



**snowyhydro**  
SouthCare

# SKIDS UP

WINTER 2009

The Snowy Hydro SouthCare Helicopter Fund Newsletter

RETURN TO VEGAS BALL A HUGE SUCCESS! - PG. 2

COVER STORY: DRAMATIC RESCUE FROM LIVESTOCK VESSEL - PG. 3

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"There is no doubt that this is a challenging job. The combination of terrain and weather that we deal with in this region, the 24 hour/365 day nature of the service and the kind of tasks the service performs make this a difficult but ultimately very rewarding job"

- Captain Andy Dixon

## HELP US TO CONTINUE SAVING LIVES

40 LAVERTON AVE MAJURA ACT 2609 P: (02) 6207 9923 F: (02) 6207 9927 [WWW.SNOWYHYDROSOUTHCARE.COM.AU](http://WWW.SNOWYHYDROSOUTHCARE.COM.AU)

# 2009 RETURN TO VEGAS GALA BALL & AUCTION

A fantastic night with all money raised going to your community rescue helicopter

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The number of missions successfully undertaken by our Snowy Hydro SouthCare Helicopter Rescue Service is now heading towards 4,000. This is a remarkable achievement as we are well into our 11th year of service to Canberra and the South East of New South Wales. Apart from the ACT and NSW Government's contribution, the amazing financial support from so many Canberrans and residents in the wider region is enormously appreciated. Our recent Gala Ball and Auction was attended by around 500 people and raised valuable funds to support our rescue missions.

Our generous sponsors headed by Partner Snowy Hydro Limited provide significant funding, as does our payroll deduction scheme, direct mail donations, contributions from service clubs, local councils, as well as unsolicited donations from so many individuals and organisations. We are delighted with the financial support our life saving service receives that enables our professional air crews and medical support staff to continue to serve the residents and visitors in our vast region.

David Marshall,  
Chairman.



Tribute performer David Cazalet and his showgirls provided guests with fantastic entertainment and the chance to let their hair down and dance!

On behalf of the 2009 Return to Vegas Gala Ball Committee I would like to thank all those who worked tirelessly to make the evening a huge success.

The night raised a great amount of money that will go directly to keeping the helicopter in the air and saving lives, 24/7.

Guests enjoyed performances by 'Elvis' David Cazalet, chances to win great prizes on the funny money gambling tables, and even the opportunity to get married in true Vegas style with our wedding chapel!

Our host, Mr. Keith Scott provided the audience with great entertainment and special thanks to Mario Sanfrancesco for his fantastic running of the very successful live auction.

Nearly 500 guests bid on auction items

such as an Andre Rieu signed violin, a complete garden landscaping design from CIT, signed sporting memorabilia, a week away with Alfa Brera courtesy of Gulsons, and one lucky winner went home with a \$10,000 champagne diamond courtesy of Briolette!

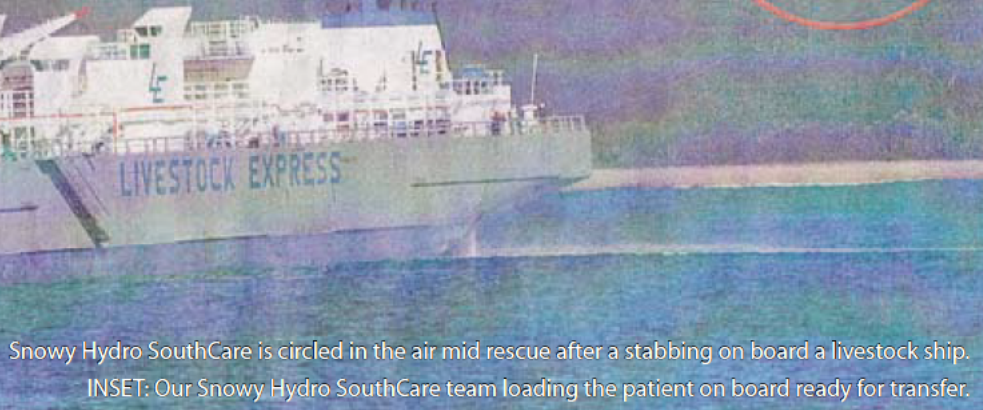
Thank you to all our guests, all those who donated the great auction items and the Gala Ball committee and staff for ensuring that this night was a great success. To our sponsors, the evening would not have been possible without you, and we thank you for your dedication to our community and region's only aero medical rescue service.

We hope to see you all, plus many more, at next years' event.

- James Willson, Committee Chairman.

