



Kia ora valuable Northern Rescue Helicopter supporter,

Celebrating Volunteer Week!

We want to acknowledge National Volunteer Week with a big thank you to the amazing volunteers who support Northern Rescue.

We pay tribute to all of those community champions in Northland who gift their time to so many worthy causes year after year to make a difference and help others.

Northern Rescue ambassador Jacob Papera and his partner Dee Kelly are the epitome of the spirit of volunteering. They are pictured here with our longest ambassador (since 1988), John Markby, and the amazing BBQ & farming queen, Amanda Broughton, from Fern Energy.

They are always putting their hands up to help out with community and fundraising events.

To find out more about volunteering for Northern Rescue email us at donate@northernrescue.org.nz



[Click for more volunteering opportunities](#)

Meet Marinus Coetzee - Northern Rescue Pilot –

Whangārei

Marinus joined Northern Rescue in 2024, 15 years after he embarked on his flying career. Most of his flying has been done in South Africa where he has held roles in vehicle recovery, VIP charter flights, aerial filming and marine pilot services.

Marinus believes the decisions he and his team make are critical to the role of a pilot, due to the direct impact those calls can have on people's lives.

After completing hundreds of missions for Northern Rescue, he says seeing positive patient outcomes makes the job worthwhile.



We're Hiring – Sponsorship Lead (Northland)

Looking for a role where your work truly makes a difference?

Northern Rescue is seeking a commercially driven and relationship-focused Sponsorship Lead to grow our partnerships across Te Tai Tokerau.

This is a unique opportunity to represent one of New Zealand's most trusted emergency rescue organisations. Your work will directly support life-saving services across Northland and beyond.

📍 Whangarei-based role

📅 Applications close: Monday 29 June 2026

[APPLY HERE](#)

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

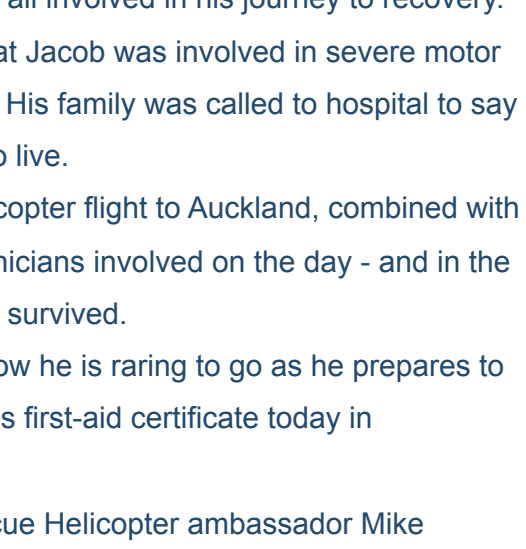
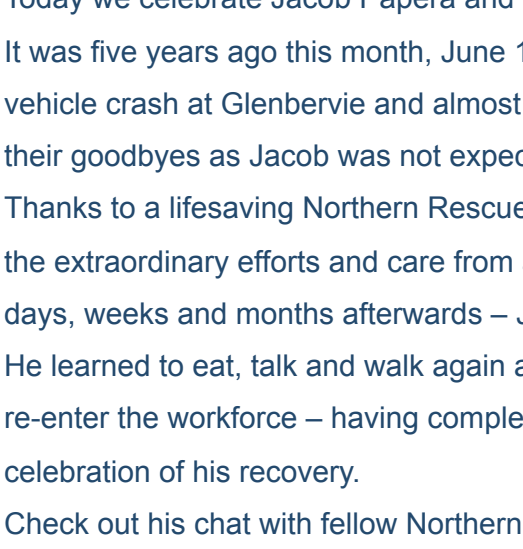
Golfers Tee Up \$5,500 for Vital Emergency Services

The annual Marsden Lions Charity Golf Tournament teed off in great spirits on May 22, bringing the community together for a fantastic day of golf, generosity, and friendly competition. Teams took to the course for an Ambrose-format round, enjoying not only the game but also a full programme of raffles, auctions, player prizes, and on-course challenges—including the ever-popular "closest to the pin" contest on the 13th hole.

