

Billie Schulte

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Sent: Thursday, 13 November 2025 8:37 am
To: Billie Schulte
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13th of November 2025



Steve "Puds" Pudney

This month's Core Values Award goes to Steve "Puds" Pudney!

On top of his already busy HEMS roster, Puds has been doing a fantastic job getting the spray booth up and running in the Commercial Hangar. He's incredibly organised and hardworking - coordinating contractors and staff to make sure everything's completed as soon as possible.

Puds is also well known for cooking meals for the team on night shifts and for always being a friendly face, willing to lend a hand wherever needed.

A massive well done and well-deserved recognition, Puds! 🍍



HEMS, FDS, and Engineering Update

Staff

We fully acknowledge the difficulties in covering the current roster which has been further impacted by recent illness.

Rest assured, we are actively working on a long-term solution.

Crew Update

Two new crew members have joined our ranks — Nicholas Waters (Greymouth) and Hayden Piercy (Nelson). Both are currently completing their training in Christchurch and have successfully passed their ATP assessments under our Medical Director's guidance.

Congratulations and welcome aboard, Nicholas and Hayden!

Relationships

Trusts & Projects:

- The paint booth is nearly signed off, and the Entrol simulator accommodation build is on track and will be complete next week.

- Brent Fredericksen and Shane Lynch spent the first week of November in Madrid in for the Entrol simulator assessment and acceptance — exciting progress!
- Huge thanks to CWART for their support throughout the H145 fleet onboarding and overseas travel logistics.
- Chris Kirk is on his Airbus H145 mechanical course in Germany currently.

Rega Fleet Progress

- ZK-IGA (Rega 1) is being painted next week — still on track for operations by late November 2025!
- Rega 2 and 3 are departing Zurich via Frankfurt in the next day or so to travel by air to NZ.
 - Joel Gilchrist and Lewis Limbe have led the handovers.
 - Christine and Declan joined for the acceptance flight of Rega 2.
 - Arrival in Auckland expected around 17 November 2025.
- Shane Lynch is at Rega in Switzerland for a unique training opportunity during this week — the first time an external EMS provider has been invited to train “the Rega way.”
- Discussions continue for potential acquisition of Rega surplus equipment.



Rega 2 and Rega 3 in the Rega hangar being dismantled





The team at Rega including Christine, Declan, Joel, Lewis from Christchurch

Reliability Data Group (RDG)

GCH has joined the Airbus RDG, aligning us with international best practice in aircraft reliability and performance monitoring. Joel and Lewis attended the working group meeting following their time at Rega.

Health NZ & ACC Agreement

Fantastic news!

The Air Ambulance Helicopter Service Agreement has been extended to 30 June 2028.

We thank every team member for their professionalism, resilience, and dedication through recent uncertainty.

Capital and Training Updates

- Thanks to Rob for taking over the Megaplan from Jacob. This will help training delivery going forward.
- Sim training in Australia for the FDS Team continues to deliver excellent results and skill enhancement. A big thanks to Matt!

- Capex projects remain on track — hangar requirements in Nelson and Greymouth continue under review.
- Regular business case updates ensure all stakeholders stay in sync.
- Ken has completed several tranches of training around the bases; including Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 Workshops and more recently Hazardous Substances training.

Fleet & Capital

Big milestone!

A Letter of Intent has been signed for the purchase of a KingAir B200 from Australia — restoring our fleet strength and expanding our capability.

General Update

- Chris and Declan met with the CAA & MoH Ambulance Team on 30 October.
- Next GCH Board Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 26 November 2025.

Closing Note

It's been a month of **collaboration, and major milestones** — from new recruits and international partnerships to aircraft progress and contract extensions.

Thank you all for your continued excellence, teamwork, and commitment to delivering world-class air ambulance and rescue services.

Welcome to the Team!

A warm welcome to our newest **Paramedics, Hayden and Nick!** We're excited to have you on board and can't wait to see the great work you'll do with the team.

GET TO KNOW

Hayden Piercy

Job Title: Flight Crew Medic

Base: Nelson



3 FACT ABOUT ME

- I once flew to Italy for 24 hours for Tiramisu (not really... I used to work for RMI doing International Medical Retrievals).
- I was born in Melbourne - I moved to NZ this month from the GC. Love a steak and cheese pie.
- I've never lived in another country until now!

3 THINGS I LOVE

- Snow boarding
- My border Collie called Charlie
- Travel!

FAV DRINK @ THE PUB

As of recently a pint of Speights

FAV HOME COOKED MEAL

Bangers and Mash

FAV COUNTRY YOU'VE TRAVELED TO?

Canada

FAV BAND OR SINGER?

At the moment Morgan Wallen

FAV SHOW TO STREAM?

Suits!

GET TO KNOW

Nick Waters

Job Title: Flight Crew Medic

Base: Greymouth



3 FACT ABOUT ME

- I surf - I lived in St Clair, Dunedin great for surfing
- I quite enjoy long distance events and endurance sports
- I'm a keen kayaker

3 THINGS I LOVE

- Outdoors!
- Good pub meal
- AFL

FAV DRINK @ THE PUB

Pint of Speights

FAV HOME COOKED MEAL

Shepherds Pie

FAV COUNTRY YOUVE TRAVELED TO?

Mexico

FAV BAND OR SINGER?

Lake Street Drive

FAV SHOW TO STREAM?

I've been getting into 'Alone' at the moment



Helicopter PPLs and CPLs.

Unfortunately, we're no longer able to offer the 40% staff discount on flight training. As much as we'd love to continue it, we've been running these at a loss and can't sustainably keep it going, for those team members who have already started their PPL or CPL we will have an individual discussion to come to an agreement to finish your training.

