efforts.

The RFDS Magnificent Muffins are particularly sought after by the locals at the Goolwa Markets, whilst a highly successful concert and dinner dance, complemented by street stalls and raffles, all of which are enthusiastically supported by the residents of the South Coast, have made it possible for such a wonderful contribution to be achieved.

For those RFDS supporters in Goolwa, Victor Harbor and surrounding towns, if you would like to become involved or you have a fundraising idea that you think could work, please contact Jo Hicks on 08 8555 0991.

As Southern Yorke Peninsula Takes Off

We are amazed and delighted to report that since its first meeting in June 2005 the RFDS Southern Yorke Peninsula Support Group has made its

first presentation of \$10,000. The Group already has 94 members who are concentrated in Warooka but also come from towns including Port Vincent, Stansbury, Minlaton, Yorketown and Edithburgh.

Terry Austin and Desma Boundy from the Warooka Hotel have provided wonderful support, hosting a well attended sports themed evening with Russell Ebert where a range of memorabilia was auctioned and also a very successful Melbourne Cup luncheon and fashion parade. Other local community groups have also been very generous, in particular the Weaver Street Gang who have made generous donations through their own concerts.

If you live in the lower part of the Yorke Peninsula and would like to become involved in this exciting new group, please contact Janice McEvoy 08 8854 5368.

Calendar of Events



February

- 25 **Wilpena Under the Stars**

March

- 30 **WINGS Young Professionals Forum**

Our highly successful WINGS evenings re-commence at The Archer Hotel, North Adelaide. Join us as more big names and celebrities go under the Q&A spotlight on the last Thursday of the month.

May

- 12 **Badge Day**

Our annual badge day is on again. Show your support for the RFDS by wearing an RFDS badge available from one of our many volunteers. For further information or to register as a volunteer contact Jan Ward on 08 8238 3333 or email jan.ward@flyingdoctor.net

- 12 **Plane Crazy Day**

A brand new RFDS initiative in all primary schools across South Australia. Make sure your local school is engaged in this special day of RFDS celebrations which will focus on fun, education and fundraising. For further information please refer to the feature article.

- 13 **Wings for Life Ball**

Don't miss out on our annual Wings for Life Ball at the Adelaide Festival Centre – put this date in your diary now! You can expect more star entertainers, premium food and wine and lots of fun.

- 15 **Royal Flying Doctor Service's 78th Birthday**

Why not do something special to celebrate this important day!

- 20 **Port Augusta Concert**

Support the Port Augusta Auxiliary in their 50th year! Enjoy a great night of live entertainment whilst supporting the RFDS. Call Barbara on 8642 2470 for details.

June

- 4 -10 **2006 Flying Doctor Outback Car Trek – Orange to Mackay**

This event has become an institution since it first commenced in 1990. Cars 49, 492 and 493 have raised over \$130, 000 for RFDS Central Operations since their first entry in 2001. To lend your support to *Team Central* please call David Murray on 0411 870 243 as sponsors are always welcome!

For further information visit www.outbackcartrek.com.au

July

- 15 **Outback Wings for Life Black Tie Dinner, Pine Valley Station**

This will be another great night under the stars. Join your hosts, Lyn & Rob Jaeschke and Stuart & Sarah Were, in their inaugural fundraiser for the RFDS. The drive is about 140 km east (and slightly north) of Burra or 100km north east of Morgan. For details phone Lyn Jaeschke on 08 8843 9086 or email rob.jaeschke@bigpond.com



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The track provides breathtaking views of Wilpena Pound

Calling keen cyclists for an Outback adventure

Combine your passion for the RFDS with your love of getting on your bike and sign-up for 2007 Bicycles: An Outback Odyssey.

The Outback Odyssey is a 900km mountain bike ride through the South Australian Outback from Adelaide to the Flinders Ranges from 7-20 April 2007 (with a shorter option of 11-20 April available).

This epic adventure will take riders along the Mawson Trail away from traffic and sealed roads. Participants will explore remote areas rarely seen and marvel at the breathtaking landscape.

The Mawson Trail is a world class off-road facility exclusive to mountain bikers, combining dirt roads, fire trails, stock routes, creek beds and winding single tracks.

Highlights include:

- Ride through Barossa and Clare Valley wine regions
- Cross Dare Hill into the Australian Outback
- Overnight at Tooralee working sheep station
- Ride through Bundaleer Forest
- Explore the trails around Mount Remarkable
- Ride through the magnificent Flinders Ranges
- A cold Aussie beer at Blinman Pub!

The Outback Odyssey is a challenging journey that will pit cyclists and their bikes against the elements. There are no age restrictions, but participants need to be physically fit and prepared to ride from 50 km to just over 100 km each day.

Bicycle SA is South Australia's peak body representing recreational cyclists. Renowned for sociable events, with just the right



number of cyclists, Bicycle SA ensures all cyclists have to do is ride – they take care of everything else. For further information please visit the Bicycle SA website at www.bikesa.asn.au or email office@bikesa.asn.au or call 08 8232 2644.

Wheels for Wings

Bicycle SA has partnered with the RFDS for the Outback Odyssey to provide cyclists the opportunity to fundraise for the RFDS whilst embarking on this amazing adventure.

Thanks to the generosity of our long term supporters, Great Southern Railway, there will be some great prizes including a return trip for two on the Indian Pacific train from Adelaide to Perth in Premium Gold Class Kangaroo service valued at \$5,000 for the top money raiser.

The second highest money raiser will be toasting their success with a dozen premium South Australian wine valued at \$250, and the third highest money raiser will receive a quality RFDS merchandise pack valued at \$150.

All participants who raise more than \$200 will be able to wear their support with pride as they will receive a very smart RFDS polo shirt whilst everyone raising over \$100 will receive an RFDS cap.

To register to be a 2007 Bicycles – An Outback Odyssey RFDS Fundraiser and to receive your fundraising kit please contact the RFDS by emailing enquiries@flyingdoctor.net or call 08 8238 3333. Please note you must first register with Bicycle SA to be eligible to fundraise for the RFDS.