

CALM supports air race for RFDS

CALM sponsorship recently helped the Ende family of Gooseberry Hill to take part in the Mobil Outback Air Race, a fundraising event that realised \$200,000 in support of the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Pictured at right with Human Resources' principal risk management officer John Ireland (second from right) are Jan and Penny Ende and son Dan, after John had presented them with the \$1,000 sponsorship cheque.

They are standing beside their sturdy 35-year-old Cessna 180C, which Jan found lying in a derelict state in a Cowaramup hay shed in December 1993

The family, including another son, Carl, had since restored the aircraft in readiness for the Outback Air Race, in which the Endes came a highly commendable second out of 33 competitors.

It was a shared love of flying during their younger years that brought Penny and Jan together, Penny as a nurse and Jan as a pilot, both with the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Dan Ende, whose career with CALM has been temporarily on hold after he was seriously injured in a spotter aircraft crash in January 1994, owes his life, in part, to swift action by the RFDS.

"But he is determined to return to flying and had even hoped to have recovered enough to navigate the plane in the Mobil Air Race," said John.

"His quiet courage and determination have impressed those around him," said John.

"His parents, too, are to be commended for the encouragement and support they've shown their son during a very difficult time, when many other parents in similar circumstances would have done every-



thing to thwart their child's wishes."

So when CALM Executive Director Dr Syd Shea heard the Ende family was seeking sponsorship on behalf of the RFDS,

he promptly offered the department's support.

"So many lives have been saved by members of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, and when it is remembered that some of

them have lost their own lives doing so—Jan's late brother Dan among them—who could refuse to help?" said Dr Shea.

Story and photo by Verna Costello

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