

Media Release



Tuesday 3 June 2014

Warm welcome for guardians of the sky

The RAC Rescue helicopter has been called out to an unusual mission, with the crew scheduled to fly to Sacred Heart College in Sorrento to reunite with a brave former patient.

It will be the first time Year 10 student George Harley will meet the crew he and his family credit with saving his life, following a serious accident in July 2012.

Since that day, George has endured 10 operations and six months in a wheelchair, however his strong recovery has recently seen him win the Bronze Medal in National Swimming Championships and he is now part of the Northern High Performance Development Program, run by WAIS.

RAC General Manager Corporate Affairs, Will Golsby, said the RAC is proud to support the helicopter which has flown more than 3,600 rescue missions and helped save hundreds of lives.

“Since 2003 the RAC has proudly supported the emergency rescue helicopter service. The service is funded by the WA State Government with the assistance of RAC sponsorship and managed by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES),” Mr Golsby said.

“The RAC exists to benefit its members and the broader community, and sponsoring the emergency rescue helicopter is one of the ways we can help make a difference.”

DFES Assistant Commissioner Graham Swift said the helicopter provides a vital service to help people in need, particularly in regional areas where medical assistance is not immediately on hand.

“The emergency rescue helicopter service attends critical care incidents such as car and motorcycle crashes as well as providing essential transfers and search and rescue,” Assistant Commissioner Swift said.

“Research indicates that the time saved by using helicopters to retrieve patients with major trauma injuries often reduces patient recovery time, the likelihood of long term serious injury and in many cases even death.”

The visit was specially arranged by George’s school at the request of the family, who say the meet and greet will give George a chance to personally thank the crew and bring closure to the incident which occurred 22 months ago.

The helicopter is scheduled to land on the school’s oval around 10am, before George and his family will meet the crew. Selected students will also have the opportunity to ask the crew questions.

George, his father and the RAC Rescue helicopter crew will be available for interview shortly after their private introduction.

rac.com.au/media

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Media wishing to film the RAC Rescue helicopter's landing are requested to arrive at the school by 9:45am for sign-in and set-up.

Please note: the RAC Rescue helicopter is Western Australia's only dedicated emergency rescue helicopter and as such may be called away to a rescue operation without prior warning.