Going forward, flight training for both CPL and PPL will be offered at Cost + 10%, which works out to \$575 per hour for all staff in the Cabri/R22.

We know the 40% discount was an amazing benefit, and we really appreciate everyone's understanding as we make this change. We still believe it is incredibly important that all of our team no matter their position have an opportunity to experience what it's like to fly a helicopter as this is fundamental to us all coming together as GCH Aviators. In line with this we would like to offer all staff **one free trial flight** per employee for those people who are not qualified Heli pilots so you can all get the chance to experience our product.

If you would like to go for a trial flight experience, see Geoff and the ops team and we will look to schedule you in as best as possible we can do everyone all at once but will do our best to accommodate.

We will continue to offer the 40% off staff rates on all other brochure flights around the bases.

Thanks again for your understanding team.

Welcome to the Commercial Team, Geordie!

A warm welcome to Geordie, who's joined the Commercial Team at GCH Aviation! We're excited to have you on board and can't wait to see the great things you'll bring to the team.

Make sure to say hi when you see Geordie around the hangar! 

GET TO KNOW

Geordie Murdoch

Job Title: Pilot/ Instructor

Base: Christchurch



3 FACT ABOUT ME

- I used to be a mechanic, I worked for Toyota and Holden for 8 years
- Love the outdoors, hunting and hiking
- I used to play social football and hockey

3 THINGS I LOVE

- Motocross
- Sports!
- Offroading & adventure driving

FAV DRINK @ THE PUB

Canadian Clubs at the moment

FAV HOME COOKED MEAL

Steak, eggs & chips

FAV COUNTRY YOUVE TRAVELED TO?

France

FAV BAND OR SINGER?

Metallica

FAV SHOW TO STREAM?

SAS Rogue Heroes

Line Stringing with the BK117!

Well done to **Regan and Dan** who completed line stringing in the **BK117** for **Mainpower** after the recent Christchurch high winds!

Helicopter line stringing is a **specialised aerial operation** used to install or maintain power lines, communication lines, or other cables—especially over long distances or in terrain that's hard to reach by ground.





Check Out the Commercial Team's Snazzy New Polos!

Here's **Simon** showing off our fresh new look!

Garden City Helicopters will be at the **A&P Show on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday**, offering scenic flights over Christchurch. Pop by our marquee if you're coming along!

The following weekend, we'll also be at the **Santa Parade on Sunday, 23rd October**, running flights.

And as a special treat—we're lucky enough to be flying the **Black Caps** at the show!



Fires

We've already attended a few fires this season! Kel has been bucket-dropping north of Kaikōura, and Dan has been out near Darfield. A big thank you to our crewies for driving fuel!





Canterbury West Coast AIR RESCUE



I'd love to get in a plug for the Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools Night for Flight event if you are.

Tickets are only \$10 and get you into the pools for the evening 5-10.30pm Friday November 28.

There will be an outdoor movie, live music, raffles and auctions.

The silent auction will be live online from 3 November and will close the day before the event.

This is an amazing opportunity to support a team who are supporting the rescue helicopters and is incredibly good value.

The Trust would like to thank Tom, Cameron, Karen and Ed for speaking at our recent community engagement day. The attendees learnt a lot about the crew's role, its challenges and rewards, and the latest advances in medical and aviation technology. Some people have been long-term donors, and others are interested in supporting the service in the future. The community attendees much appreciated your time.







BYC Cup 2025

Amazing work to the **Rescue Team** who took out the cup this year!

🥇 **Best Sledge:** Geoff Clarke – “I’ve seen better batters at the fish and chip shop.”

👑 **King’s Crown (Most Runs):** Regan Graham

🦆 **Duck Award (Least Runs):** Daniel Currie

⭐ **Best Dressed:** Vanessa Boyer – rocking an incredible bedazzled op shop number!

A huge thank you to **Daniel and Taryn** for hosting at their amazing home, **Dan and Kathryn** for all the setup help, and **Kirsten and Duane** for taking on scoring and umpiring duties!

What a brilliant day of banter, backyard cricket, and laughs!





2025 5km Corporate Challenge

Amazing effort from the **GCH Aviators** at this year's **5km Corporate Challenge** around Hagley Park!

Special shoutout to **Nick Waters** for an incredible 19-minute run, and a huge thanks to **Kaz** and her husband **Cam** for putting on an amazing BBQ afterwards!

Great teamwork and spirit all around — go GCH!



Halloween Park Run!

Ed, Billie, Dan, and Dan's daughter Charlie got right into the Halloween spirit for this week's Park Run!

Harry Potter, an **Oktoberfest bartender**, and a **Pirate** walk into a park run... sounds like the start of a terrible joke — but it was all fun and smiles on the course!



2025 CHRISTCHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY

DRIFTERS HOTEL LEISURE CLUB

NIBBLES, 2025 AWARDS, DRINKS &
GREAT YARNS!

FROM
5:30PM

FRIDAY
5 DEC 2025

DRIFTERS
HOTEL

FROM 9PM EVENT WILL BE MOVED TO THE MAIN
BAR, WHERE THERE WILL BE A GCH AVIATION AREA.
DANCING, LIVE MUSIC & MORE NIBBLES!

- Feel free to bring your partner along! Cost is \$50 per partner - email Billie to arrange payment
- RSVP and send dietary needs to Billie.
- Hotel discount available for those staying in town.
- On duty that night? Email Billie to arrange dinner delivery to base.
- R18



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