Thanks to the incredible support of players, sponsors, and organisers—especially Gladys Rowsell and the Marsden Lions—the event raised an outstanding \$5,500.

Proceeds will go towards supporting vital local services, including the Northern Rescue Helicopters, Ruakaka Surf Lifesaving Club, Ruawai Volunteer Fire Brigade, and Hato Hone St John Bream Bay.

A huge thank you to everyone who participated, contributed, and helped make the day such a success. We look forward to seeing you all again next year!



Five Years On: Jacob's Remarkable Road to

Recovery

Today we celebrate Jacob Papera and thank all involved in his journey to recovery. It was five years ago this month, June 15, that Jacob was involved in severe motor vehicle crash at Glenbervie and almost died. His family was called to hospital to say their goodbyes as Jacob was not expected to live.

Thanks to a lifesaving Northern Rescue Helicopter flight to Auckland, combined with the extraordinary efforts and care from all clinicians involved on the day - and in the days, weeks and months afterwards – Jacob survived.

He learned to eat, talk and walk again and now he is raring to go as he prepares to re-enter the workforce – having completed his first-aid certificate today in celebration of his recovery.

Check out his chat with fellow Northern Rescue Helicopter ambassador Mike Lindsay, who also knows the value of a rescue chopper flight!

👉 www.nest.org.nz/jacob-papera/

[Read Jacob's full story here](#)



Northland Road Safety Week – 2026

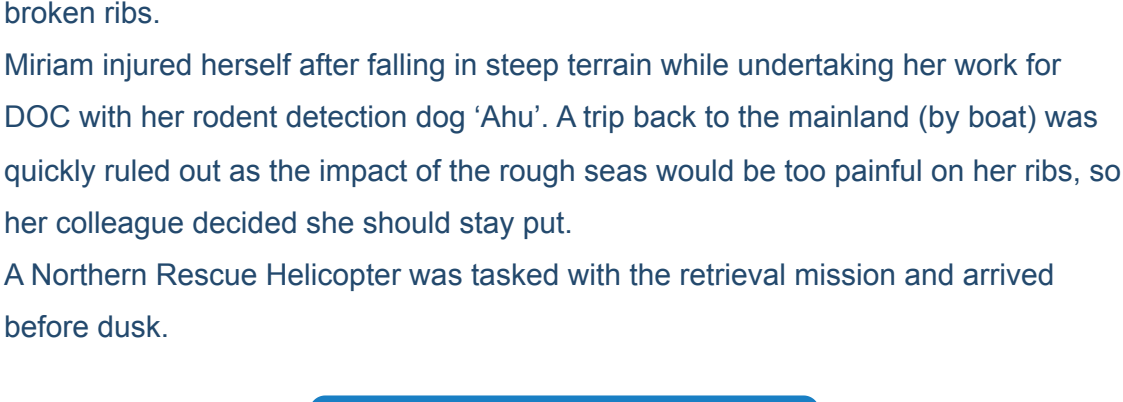
We were proud to stand beside our fellow first responders, local schools, Bike Northland, road safety and community champions during Northland Road Safety Week.

The annual event finished up with the traditional Road Safety Hero run/walk of the Hātea Loop, where respects were paid to the 24 lives lost in Northland road crashes in 2025.

It followed numerous road crash awareness events focused on the need to use seatbelts and child restraints in Dargaville and Whangārei.

Our crews attend dozens of road crashes every year and Critical Care Paramedic Emily Holmes says she has seen more road crashes than she would like.

"Without the Northern Rescue Helicopters, local and remote communities would not be able to receive such timely and appropriate care and be transported to the larger hospitals that are so far away from them," she says.



From Protector to Patient: Miriam's Story

Miriam Ritchie is normally the one doing the saving – well of the environment anyway.

That role was reversed in April 2026 when she needed to be winched off the Hen and Chickens by a Northern Rescue Helicopter after a heavy fall left her with five broken ribs.

