

Rescue chopper to land in ring

RACQ Capricorn Helicopter Rescue Service will land its new rescue helicopter in the ring at the Emerald Show for all to explore.

"We're bringing our new Sikorsky S76 out for a couple of hours, so people can have a look and see what it does," said fundraising co-ordinator Debra Drinan.

The new helicopter is sure to impress the crowds with its life-saving gadgets.

"It's brand new; we only received this model in December, and the launch party was just last week," said Debra.

"It's faster and we can fly to Emerald and back now without even refuelling.

"We can fit two stretchers in the back so we can pick up two patients if we need to."

Equipped with a bambi bucket to pick up water from local swimming pools and lakes, and a cargo net to drop food supplies in, the new helicopter is already playing a vital role saving lives in Central Queensland.

"It's fitted with a winch so we can reach people in places that are difficult to get to," said Debra.

"We come out to the Central Highlands quite regularly; there are a lot of mines out there and a lot of rural properties."

The Emerald Show will give locals the opportunity to find out more about the CHRS.

"It helps us gain support from the community. We need to show people the facility they have in the CHRS," Debra said.

"Once you've seen the helicopter it's pretty easy to identify, and if people see it and recognise it, hopefully they will support it."

Support from the public is vital for the CHRS, as it is partially funded by the community.

"We need to raise \$1.5 million a year from the community," said Debra.

"We need help to keep it up in the air and keep it flying."

People can donate to the CHRS at Emerald Show, and there will be a fundraising raffle at the CHRS pavilion.



HELICOPTER LANDING: CHRS will land its their new helicopter in the main arena. cont



SAVING LIVES: CHRS attends to a patient. cont

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— Debra Drinan