

The artist

Troy Morrison draws on his original trades of welding and engineering in his work as a sculptor. Born in Victoria, he moved to Queensland as a child and made the move to Western Australia when his work as a welder led him to Kalgoorlie in 1995 to help build the Parkeston Power Station.

Moving up through the ranks of engineering and management, his career in mining opened Troy's eyes to the importance of the RFDS in the bush. Staying true to a promise to himself to retire at 50, Troy has become a fulltime artist.

His large-scale multimedia artworks feature collected mechanical parts, gauges and industrial materials, as well as copper, leather and timber. Troy created his first sculpture of a whale at home over a long period while he was still working in the corporate world. Completion of this piece motivated him to take the plunge to become a professional artist. He is now developing a new gallery and workshop.



We invite you to express your interest in *Darcy's Horse* and obtain a unique Western Australian artwork that celebrates and supports our iconic Australian service.

All funds raised will go towards enabling the Royal Flying Doctor Service (WA) to provide world-class care to people in regional and remote WA.

Contact RFDS WA Head of Community and Engagement Rebecca Maddern on 0437 724 116 for a viewing of the sculpture at the RFDS Jandakot base.

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Royal Flying Doctor Service
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Darcy's Horse



The inspiration

Darcy's Horse is inspired by the Royal Flying Doctor Service 'origin story' of Kimberley stockman Jimmy Darcy who was badly injured after falling from his horse on an outback cattle station in 1917.

Jimmy's plight captured the nation's attention and Australians collectively held their breath to see if he would survive until a doctor could reach him.



It took almost a fortnight for a doctor to make the journey and, despite instructions for surgery and medical care dispatched to the local postmaster by morse code in the interim, Jimmy Darcy sadly passed away just before the doctor arrived in Fitzroy Crossing.

The story inspired the Reverend John Flynn, who is now pictured on the Australian twenty dollar note, to establish Australia's first aeromedical service. It took more than a decade but the RFDS was finally born in 1928.

Darcy's horse became the inspiration for the sculpture after a visit by artist Troy Morrison to the RFDS hangar where he

found an aircraft exhaust shaped like a horse's neck among a collection of old engineering parts.

"As soon as I saw that, I knew what I was making. I was excited to start creating and went like a freight train to get it done," Troy said.

"The vision to create the sense of a horse transitioning into an airplane was clear in my head.

"The RFDS is a great cause to be aligned with. I'm fortunate to have never needed the service but I know lots of mates who have. There is huge satisfaction in making a piece like this and I do hope we can raise a lot of money for it."

The artistic process

Creating the sculpture took Troy five months.

The piece features found objects that reflect the history of the RFDS such as a morse code transmitter, aircraft pressure gauges and an aircraft door handle. It is all mounted on an 'impossible table' which itself is a mind bender.

Construction of the sculpture centered around the expired RFDS Pilatus PC-12 aircraft exhaust pipe which set the overall scale and presence of the horse which stands two metres tall.

In the final stages of the process, Troy called in favours from friends specialising in painting, laser etching and powder coating who volunteered their skills to help complete the piece.

A separate 'aircraft tail' was created to display a small plaque featuring the story of Jimmy Darcy. The aircraft tail is based on the first RFDS bi-plane.



MATERIALS

Collected Sheoak

RFDS Pilatus Aircraft components:
Exhaust, passenger handle,
intake manifold.

Leather.

Fabricated aluminium panels and
RFDS paint colours.

Copper stockman's hat

Morse code transmitter salvaged
from an English Spitfire

Impossible table: steel, chains,
\$20 note laser-etched into sheoak base.

DIMENSIONS

This is a two-part piece.

Sculpture:
2000mm tall
1200mm long
700mm wide

Plaque frame:
1100mm tall
700mm long
700mm wide

*Sculpture and plaque frame
are intended to be a
minimum of 1000mm apart.*