# MISSION UPDATE

Snowy Hydro SouthCare has reached 3500 missions in it's 11th year of service



Snowy Hydro SouthCare is circled in the air mid rescue after a stabbing on board a livestock ship.  
INSET: Our Snowy Hydro SouthCare team loading the patient on board ready for transfer.

Snowy Hydro SouthCare is still attending just over one mission per day, which still shows how essential the helicopter is to people in the community and surrounding regions.

Recently, making front page news in The Canberra Times, Snowy Hydro SouthCare was involved in the rescue of a man who was stabbed on board a livestock vessel off Eden, far South Coast.

Paramedics winched the man to safety after an altercation on board where the man suffered stab wounds to his right shoulder and also his hands.

The man was transferred to Bega Hospital where he was treated and returned to the vessel.

In early July, the helicopter was tasked

to a horrific road accident which claimed the life of a father of 6. The Snowy Hydro SouthCare rescue helicopter transferred his 4 year old daughter to the Canberra Hospital where she thankfully recovered from her injuries. It's a good time to remind people that while travelling in the winter wet weather, extra precautions should be taken to avoid tragedies such as this one.

The 2009 snow season is well under way and with it comes the need for Snowy Hydro SouthCare to transfer patients who may sustain injuries to and from the snowfields.

Driver fatigue and bad weather conditions continue to be a major cause of many motor vehicle accidents. We are always on standby waiting for the next call, which is a life we could save, and could be someone you know.

## FROM OUR NEW CEO STEPHEN GREGORY

It is with an acknowledgement of the huge amount of work that occurs behind the scenes to keep the rescue helicopter in the air that I commence my role as CEO and lead our dedicated team into a new chapter in the history of Snowy Hydro SouthCare.

I look forward to serving our Board, the individuals of which give their time and experience voluntarily. To the many Volunteers and Friends of Snowy Hydro SouthCare Chapters, I look forward to meeting all of you and working with you to further our fundraising activity.

Without the rescue helicopter pilots and crew, base staff, paramedics and doctors, saving lives just would not be possible. The efforts of these individuals don't always receive publicity but thank you.

The brand I am now entrusted with to develop and grow is already a household name. These are however, difficult financial times. We are competing with many charities and worthwhile causes. We can ill afford to drop our guard or become complacent with accomplishments to date.

We are fortunate to have wonderful sponsors, including naming rights sponsor Snowy Hydro Ltd. This corporate support is vital as we continue our efforts, many of which you will read about in future editions of Skids Up.

# MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Your Change Could Change a Life

## SPONSOR AND GALA DINNER - COMMITTEE MEMBER REVIEW

Return to Vegas 2009 Gala Ball & Auction, if you were not there you missed out on an extraordinary evening. Music, dancing, entertainment and 'one of a kind' auction items, amazing raffles, blackjack, roulette and exotic lighting all lent towards the Vegas theme. Comedian Keith Scott entertained and kept the audience amused. Elvis 'David Cazalet' took us back to the rock and roll era fantastically - the night was enjoyed by all and proved to be very successful.

As a committee member with Snowy Hydro SouthCare and the Community Program Manager for the Capital Chemist Group who are corporate sponsors of the essential Rescue helicopter service, I believe a night like this is an essential fundraiser. Capital Chemist have been part of the community for over 30 years and are very proud of the involvement with many community groups and organisations.

The Capital Chemist Group has 30 pharmacies within the ACT and country NSW. We provide a professional health service that the public can rely on. When given the opportunity to 'come on board' with a sponsorship for Snowy Hydro SouthCare it was an easy decision to make. This helicopter service supports and cares for our community with a highly experienced and dedicated team. This fits within our ethos and so it was entirely appropriate that Capital chemist sponsor this essential service.

The Capital Chemist Group is proud to announce the signing of the 2009 - 2010 sponsorship renewal.

Melita Flynn  
Community Program Manager, Capital Chemist



Over 200 businesses have generously participated in Tins Around Town by displaying Snowy Hydro SouthCare Helicopter Fund donation tins on their service counters during the past twelve months.

With the fantastic support of Snowy Hydro SouthCare volunteers from Canberra, Batemans Bay, Cooma and Tumut, nearly 250 donation tins were located and retrieved from the ACT and south eastern regions throughout June in time for processing before the end of the financial year.

From July 2008 to June 2009, Tins Around Town has raised over \$13,000 which will go directly towards keeping the Snowy Hydro

SouthCare Helicopter Service in the air and saving lives.

Tins Around Town is an extremely efficient, effective and no-fuss way for your community to assist with the ongoing costs of the rescue helicopter, which are in excess of \$4 million per year. Simply place on your countertop and your local area will be helping us to save lives.

