

Draft Media Release

Kaikohe, Friday 11 February, 2005



Rescue chopper flies high on public support

Last Thursday a cheque for \$159,902.79 was handed over to the Northland Emergency Services Trust (NEST) which operates Northland's Electricity Rescue Helicopter service.

The money, being the total amount raised from public donations under last year's Electricity Rescue Helicopter Appeal, will go directly towards the 'standing costs' of operating the Helicopter service, including such things as pilot's wages, insurance, interest on loans and flight crew training.

Both Top Energy and Northpower, the official sponsors of the appeal, have been involved with Northland's Electricity Rescue Helicopter since the first public Appeal back in 1988 and jointly fund high-profile advertising campaigns each year. A total of \$2.15 million has been donated from the public over the years, to help keep the service in the air.

According to Roger de Bray, Top Energy Chief Executive, his company's direct costs in supporting the annual appeal over the last 16 years totals almost \$500,000. This money, as well as the contribution from Northpower, has enabled NEST to receive 100% of the funds raised by the public over that period.

"Far North residents have shown their generosity yet again. We're grateful for their ongoing support. I'm sure that everyone involved also takes great comfort in the fact that every cent raised in these Appeals goes directly to the cause, rather than being siphoned-off into that rather grey area called promotional and support costs", said Mr de Bray.

Top Energy wishes to publicly thank Mid and Far North residents who supported the appeal and is pleased to pass their donations on to NEST, on their behalf. END.



Pic: (Left to right) NEST Chairman, John Bain presented with Appeal cheque by Northpower's Marketing Manager Darren Mason and Top Energy Chief Executive, Roger de Bray.