

RESCUE ROUND-UP

01 | Winter 2025



From the Trust:

Eastland Helicopter Rescue Trust recently announced the delivery next year of a new Airbus H145 Helicopter and that's hugely exciting for us, and for you.

The helicopter will bring to our region next-generation technology that allows our service operator, Search and Rescue Services Ltd (SRSL), to increase capability as our team responds to the needs of our community.

The professionals at SRSL have the experience, capability and skills to provide critical rescue helicopter services not only in our region, but also supporting the greater North Island from Waikato to Wellington.

But everything comes at a cost and your EHRT trustees recognise that the new helicopter will require more equipment, requiring financial and other support to provide equitable access to healthcare for our population, no matter where they are.

We look forward to continuing to connect with supporters from across our vast and complex region. And we invite communities to reach out and connect with us, whether financially or by volunteering at EHRT events and activities throughout the year.

IAN PARKER

EHRT chair



SUPPORT CREW: Ed Karauria was one of the first in line to buy a raffle ticket at last month's Westpac Chopper Month event.

Welcome to you, from us

Welcome!

Our community is the most important part of Eastland Rescue Helicopter Trust's focus – whether that be patients or supporters – and we're always thinking about ways to connect and share with you all.

So here we are . . . the inaugural issue of Rescue Round-Up, our freshly-minted quarterly newsletter that will land in your in-box at the start of every season.

For this, our Winter issue, we're looking at some stuff that has

happened, some stuff that's going to happen, and what both the EHRT and Trust Tairāwhiti Eastland Rescue Helicopter teams have been up to. And of course we're keen to hear what you're interested in seeing in future issues of your new Rescue Round-Up panui.

Just e-mail us (comms@eastlandrescue.co.nz) with your tips, or anything you might be curious about.

He waka eke noa.

We're all in this together!

New helicopter 'a gamechanger'

Our chair has already mentioned the brand new helicopter (*see column*) but we're so thrilled, we're going to mention it twice.

If you haven't heard the news, the Trust Tairāwhiti Eastland Rescue Helicopter team will be flying a new state-of-the-art helicopter, which is set to arrive from Germany in late 2026. So it's a way away, but still over a year earlier than expected for what is a gamechanger in the industry.

The five-bladed, twin-engined H145 helicopter comes with enhanced comfort features; longer mission range; and an increased weight limit. We're stoked!

Coast comes out for crew

Your Trust Tairāwhiti Eastland Rescue Helicopter is a regular visitor to the East Coast where, for many, help can be a long way away.

To acknowledge that, Te Puia Golf Club will be fundraising for Eastland Helicopter Rescue Trust by hosting an Ambrose Golf Tournament on Saturday, October 11. Keep an eye out for news about that. But in the meantime, organiser Dick Cook is seeking donations of prizes for the event. If you have something in mind, you can get hold of Dick via Cook's Passenger Courier Services.

Nau mai, haere mai!



Exciting changes at the hangar

There have been a couple of exciting new arrivals at the Eastland Helicopter Rescue Trust's Gisborne hangar and we could not be more delighted.

First, in April, we welcomed new critical care flight paramedic Gillian (Gilly) Gates to the Trust Tairāwhiti Eastland Rescue Helicopter team.

Gilly (pictured) is a steady hand as, between working on St John ambulances and time in ops support for the service, she spent two-and-a-half years on-crew with Tauranga's Trustpower TECT Rescue Helicopter.

And that's on top of early training with a rescue helicopter team from when, she says, "I always knew (rescue helicopter) would be where I'd end up working".

Then just a couple of weeks after Gilly's arrival the team logged a

packed mission schedule with their new BK-117 helicopter, ZK-HCX.

The switch came about after our ops company, Search and Rescue Services Ltd (SRSL), worked to manage its fleet in anticipation of the arrival of new aircraft. So HCX is likely to be the aircraft your team will fly until their new Airbus H145 arrives at the end of 2026.

The team's latest BK-117 (ZK-HCX) is bright green, and that's great for heli-spotters as, in daylight, it is the most visible colour to the human eye.

In terms of performance, Gisborne base manager Shaun Stewart says HCX brings the same engine- and winch-power as the team's former helicopter (ZK-IIX) so they can continue to quickly (and safely) deliver critical rescue services in and beyond the Tairāwhiti region.



From the Team:

In addition to our usual programme of missions, a big focus for the team this autumn was our combined training programme with Eastland Port.

It's been a fantastic opportunity for each and every team member to build on their existing skills over water, particularly around winching down to patients at sea, and possibly winching them back up to our aircraft.

That matters for two main reasons.

First is that in our home region, here in te Tairāwhiti, there is around 400 kilometres of coastline so we need to be at the top of our game.

Equally important is the chance to work with partners over both land and sea.

