

Final Media Release

Kaikohe, Thursday 7 April 2005



Lucky Electricity Helicopter supporters fly high

Last Sunday, a group of lucky residents who had donated to last year's Electricity Rescue Helicopter Appeal, were treated to a helicopter ride.

Twenty free helicopter rides were offered as part of an incentive prize draw for Appeal supporters who donated \$5 or more. Supporters who donated \$20 or more also went into a draw to win one of two prizes of a \$1,000 credited to their power accounts. Winners of the power credits were Gayleen McGlashan of Kaitaia and S J and P M Bawden from Kohukohu, in the Hokianga.

Jointly promoted by official sponsors Top Energy and Northpower, the Appeal raised \$159,902.79 in public donations, in support of the Northland Emergency Services Trust (NEST) which operates the Electricity Rescue Helicopter service. 100% of all funds raised in the Appeal go towards standing costs of operating the service, including helicopter pilot's wages, insurance, interest on loans and flight crew training.

The machine, resplendent in its bright canary yellow livery, was flown up from its Whangarei base to the Kerikeri Aero club especially for the occasion. It is NEST's replacement machine, which is used when the regular Sikorsky rescue machine is on call-out or having routine maintenance carried out and for medical transfer work.

According to Top Energy Chief Executive Roger de Bray, free helicopter rides, which have now become a regular feature of the annual Appeal, are a great opportunity for the lucky donors to get up close and personal with a machine and it was an appropriate way to thank them for their generosity. "For some of these lucky supporters, this will have been the first time they have flown in a helicopter and no doubt it was a great thrill for them", he said. END



Pic: DSCF0047. Lucky Electricity Helicopter Appeal supporters enjoying their free helicopter ride. Credit: Ruth de Bray.