



1st Ermington Scout Group

Greater Western Sydney Region



CareFlight

Careflight Helicopter Base Visit Westmead Hospital



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On Thursday 21st November the Scouts from 1st Ermington had the opportunity to visit the Careflight Helicopter Base located at Westmead hospital.

There was a great turnout for the visit with parents and leaders participating in the visit as well as the Scouts.

The community relations officer that was our host for the evening was a former cub scout leader so the scouts were in good hands. He was pleased to see that a raise of the arm is still handy for getting attention.

The evening started with a short video on the history of Careflight. The scouts learnt about how the service started in 1986, it's development and expansion through to what it is today.

We were provided a tour of the different parts of the facility which included the training classroom, storeroom where all the manikins are kept and the hangers. The Scouts were invited to get familiar with some of the training manikins which are very life like.

The scouts were very fortunate to also receive a close up tour of the Augusta A109 helicopter which they learnt is specifically fitted out for major trauma incidents.

The scouts also had the privilege to meet the trauma team that was on shift that day - Pilot, Air Crewman, SCAT Paramedic and Doctor. The trauma team all have an individual role but work together as a single team.

The Scouts were able to see first hand the trauma team respond to a call out - watching the team and helicopter depart in addition to return to base was a special experience indeed.

We departed the facility at 9pm after a very enjoyable and informative evening.



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CareFlight is an Australian aeromedical charity, established in 1986. CareFlight's mission is to save lives, speed recovery and serve the community by providing the highest standard of rapid response critical care.

CareFlight doctors and nurses are specially trained in pre-hospital and transport medicine. They care for severely injured patients who need emergency treatment at the scene of the incident. They also transport seriously ill patients who need to be moved between hospitals.

CareFlight uses helicopters, aeroplanes and medi-jets to bring a hospital level of care to the critically ill and injured.



The aircrew, medical teams and coordinators work closely together to ensure that patients receive the best care as soon as possible.



It's about bringing the right team to the right patient at the right time.

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The classroom was a very interesting experience - particularly with the scouts getting a hands on experience with manikins that are not your normal every day manikins. The manikins are very technical and able to :

- Say ouch
- Have veins (rescue team can practice inserting cannulas)
- Can be linked to an Ipad (instructor can control and change condition of patient)

The manikins are extremely important to the ongoing training that is conducted at the facil-



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Helicopter Emergency Rapid Response Trauma

CareFlight's Helicopter Emergency Rapid Response Trauma Service operates from our Westmead base in Western Sydney. The rapid response trauma team can be airborne and on its way to a major trauma incident within three minutes of tasking. The service is one of the fastest of its kind in the world.



The scouts were fortunate to be able to get a tour of the helicopter in addition to speaking with the trauma team.