To display a tin at your place of business, at your local shop, supermarket or favourite takeaway or even at a local community event, simply call Alison Tonkin at the Snowy Hydro SouthCare Helicopter Fund on 6207 8429 for details.

# MEET ANDY DIXON

As a Snowy Hydro SouthCare Pilot, Captain Andy is an integral part of each mission



Aircrewman Jerry Scott with Captain Craig Thomas and Captain Andy Dixon in front of the Snowy Hydro SouthCare Helicopter that Andy pilots to save lives.

*Image courtesy of The Canberra Times*

Andy Dixon has been a Snowy Hydro SouthCare pilot since 2002 after completing his pilot training in the Australian Army and spending about 10 years flying various Army aircraft both in Australia and overseas.

Since that time Andy has performed a wide variety of missions including standard inter-hospital transfers of patients from rural areas to larger hospitals, primary response tasks to road and farm accidents, fire-bombing and searches for Snowy Mountains skiers and offshore yachtsmen, to name just a few.

Recently married, Andy and his wife spend much of their time doing up their house in Sutton, but also find time when

possible to enjoy the region's skiing or beaches when they can manage to get some time off work together.

Of flying the Snowy Hydro SouthCare helicopter, Andy says "There is no doubt that this is a challenging job. The combination of terrain and weather that we deal with in this region, the 24 hour/365 day nature of the service and the kind of tasks the service performs make this a difficult but ultimately very rewarding job.

To provide this service requires each team member to be on top of their individual jobs each time we go out, and to be a member of that sort of team is a really special privilege. When we go

out in difficult conditions and make a positive difference to someone from the region who is going through a traumatic experience, that is hard to top for job satisfaction."

Andy is looking forward to being an ongoing member of the Snow Hydro SouthCare team as it continues to grow and improve its service to the community as and new technologies and methods are developed. The community support that the service receives proves the need for, and appreciation of, a 24 hour Emergency Medical Services helicopter in this region, and Andy says he loves being a part of that.

*Snowy Hydro SouthCare thanks Captain Andy Dixon for his tireless efforts.*

# SNOWY HYDRO LIMITED

An update from our major and naming-rights sponsor



The Snowy Hydro Skid Car in action during the training

*Snowy Hydro, in partnership with regional high schools, has redeveloped their Young Driver Training Program and kicked it off throughout the Snowy Mountains in May with almost all Year 12 students participating in the training, that's around 220 young drivers.*

Developed in partnership with five regional high schools in each major town of Cooma, Tumut, Tumbarumba, Corryong and Jindabyne, Snowy Hydro's Young Driver Training Program is a well controlled professional program where the students participated in both theory and practical sessions outlining key focus areas such as their attitude, driving behaviours, and understanding of the unique road conditions of the Snowy Mountains highly detailed in the program, including snow and ice driving.

The theory component educated the students on areas such as knowing their limitations, motivation, concentration and risks, good driving behaviours and attitudes, texting whilst driving and the consequences of speeding.

The practical sessions were designed to demonstrate the theory in practice so students could really see the effects of losing control of a motor vehicle and the causes such as speeding or poor anticipation of road conditions. They focused on understanding skid situations, kinetic energy demonstrations, loss of control, ABS brakes and stability control.

Professional driving instructor, David Knowles from the Driving Institute of Australia, facilitated the practical sessions with a specially designed "skid car".

The skid car is Snowy Hydro's Subaru Forrester, and has a specially designed skid frame which allows students, under direction and control of David Knowles, to experience what causes a car to lose control in a simulated skid situation.

Terry Charlton, CEO and Managing Director of Snowy Hydro Limited said "Many people in the community would be aware of Snowy Hydro's long standing Young Driver Program that has been running for over 5 years now. It is part of our long standing commitment to young people in our local area and is consistent with our focus on health and safety already strongly evident through our company support of the Snowy Hydro SouthCare Rescue Helicopter."

Mr Charlton added, "we are all too familiar with disturbing news headlines about young people killed or injured in car accidents. As Snowy Hydro is a successful business, we are able to make a significant investment into this young driver program in the local community and if it saves a life or prevents one accident, then it is money well spent. I congratulate local high schools in sharing our vision of improving road safety through driver education for students".

The Principals really jumped on board and committed to the program with great enthusiasm which resulted in the students walking away with a greater knowledge and attitude towards safe driving.

It is hoped that next year Snowy Hydro will be able to continue the Young Driver Training Program with each of these schools and continue educating upcoming young drivers with safer driving practices and behaviours.

# THANK YOU!

Sponsors, donors and volunteers make this rescue service possible

A message from...

