

A photograph of an airplane's tail and wing against a sunset sky over a sea of clouds. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a bright orange and yellow near the horizon. The clouds below are dark and dense, creating a textured sea of white and grey. The airplane's tail is on the left, and the wing extends towards the center. The text "PICU in the Pacific" is overlaid in the upper right quadrant.

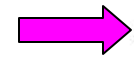
PICU in the Pacific

Elle Lally
Flight Nurse

Our Team...

- Based in PICU Starship
- Only paediatric tertiary referral centre for New Zealand
- Working clinically until call for retrieval
- Flight Nurse and Registrar team
- In contact with PICU Consultant

Starship



The Mother Ship!



Our “Normal”

- Referral to Consultant
- Accepted to retrieve, depart within 30 minutes
- Life Flight operations manager coordinates mission
- Metro, BK, Sikorsky
- High Acuity
- Time range of retrievals 3-14hrs

Normal

ORIGIN mid
17th cent. (in
the sense
[right-angled]
):

from Latin
normalis,

from ***norma***;
carpenter's square

Metro



BK117



Sikorsky



Citation



Referral

- Initial call @ 1700
- Respiratory Failure aboard Cruise Ship in pacific. History of SMA Type II. 3years old.
- VPAP dependant @ night
- Team advised, ship to dock in Port Vila

\$ The Dollars \$

- Family had travel insurance
- Approval to retrieve given
- Estimated total cost of retrieval \$60k

Planning

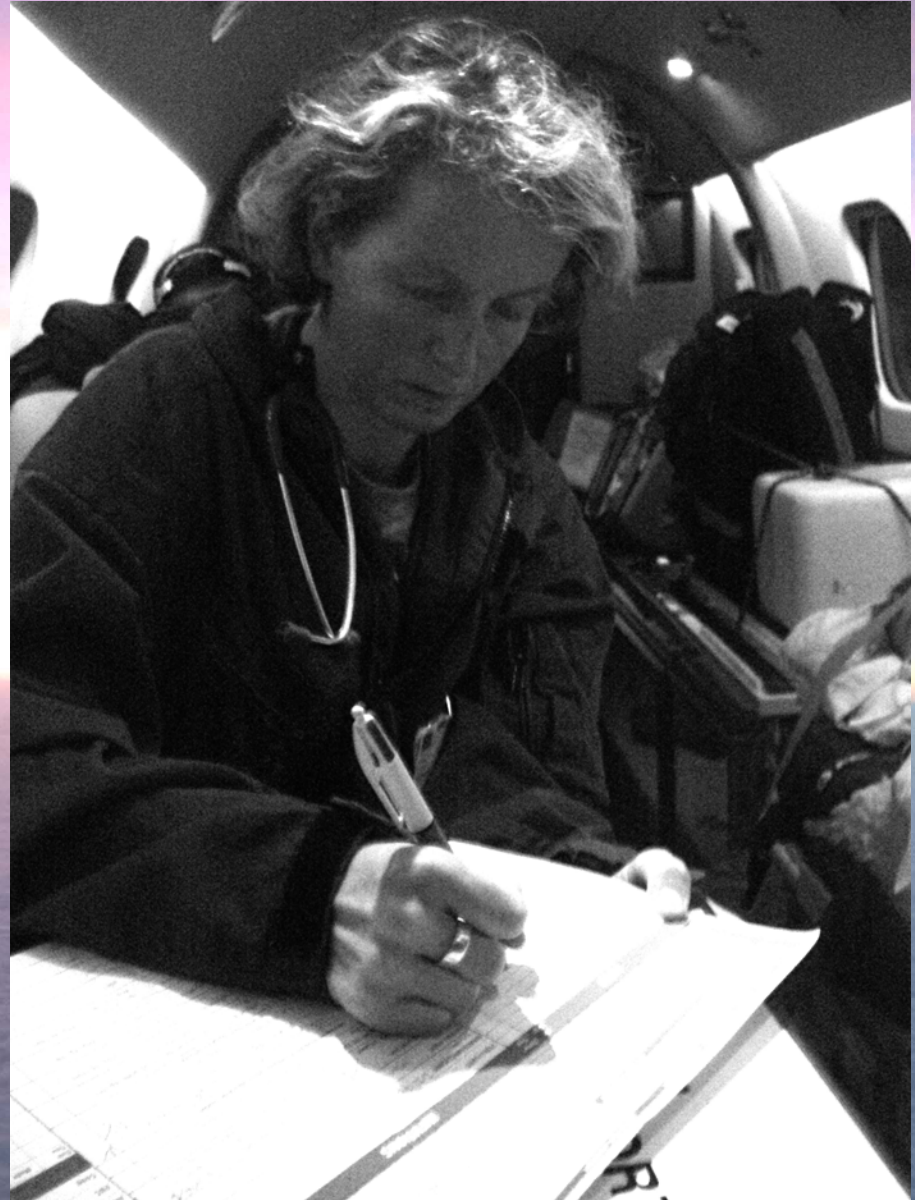
1730-1840hrs

- Plane unable to accommodate our stretcher bridge, equipment had to be assembled.
- Needed to take everything required.



