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Joy-flights at Bathurst to raise funds for Lifeline

By NADINE MORTON
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TEAM-WORK: Rex Airlines captain Markham Ross and flight attendant Zoe Masters with Lifeline Central West executive officer Alex Ferguson yesterday. Photo: PHILL MURRAY 041216prex

BY taking your chance to jump aboard a joy-flight from Bathurst next month you could be helping people in crisis.

Rex Airlines has joined the groups that will take part in Lifeline Central West's inaugural Soar, Ride and Shine event on May 15.

The spectacular, to be held at Bathurst Airport, will include a huge line-up of cars, motorbikes, aeroplanes and family-fun entertainment.

And now Rex Airlines has offered up half-hour joy-flights in a Saab 340 for just \$50.

Rex sales manager Maurice Gahan said the airline was delighted to support the Lifeline initiative.

“Lifeline Central West does a fantastic job across regional NSW and covers many of the ports serviced by Rex,” he said.

“It is both logical and important that all businesses working across the regions understand the importance of crisis support through the provision of the 24/7 Lifeline 13 11 14 crisis line.”

Lifeline Central West executive officer Alex Ferguson said the inaugural event will provide a host of fun activities, with all funds raised to go to charity.

“There’s live music, food, stalls and we hope to have around 400 cars, as well as aircraft,” he said.

There will also be helicopters, “war birds”, an air ambulance helicopter and Fire and Rescue NSW will have a fire truck on display.

“It’s a celebration of power, but there’s a very serious side to it,” Mr Ferguson said.

All funds raised will go to support Lifeline Central West’s call centres in Bathurst, Orange and Dubbo.

Crisis support workers take phone calls from those in desperate need – people who are lonely, depressed, in financial strife, and sometimes those contemplating suicide.

In 2014 alone, there were 3000 suicides across Australia, and 80 per cent of them were men.

Mr Ferguson said all funds raised will go towards training more crisis support workers to answer calls.

Members of local car or motorbike clubs can still get involved in Soar, Ride and Shine by calling Lifeline Central West on 1300 798 258.

Three 30-minute Rex joy- flights will occur across the day and with just 90 seats available, people are urged to book early.

Visit [Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre online](#) to book or call the Rex customer contact centre on 13 17 13.

Soar, Ride and Shine will run from 9am to 4pm.

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