



MEDIA RELEASE

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Volunteer BIO 4:

John Neaves – Volunteer at CareFlight Rescue inspired John to give back

After he was airlifted by RACQ CareFlight in 2008, Gold Coast local John Neaves was inspired to give back to the service that helped him in his hour of need.

Airlifted from Springbrook National Park, John said his experience as a patient opened his eyes to the benefits of the service, and he decided to become a volunteer.

“Being a former patient, I volunteer with CareFlight because I feel it’s a way of giving back and I know I’m helping a good cause,” he said.

“I’ve been volunteering for about two years now. I travel around and collect all the CareFlight donation tins and count them up.”

John was enjoying one of his passions, bushwalking, when he suffered an allergic reaction and subsequent fainting spells. His walking group was in a location which couldn’t be accessed by ambulance, so the RACQ CareFlight helicopter was called in.

“The crew was very good, very calm. They gave me professional and caring treatment. Apparently all of my blood vessels were dilated, causing me to black out. We still don’t know what I had the allergic reaction to,” John said.

John was airlifted to Gold Coast Hospital for treatment and made a full recovery. He is still an avid bush walker, but also counts volunteering for CareFlight as one of his favourite hobbies.

John is just one of many dedicated volunteers who donate their time to RACQ CareFlight on a regular basis.

Community Relations Manager Corinne Ross said the contribution made by volunteers like John is invaluable.

“We simply couldn’t do without our dedicated volunteers and we are always happy to have more passionate people dedicate their time to CareFlight,” she said.

“There’s always something that you can do to help us make a difference, and you’ll be meeting new friends and getting to know your community as you do it.”

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