We are grateful to Eastland Port for its support in carrying out these vital training exercises.

In the future we look forward to further building on relationships with our incredible colleagues in the medical and rescue space.

From Hato Hone St John to NZ Police, Fire & Emergency NZ, Land Search & Rescue and Maritime NZ, many missions require multi-agency engagement and we are proud to be part of that.

Because together we are better.

SHAUN STEWART

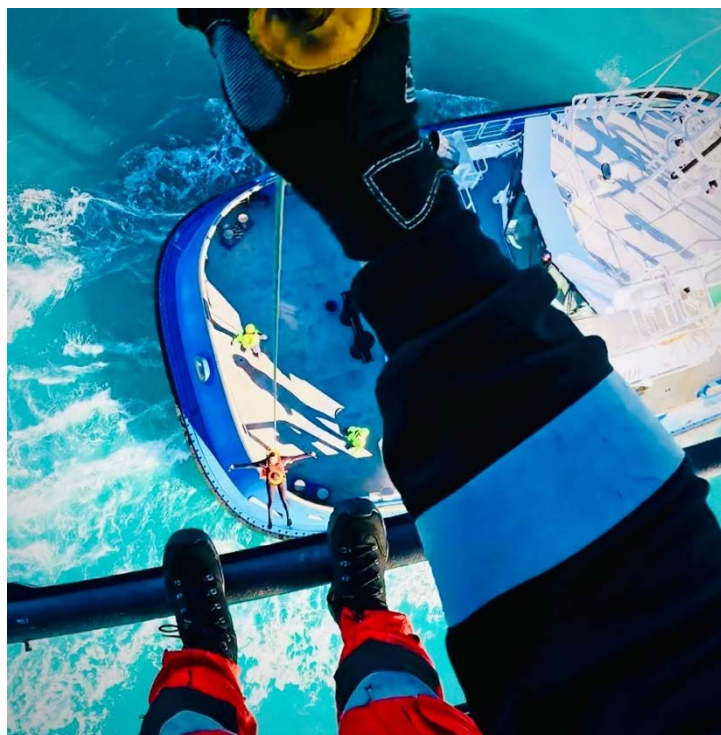
Pilot/Gisborne base manager

Coming up:

The Eastland Helicopter Rescue Trust Annual Charity Auction gala is locked in for Friday, September 12, 2025. We can't wait to see you there!

BE PART OF OUR SUPPORT CREW

Want to support our team's life-saving efforts? Go to our donations page www.eastlandrescue.co.nz/donate or donate direct to Eastland Helicopter Rescue Trust's (Westpac) bank account, 03-0749-0060937-00, using the word **DONATION** as a reference | We couldn't do it without you!



WHAT A MISSION: In addition to their busy mission and training schedules there were two defining features of the Trust Tairāwhiti Eastland Rescue Helicopter team's job list for autumn. First was the training over water done in co-operation with Eastland Port (*left*) . . . important work in a coastal region. The other was the number of long-flight hospital transfers (*right*) the team carried out, yet another critical service for our community.

Community gifts help keep rescue team in the air

These are interesting times for incorporated societies which, due to new regulations, must reregister by April of next year.

For some, that might just mean a bit of extra admin work. For others, it might mean that the society is no longer viable and it could be time to call it a day.

That's just a sign of changing times and Eastland Helicopter Rescue Trust is grateful that, when they do wind up, these groups sometimes think of our work supporting the Trust Tairāwhiti Eastland Rescue Helicopter and its incredible team.

In autumn, two of the groups that generously supported us by donating their left-over funding did so in a couple of different ways.

In one instance, members of Gisborne Runners and Walkers Club were united in the call to make their \$6900 donation to the Sunrise Foundation-administered Eastland Helicopter Rescue Trust Endowment Fund.



Then just last month Poverty Bay Kennel Association was in the process of winding up, with members deciding to make their \$5000 donation direct to the Eastland Helicopter Rescue Trust. That means we'll be able to pay for the branded gazebo we have long wanted so we can have stronger visibility at events.

EHRT is grateful for the support of all individuals, businesses and groups that get behind our work. We're all part of the team.



OUR WHY: Denis Hartley (1942-2024) set up The Helicopter Rescue Trust (East Cape) after 1988's Cyclone Bola to provide critical medical and rescue services to remote areas throughout te Tairāwhiti, and that remains our aim to this day. He was – and is – our why. Kua hinga te tōtara i te Waonui-a-Tāne.

Look for us at:

 Eastland Helicopter Rescue Trust
 @eastland_rescueheli

EASTLAND HELICOPTER RESCUE TRUST:

Ian Parker (chair), Jane Williams, Peter Williamson (secretary), Guy Graham (treasurer),
Patrick Willock (at large), Jaki Boyle, Murray Ferris, Julian Kohn