**SERVICE ONE**  
Members Banking



## DEALING WITH FINANCIAL LOSS

While there is little that can be done to change the state of the economy, there are several steps that can be taken to regain control over your finances and emotional well-being. Depending on your circumstances, it may be helpful to:

- Draw up a budget to help you work out how much money you'll need to cover costs while you're going through financial difficulty/unemployment. You can visit the SERVICE ONE website and use the online budget calculator or visit a Branch to pick up your copy of our Budget Guide.
- Contact your financial institution. Most financial institutions have policies that provide assistance for those experiencing financial hardship. Contact a Centrelink Social Worker, who can assist you through these difficult times. To make an appointment, call 131 794.
- Visit the beyondblue website at [www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au) for useful information on depression and anxiety.

For more information, phone 1300 361 761 or visit [www.somb.com.au](http://www.somb.com.au).

Adapted from the beyondblue resource 'Taking care of yourself after retrenchment or financial loss', 2009. This information is of a general nature and is not a substitute for professional advice. This information does not take into consideration any individual circumstance.

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[www.cdfa.com.au](http://www.cdfa.com.au)



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[www.jjmf.org.au](http://www.jjmf.org.au)



[www.somb.com.au](http://www.somb.com.au)



[www.capitalchemist.com.au](http://www.capitalchemist.com.au)



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[www.rotary.org.au](http://www.rotary.org.au)



[www.lionsclubs.org.au](http://www.lionsclubs.org.au)

## WE HAVE MOVED!

Snowy Hydro SouthCare has taken the first step in the journey to joining our Doctors, Pilots, Aircrewman, Paramedics and Engineers at the base. We are now located at : 40 Laverton Ave, Majura ACT 2609. Whilst our phone numbers and email addresses all remain the same, our new postal address is: PO BOX 7018 CANBERRA BC ACT 2610.

**CEO:** Stephen Gregory: 02 6207 8479

**Sponsorship Manager:** Joanne Main 02 6205 5236

**Volunteers & Fundraising Manager:** Alison Tonkin 02 6207 8429

**Office Manager:** Bec Stewart 02 6207 8375

**Media & Communications Manager:** Sarah McGavin 02 6205 1582

**MEDIA LINE:** 02 6207 8525



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SouthCare

# POACHER'S WAY SUPPORTS SNOWY HYDRO SOUTHCARE

Local businesses adopting the Snowy Hydro SouthCare donation tins in support



Poachers Pantry – A lunch destination and perfect city escape at Poachers Pantry, Hall – part of The Poacher's Way .

The Poacher's Way is a collective inspired by life and land. Immerse yourself in the lifestyle and passions of these creators... these exceptional artists, chefs, winemakers, creators and rural hosts each have a story to tell.

The Poacher's Way brings together 25 local businesses and like-minded people who have come together to create a trail of experiences for visitors. Located throughout the region from Collector to Canberra, Bowning to Bungendore and everywhere in between, you're sure to find fantastic products, new experiences and wonderful hosts.

Immerse yourself in the experience and taste of a different way of life...

Come along and enjoy the Fireside Festival, presented by the members of The Poacher's Way.

The Fireside Festival is a series of events celebrating winter... it's all about curling up by the crackling fire, tasting the best winter cuisine, enjoying glasses of nice red wine, discovering new places and experiences, relaxing with friends and family and immersing yourself in winter. At 12 venues throughout the region until 31 August 2009.

So come along and eat, drink, create, enjoy and experience what the region has to offer with Poacher's Way and the Fireside Festival. [www.firesidefestival.com.au](http://www.firesidefestival.com.au)

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO YOUR COMMUNITY

There are many ways to get involved with Snowy Hydro SouthCare. From volunteering to making a donation or becoming a corporate sponsor, there is something for everyone. Getting involved is as easy as filling in your details on the right and returning the form to: Snowy Hydro SouthCare, PO BOX 7018 CANBERRA BC ACT 2610. Alternatively, contact our staff directly at (02) 6207 8375 for more information.

*\*\*All donations of \$2.00 or more are tax-deductible and can be made by cheque, money order, Visa, Mastercard, Amex or Diners cards.*

ABN: 68-084-155-895

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to **DONATE** to Snowy Hydro SouthCare (enter details below).
- I want to know more about becoming a **VOLUNTEER**.
- Add my mobile phone number to your **MISSION ALERT SERVICE**.
- I am interested in finding out more about **CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP**.
- Please email me the Snowy Hydro SouthCare **E-NEWSLETTER**, Rotor Wrap.

Donation Method (credit card type or cheque): \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp.: \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**MAKE A DONATION TODAY**

[www.snowyhydrosouthcare.com.au](http://www.snowyhydrosouthcare.com.au)