The People...

- PICU Registrar
- No Crew
- 2 Pilots
- Me!





Distance to
Port Vila
2220km

Flight time
approx
3 1/2 hrs



The Aircraft

- Westwind
- Small to mid size jet
- Range with maximum payload and reserves = 4430km



Take off Auckland 2030hrs NZT



Landed Port Vila 2400hrs NZT

On the way...

- Discussion about plan on arrival
- Eat Subway!
- Read!



Arrival... 2400hrs

- Met by Customs
- Ambulance waiting
- 15 mins to Dock



On Board... 0045hrs

- Met by ship Manager
- Taken to ship hospital
- Family very anxious on our arrival



Assessment

0100hrs

- Settled on VPAP 0.21 FiO₂ → Spo₂ 96%
- Equal AE on auscultation
- RR 45 BP 110/55 (77)
- T 37.6 HR 135
- Pale and Sweaty
- Capillary Refill 3-4 seconds
- Bounding Pulses
- Distended abdomen but soft

Discussion 0130hrs

- Sat down with parents
- Phone call to Neurology Consultant
- Offered Palliation or Intubation

Plan

- IV access
- Fluid Bolus
- Intubation
- Arterial Line
- NG
- IDC
- Paracetamol



Action 0145-0330hrs

- 4 x attempts at IV access before success
- Intubation using Roc and Ketamine
- Arterial Line was easily placed
- On insertion of NG - air ++
- IDC inserted - concentrated urine

Trying to leave!

- No power on plane
- Dad helped push plane with pilots!
- 1hr delay from arrival at plane to take off



Flight

0500-0740hrs

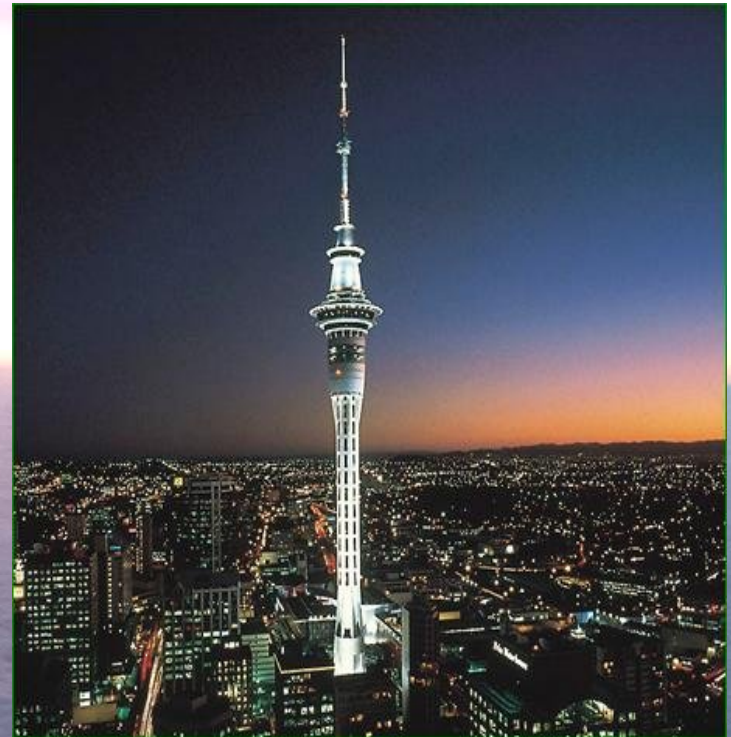
- Kept Paralysed and sedated
- Istat x 2
- Febrile
- IV antibiotics
- Fluid bolus'
- Ventilation Stable



Home!

0850hrs

- Good ABG on arrival
- Febrile again
- Cultured - Blood, Urine
& Tracheal Asp
- CXR
- NPA - RSV +ve



Lessons

- Take a sharps container
- Should have done oxygen calculations
- Equipment not properly secured
- I.O



Outcome

- Successfully weaned and extubated after 6 days ventilation
- Spent 10 days total in PICU
- A very tired Transport Team!
- Total time 14 hours

A photograph taken from the perspective of someone inside an airplane, looking out the window. The dark silhouette of the wing and tail fin is visible on the left side of the frame. The sky is a gradient of colors, from a deep blue at the top to a bright orange and yellow near the horizon, indicating a sunset or sunrise. The horizon line is visible, and the ground below is covered in a dense layer of dark, textured clouds. The word "Questions?" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font in the center-right portion of the image.

Questions?