



in the news

30/11/07

Peak Hill ambos on the ball

Ambulance officers and nursing staff worked together to keep the patient alive while communicating with the Medical Retrieval Unit in order to organise urgent medical retrieval.

Situated on the Newel Highway, between Dubbo and Parkes in the Lachlan Zone of the Greater Western Sector, is the quaint gold mining town of Peak Hill. On Friday, 21 November 2007, Level 2 Officers Michael Howard and Lynelle Dare were on their morning coffee run, when a call came in for a 'person unconscious' at the local hair salon. Due to the close proximity of the town's centre, officers were on scene within two minutes.

They were advised on arrival by the hairdresser that the patient was having her hair set in rollers, when sitting under the drier, she fell forward and collapsed. The hairdressers then laid the patient on the floor placing her in the recovery position.

A Code 2 was quickly diagnosed, and backup from Parkes, approximately 50 kilometres away, was called. The patient had nil palpable pulse and nil respirations. The cardiac arrest drill was commenced. The patient was shocked twice through out the drill with the cardiac function returning to sinus tachycardia from VF.

Realising that back up was still another 20 minutes away, Officers Howard and Dare chose to transport the patient urgently; passing a Code 3. The two officers treated the patient in the back of the ambulance while driven to the hospital by one of the hairdressers.



Ambulance Officers Michael Howard and Lynelle Dare met with their patient Pat Stone following her release from hospital.

The short trip to hospital took about three minutes, knowing that there was no doctor in town the Western Operations Centre kept the paramedic backup, District Officer Greg Powell running. Greg assisted by intubating, stabilising and keeping the patient sedated with the assistance of the nurses.

Ambulance officers and nursing staff worked together to keep the patient alive while communicating with the Medical Retrieval Unit in order to organise urgent medical retrieval.

Rescue Helicopter 21 with a doctor and paramedic was dispatched from the Orange Base to retrieve the patient.

Ambulance officers stayed with the patient in hospital until she was airlifted to Orange Base Hospital where she was kept sedated for two days. The patient responded well and upon waking was unsure of what happened and asked how her dogs were.

Thanks to all who assisted with this patient which resulted in a positive outcome. The cold coffee was well worth the satisfaction of such a successful job.

**Information provided by
Paramedics Michael Howard and
Lynelle Dare.**