Miriam injured herself after falling in steep terrain while undertaking her work for DOC with her rodent detection dog 'Ahu'. A trip back to the mainland (by boat) was quickly ruled out as the impact of the rough seas would be too painful on her ribs, so her colleague decided she should stay put.

A Northern Rescue Helicopter was tasked with the retrieval mission and arrived before dusk.

[Read Miriam's full story here](#)

Create Your Free Will in Minutes – and Leave a

Lasting Impact

Have you thought about putting your Will in place? Now's the perfect time.

We've partnered with Footprint to offer our community the opportunity to create a legally valid Will for free—in as little as 15 minutes. As New Zealand's largest online Will provider, Footprint makes the process simple, secure, and accessible from the comfort of your home.

Creating a Will is one of the most important ways to protect what matters most to you. It also gives you the option to leave a meaningful legacy by supporting causes close to your heart.

While there's no obligation, choosing to include a gift to the Northland Emergency Services Trust is a powerful way to ensure your values live on—helping support lifesaving services for generations to come.

Take the first step today and create your free Will.

[Create your FREE will today](#)

SPONSOR HIGHLIGHTS

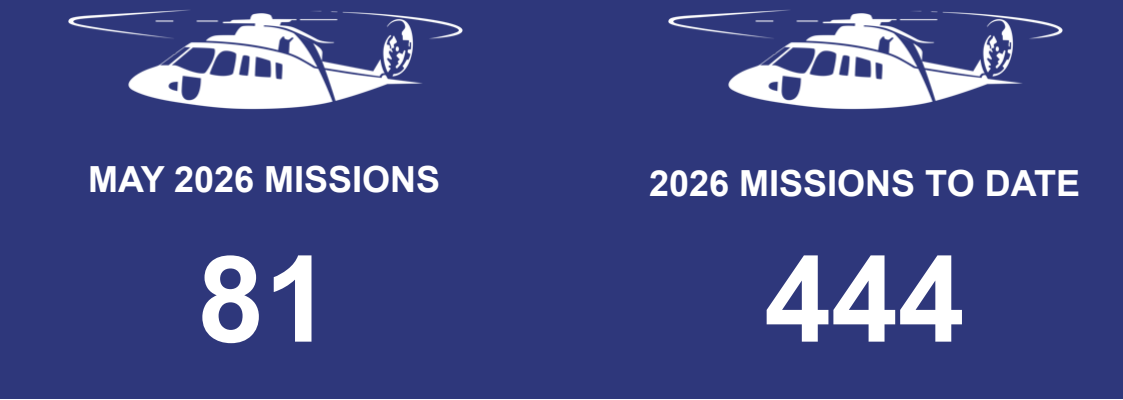
Yovich and Co supporting 'Grassroots'

Yovich & Co Wealth Management is proud to be the latest Grassroots Sponsor. Director Jarrod Goodall says that having been raised locally and educated at Whangārei Boys' High School, supporting meaningful local causes has always been important to him.

"Northern Rescue Helicopters play an essential role in caring for people across our community, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We are pleased to be part of the support network that helps keep this vital service operating.

"After spending time with the Northern Rescue crews and fundraising team, it is clear how passionate and committed they are to the work they do. Yovich & Co is proud to support that work and give back on behalf of our clients, their families, friends and colleagues throughout the Northland community," says Jarrod.

This support reflects a similar ethos to the values behind Yovich & Co, where there is a strong focus on helping families plan, invest and enjoy their future with confidence.



MAJOR SPONSORS



Would you like to become a Corporate Sponsor?

We are always looking for more support to help cover our operational expenses and help keep our Northern Rescue Helicopters in the air.

If you can help out, either check out our [website](#) or get in touch with us directly on 0800 2 RESCUE, option 2 for the Fundraising team.



MAY 2026 MISSIONS

81



2026 MISSIONS TO DATE

444

[DONATE TO HELP SAVE LIVES IN NORTHLAND](#)

